

# Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 22 • Early November, 2025

**Recipe: Cheesecake Truffles**



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BACK COVER:



CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

**INDICTMENTS**



# Help needed with cat and kitten overload

*For the Cats' Sake organization offers solutions and asks for more support*



**Frances Sip, founder of the organization called For the Cats' Sake, gives every cat that comes to her place in Flint Hill the best possible care before being fostered, adopted or returned to the wild.**

By Carol Ballard  
Warren/Frederick County Report

More than ten years ago, Frances Sip, who has had a lifelong love and compassion for cats, was a volunteer at a neighboring county's shelter and listened to so many people who wanted to bring feral or otherwise homeless cats who needed the trap/neuter/return (T/N/R) services. But since these weren't available there, they left disappointed.

When she saw how much help the area's kittens and full-grown cats needed, she started on a mission to give them as much help as she possibly

could.

In 2014, Frances, and a few like-minded friends decided to take in cats and house them in a small outbuilding on her property.

"How hard could it be to take a few cats and kittens?" she asked herself.

She found out!

Caring for a few kittens has expanded into her founding an organization called For the Cats' Sake along with her home and property turning into an overflowing cat world and haven.

As president of the board of directors, she specializes and oversees the many aspects of running the group, including T/N/R, adoptions, foster-



**The property in Flint Hill has specialized spots for the cats housed there. On the left is the cat patio ("catio") with the kitten house on the right.**

ing, communications, rescue, fund-raising and more.

Right now, they have 100 cats and want to get the number down, making cats available for fostering that don't fit there or have medical issues.

She and the friends discovered that the number of animals needing spay/neutering, shelter, medical care, food, kitty litter and quantities of attention, was staggering.

"It's a huge need to help kittens get the medical help, medicine they need, and homes," she explained.

But believing that the effort to care for them was worth it, the friends dedicated themselves to the task.

"We started out there with the shed (on her property) and things expanded," she said.

She posted the following appeal on Facebook.

"We will find homes for the kittens but from taking them and on into

adopting them can easily cost \$100 a kitten! We test, deworm and vaccinate, get them to the vet if needed, buy antibiotics and fix them if they are still with us when old enough. Ohh, then there is food, water and litter and still almost seven hours of giving them time until midnight!

She continued by describing some of the workload that volunteers carry.

"There's a morning shift and lots of work. They clean the floors and give water, clean cages, and put litter out in the afternoon so the cats can get wet food," she said. "We want people to know about the work that's involved with so many kittens."

**Warren County Humane Society**

Frances has high praise for the Warren County Humane Society.

"They are terrific to help with T/N/R funding and now a group also fosters," she said.



Seasons are changing! Perfect time to get your cat and dog spayed and neutered! Spay Today is our area's non-profit, reduced-priced spay and neuter program. CHOOSE from MANY vets over a WIDE area! At the time of surgery, initial shots and tests can also be obtained at lower rates.

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**“Claire,” who had been someone’s pet, was dumped on a rural driveway without her protective and useful claws. She got a bad cataract, and sadly ended up needing the eye removed, but now lives a privileged life in her own room. “She’s doing great and waiting for her new home,” said Frances Sip.**

“Most kittens get individual foster care. We have cats older than four months and kittens sometimes younger, but they need more attention. The foster people stay in touch and if the kitten needs to go to the clinic, they usually take them and will stay responsible until they have to move on to permanent homes. For stray cats there’s a kitten house, and feral mom and kittens are fixed but if there’s no one to care for them, they may go to a barn,” she continued.

“People contact us asking for help.

Usually, it’s community members that feed a stray or two, then they have kittens and in one year you could have a colony of cats before you know it,” Frances explained. “People are often willing to continue caring for cats, but can’t trap, pay for fixing and don’t have a space to let them recover after a day or two. We do also have a lot of requests to take cats in from colonies due to the people who had cared for them passing away, going into a nursing home or just moving.

“If the kittens are younger, we gen-



**This feral mother cat is an example of the need for spaying and neutering. Cats can have up to three litters a year and often feral cats and kittens don’t survive.**

erally don’t spay or neuter until an appropriate age, but make sure it gets done. Cats who have been feral from birth, those who had been abandoned, and others whose caretakers died, went into nursing homes, or couldn’t afford to keep them or for many other reasons, were left on their own. She said they get kittens when trapped in colonies, then try to keep and socialize and keep them when possible.

“We try not to take “surrenders” but will try to take cats back if they can’t keep them. When the T/N/R team goes, they keep records of colonies, and we will help pay if people can’t.”

“We will trap and arrange for the clinic to spay or neuter at the Warren County Humane Society,” she said. “They’re really wonderful people in Front Royal and there’s also a place in

Manassas called ANICIRA, a subsidized nonprofit that will fix ferals for a good price.”

To get their place ready to take care of the number and kind of felines needing help by renovating and upgrading the shelters and catios on the property took a lot of work.

They installed heating and air conditioning in more than one structure and made them efficient, with cages and places for each cat or kitten. One entire room has little cat “caves,” play

equipment, toys and fun things to keep them occupied (also lots of places for naps!

The center is a peaceful and lovely place, the structures connected by pathways, and a few of Frances’s own friendly pets are spotted now and then strolling around. Several kinds of homeless felines are exceptionally fortunate to find themselves staying, however temporarily at her home base in Flint Hill with the foster-based adoption program she oversees.

Frances described how the cats are housed.

She said that cats are separated into areas by groups with similar issues, but there are exceptions.

For example, “Claire” was dumped on a rural driveway without her protective and useful claws. She got a bad cataract, and sadly ended up needing the eye removed, but now lives a privileged life in her own room.

“She’s doing great and waiting for her new home,” said Frances.

Each shelter has its own outside screened in area patio, nicknamed “cat-io,” where they play or sleep in fresh air, but are contained and protected.

“The catio is very good, it’s screened, and the cats can play out there and that gives us the opportunity to see which cats really want to be outside,” she noted. “There’s a way to get inside if they want to and the catios are winterized in cold weather with heating pads.”

They try to find homes with indoor/outdoor pet people who will allow them to fit their personalities.

See CATS, 4

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### Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

**Fri. Oct 31, 2025 (7-11pm)**  
Halloween Karaoke & Music Bingo at Stephens City, Va Moose\*

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

**Mon. Nov 3, 2025 (6-8pm)**  
Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

**Wed. Nov 5, 2025 (6-9pm)**  
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

**Thurs. Nov 6, 2025 (6:30-8:30pm)**  
Music Bingo at Winchester, Va. Elks\*

**Sat. Nov 8, 2025 (8:30-11)**  
Private Event (USMC Ball) at James Charles Winery

**Mon. Nov 10, 2025 (6-8pm)**  
Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

**Wed. Nov 12, 2025 (6-9pm)**  
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**Fri. Nov 14, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)**  
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles\*

**Sat. Nov 15, 2025 (6-10pm)**  
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\*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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

### CATS, from 3

Frances described the donation process and types of costs that are covered.

"We do not have a fixed adoption fee at For The Cats' Sake, but instead ask for a tax-deductible donation to our group. On average, we spend over \$200 to cover spay and neutering, testing for FeLV and FIV, vaccinations, flea treatment, deworming and any vet care/medicine that is needed. We ask for a minimum donation of \$80 per cat, and that adopters pay more if they can. Our goal is to find the best home for each animal, and we feel this policy makes it possible for more people to adopt one or more cats. It is important to us that every adopter can afford to care for their pets properly and give them a home for life."

### Breakdown of costs for adopted cats and kittens

- Minimum cost = \$255.
- Spay or neuter - \$80
- Rabies vaccine - \$25
- FVRCP vaccines \$25 (kittens 2 to 3)
- Flea treatments multiple - \$15 each
- Snap testing for FIV and FeLV - \$35
- Vet wellness check - \$50 min.
- Microchip - \$25

The services and costs that we provide are for adopted cats and kittens.

Many cats and kittens need multiple vet visits and medications. This can cost hundreds of dollars. Many need dentals which often exceed \$1,000. There are eye enucleations as well and the one cat we just did hip surgery on, which cost \$1,500.

Additional costs are food and litter

One fact that folks may not be aware of is how important it is for males to be neutered.

It helps to keep them from fighting and getting viruses like FIV which is AIDS for cats and FELV which is leukemia. They can get distemper and rabies as well.

Neutering reduces the expanding population keeping them from making more babies with the females!

Frances says they welcome people to visit including kids with parents. Anyone interested can reach out to them and said people usually bring kids in the summer when school's out. People can see what kinds of cats they are or if they're friendly to people.

For the Cats Sake is funded by donations, but they host events from time to time.

"We recently had a fall event and people do online auctions on Facebook. There's a full auction where we take pictures and put them on our Facebook site. People bid on the items and can donate gift cards as well as more items for the auction," Frances noted.

Donations are always welcome.

Out of this appeal, come two main messages.

An appeal sent from Facebook says, "Cat care volunteers are needed for feeding, cleaning and socialization. Location: Flint Hill, Virginia. Shifts available seven days a week a.m. and p.m.

People must apply, and this can be done online Please email at [forthecatssake@gmail.com](mailto:forthecatssake@gmail.com) or fill in the online application online.

AND... Frances has two main messages



Inside the house is a wonderful playroom with every kind of fun or hide-away for the cats at Frances Sip's cat haven.

The first is obvious but here's a reminder!

SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS "People need to spay and neuter their cats!" she said. "Cats can have up to three litters a year and often feral cats don't survive."

The second message, also extremely important, is that they need volunteers and donations!

About that, "I'd say we actually have 30 active volunteers at the moment, with a number leaving or returning when they get over health issues or divorce or whatever is going on with them," she said.

NEED FOR MORE FOSTER FAMILIES

Her home base is a haven for cats, but many more people are needed who will adopt or foster some of the deserving felines to ease the population there, because they are maxed out and can't take any more kittens this

time of year.

"Trap/ neuter/return is a lot of work, but we won't stop doing it! She concluded. "It's too important."

For information, visit [www.forthecatssake.org](http://www.forthecatssake.org), email [forthecatssake@gmail.com](mailto:forthecatssake@gmail.com), Facebook at for the cats sake

- [crawford0905@gmail.com](mailto:crawford0905@gmail.com)

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# INDICTMENTS

**2025 September Indictments  
July Term**

**Rolletti Reiman White**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Rolletti Reiman White Jr., 47, of the 10700 block of Weaversville Rd., Bealeton, VA 22712, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Rolletti Reiman White Jr. did unlawfully and feloniously, commit an assault or an assault and battery against, Officer Tyler Smith knowing or having reason to know that such person was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his public duties. Date of the offenses was on or about June 28,

2025.

**Aaron Benjamin Kessler**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about December 22, 2024, in the County of Warren, Aaron Benjamin Kessler, 46, of the 200 block of Blue Ridge Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Lacey Georgia Marie Grady**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Lacey Georgia Marie Grady 23,

of the 100 block of Ross Lane, Front Royal, VA 22630, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Lacey Georgia Marie Grady did unlawfully and feloniously steal merchandise having a value of one-thousand dollars \$1,000 or more, belonging to Target. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously conspire with another to steal merchandise having a value of \$1,000 or more, belonging to Target. Date of the offenses was on or about November 7, 2024.

**Mark Allen Shamron Castro**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 11, 2025,

in the County of Warren, Mark Allen Shamron Castro, 32, of the 100 block of Valley Park Ct., Strasburg, VA 22657, did unlawfully and feloniously, possess with the intent to distribute, a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Merl Scott Howard Jr.**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 10, 2025, in the County of Warren, Merl Scott Howard Jr., 38, of the 1100 block of Allison NW Washington DC,

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.

**Emma Jade Nevaeh Kelley**

The Warren County Va. Circuit

See INDICTMENTS, 6

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**INDICTMENTS, from 5**

Court Grand Jury charges Emma Jade Nevaeh Kelley, 19, of the 6000 block of Gospel St. Mt. Jackson, VA 22842, with four counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Emma Jade Nevaeh Kelley did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously while being a prisoner in a state, local, or community correctional facility or in the custody

of an employee thereof, procure, sell, secrete or possess a chemical compound which the accused had not lawfully received. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously use identification documents or identifying information of another to avoid summons, arrest, prosecution, or to impede a criminal investigation. The accused previously has violated this statute. COUNT FOUR: did unlawfully and feloniously, commit an assault or an assault and battery against MPO Olivia Meadows knowing or

having reason to know that such person was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of her public duties. Dates of the offenses were on or about July 26 and August 10, 2025.

**Savannah Elizabeth Flanagan**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury Savannah Elizabeth Flanagan, 42, of no fixed address, Front Royal, VA 22630, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Savannah Elizabeth Flanagan did unlawfully and feloniously, possess with the intent to distribute, a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of

the Drug Control Act. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously willfully, break, injure, tamper with, or remove a catalytic converter or parts thereof belonging to U-Haul for the purpose of injuring, defacing, or destroying it, or temporarily or permanently preventing its useful operation, or for any other purpose against the will or without the consent of the owner. Date of the offenses was on or about August 10, 2025.

**Brianna Danielle Hawkins**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 10, 2025, in the County of Warren, Brianna Dani-

elle Hawkins, 26, address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

**Nicole Lynn Berkowitz**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 20, 2025, in the County of Warren, Nicole Lynn Berkowitz, 31, of the 100 block of Crestview Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, take, drive or use a motor vehicle, having a value of \$1,000 or more and belonging to Betty-



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ann Peacoe, without the consent of the owner, and in her absence, and with the intent to temporarily deprive the owner of possession thereof.

**Timothy Wayne Jones**

On or about February 14, 2025, in the County of Warren, Timothy Wayne Jones, 46, address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously being a person charged with a felony offense to wit: Possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance, willfully, unlawfully and feloniously fail to appear before a court as required by law and the conditions of bond.

**Galen David Mowery**

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges

Galen David Mowery, 51, of the 4900 block of Rt. 57, Pittsfield, PA 16340, with three counts. COUNTS ONE through THREE: In the County of Warren, Galen David Mowery did unlawfully and feloniously, being a person 18 years of age or older, use a communications system, or other electronic means, for the pur-

pose 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 ...[...] to a child to whom he was not legally married or propose that the child expose her ...[...] 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 the solicitation. The accused previously has committed one or more offenses in violation of the Code of Virginia. Dates of the offenses were on or about April 8 through May 27, 2025.

on or about October 7, 2023, in the County of Warren, Eric Naim Regusters, age and address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

*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.*

**Eric Naim Regusters**

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

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The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9		10	20
	3		28
20	6		34
31	24	27	

6	20	8
11	3	14
10	1	6

Solution

**Get Scrambled**

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

**TPDOA A BBYA**

Answer: Adopt a baby

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**



**1602:** The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford is opened to the public.

**1889:** Montana is admitted as the 41st American state.

**1972:** The American pay television network Home Box Office (HBO) launches.

**NEW WORD**

**FOSTER**

bring up a child that is not one's own by birth

**People FACT:**

A significant percentage of adopted children are in this age range.

Answer: Ages 0-5

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

- English:** Adopt
- Spanish:** Adoptar
- Italian:** Adottare
- French:** Adopter
- German:** Adoptieren

**Did You Know?**

Adoption can be a unique and fulfilling way to start a family and provide for a child in need.



**Get the PICTURE?**



**Can you guess what the bigger picture is?**

Answer: Baby bottle

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the "world"
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. \_\_\_ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during a riot
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

# weather forecast

**Halloween:** Sunny, with a high near 57. Breezy, with a west wind 16 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 39 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 39. West wind 6 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. West wind 6 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Calm wind.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 60.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 64.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

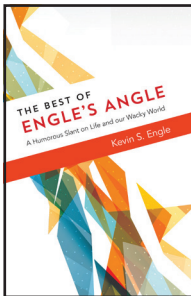
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 62.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.



## ENGLE'S ANGLE: The Twist

by Kevin S. Engle

Have you noticed boxes of garbage bags don't come with twist ties anymore?

I love twist ties.

I need twist ties.

Most of the garbage bags I see in the store have drawstrings. You're supposed to pull up the drawstrings and tie a knot to close the bag.

But what if you're not a good knot tyer?

That's me.

As a little kid, I had a hard time learning how to tie my shoes. Hey, I'm left-handed and only right handers were trying to teach me. It wasn't until an older left-handed cousin showed me the trick. Unfortunately, that's about the only type of knot I know how to tie.

I was never a Boy Scout. It's a good thing because I never would've earned my Knot Tying Merit Badge. I'd never make it as a sailor either. They tie all kind of crazy knots.

Back to garbage bags.

If I want my garbage bags to close tightly, I need twist ties.

About the only place I see them is in the grocery store when I buy bagels. I get a green one every time I buy my six bagels.

That green twist tie then goes into the drawer where my diminishing supply of twist ties hang out until called upon for duty. But we don't eat enough bagels.

Soon, I'm not gonna have any twist ties and that's a problem.

I never thought I'd have to buy them, but I'm in the market.

How many do I need?

That sounds like a math problem.

I like math problems.

On average, I empty the kitchen garbage three to four times a week, depending how often my wife has to remind me. Let's say I do my duty 3.5 times a week.

3.5 bags/week x 52 weeks/year = 182 twist ties for my kitchen garbage. Every year.

One company sells them in packs of 2000. That should be enough for 10 years of kitchen garbage.

That's a lot of garbage.

Just like this article.

You know you're struggling for material when the best you can do is a story about garbage bags and twist ties.

What can I say?

Is it too late to join the Boy Scouts?

– [kevinengle456@comcast.net](mailto:kevinengle456@comcast.net)

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



## Ask Stewart

Howdy Stewart,

Winter is coming, and I was wondering if I should be doing anything for my trees.

Thanks,

– Jon Snow

Winter is indeed coming and here are my top 5 tips to prepare your trees.

1. Weed, clean, and aerate soil three feet from the center of your trees.

This is the most important task you can do to keep your tree healthy. By moving the soil near the tree around, you bring more nutrients to the tree, while bringing air to the soil which prevents rotting.

2. Mulch your trees using the 3x3x3 method.

Mulch your tree no more than three inches high and three inches wide, and make sure you stay three inches away from the tree as to not cover the root flare. Contrary to popular belief, trees do not benefit from a 'mulch volcano' around them, so be sure to maintain a 3" clear radius from the tree base with any mulch application.

3. Water your trees before the

ground freezes—especially if newly planted within the last two to three years.

4. Remove dead, diseased, and damaged branches.

5. Scrape any Spotted Lantern Fly egg casings you have identified.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that can kill trees and plants. They also reduce yields on important fruit-bearing trees and other plants. While most adult spotted lanternflies will freeze to death, their eggs can survive over winter and are viable next spring. A single egg mass can hold 30 to 50 eggs. These casings look like grey and beige paste. Add rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer to the inside of a zipper-sealed plastic bag. Then use a plastic card or a putty knife to scrape the egg mass into the bag and dispose of it. Be on the hunt for these casings now through April. Removing them will limit the number of pests in the spring.

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)*



## Interstate 81 - Controlled Blasting Scheduled Near Strasburg

*Daytime slow-roll closures for about six weeks*

STAUNTON – Beginning the week of Oct. 27-31, controlled blasting will remove large areas of rock in the median of Interstate 81 in Shenandoah County. The location is near

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## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

A

B

Answers:

1. Napkin ornament is larger 2. Wine in glass 3. Missing spoon 4. Missing flame in candle

## Douglas Harold, Jr.

Attorney at Law

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mile marker 297 in the Strasburg area. Controlled blasting is scheduled to take place once or twice a week between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, Tuesdays to Thursdays through early December.

Just before each controlled blast, Virginia State Police will use a slow roll to briefly stop I-81 northbound and southbound motorists between exit 296 (Route 55) and exit 298 (Route 11).

A slow roll is a traffic management operation where a traffic gap is created by reducing approaching traffic speeds to as low as 10 mph. This gap allows work to safely take place free of live traffic. Traffic can also be temporarily stopped and held by a lead vehicle in each lane. Each slow roll operation typically lasts no more than 15 minutes.

During the controlled blasts, which may be audible in the Strasburg area, flaggers will briefly stop traffic on Route 55 (John Marshall Highway) near the I-81 interchange.

No blasting will take place on Election Day (Tuesday, Nov. 4), Veterans

Day (Tuesday, Nov. 11) or during the week of Thanksgiving.

The controlled blasts are part of construction for the I-81 widening just south of the I-66 junction at exit 300. The project adds a third southbound lane for about four miles, replaces a bridge over Cedar Creek, widens a bridge over the CSX railway, and builds one mile of sound-barrier wall along northbound I-81 just south of exit 296.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in October 2024 awarded a \$58.6 million contract to Shirley Contracting Company LLC of Lorton, Virginia. Completion is scheduled for fall 2028. Additional information is on the VDOT project page.

The \$4 billion CIP includes 65 construction projects plus operational improvements along the 325 miles of I-81 in Virginia. Find out more at [Improve81.org](http://Improve81.org). The website includes an interactive map, videos, newsletters, and details about current and upcoming projects.

Other major I-81 CIP projects in the VDOT Staunton District include: Staunton-area widening (under construction)

Weyers Cave truck-climbing lanes (under construction)

Harrisonburg-area widening (construction starts in 2026)

Winchester-area widening (construction starts in 2028)

For updated traffic alerts and travel information dial 511, visit the 511 Virginia website or download the mobile app.



**\$118,858 in REC Member-Funded Grants**

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) is proud to announce that, through the generosity of its members, The Power of Change program has awarded \$118,858 in funding to 33 nonprofits across its 22-county service area.

The funding supports underserved populations through a diverse range of projects focused on food insecurity, housing and shelter assistance, health and education programs, and other needs in our communities.

Notable initiatives receiving funding include the Columbus Club of Winchester for their utility assistance program, Congregational Community Action Project of Winchester to supply diapers and supplies to low-income families, and Abode of Liberation (Front Royal) for their programs that serve adults with intellectual disabilities.

"This funding shows what Cooperative members can do together to empower local nonprofits to continue and expand their vital services which uplifts our communities throughout the region," explained Casey Hollins, Managing Director – Public Relations and Communications for REC.

A small amount of your change can really add up to make a significant impact!

The Power of Change program pools the money that REC members give voluntarily to support nonprofits focused on addressing the areas of need that are most important to the Cooperative's members. Currently more than 36,000 REC members contribute by simply rounding up their electric bill each month to the next whole dollar, averaging just 51 cents. Twice a year, these member donations to The Power of Change are made available to 501(c)(3) nonprofits in our communities. The Power of Change is administered by the Community Awareness of Rappahannock Electric Charity, Inc., or CARE Board, made up of 10 REC members. Since 2005, \$1.7 million has been awarded back

to our communities. Learn more and enroll today at [thepowerofchange.org](http://thepowerofchange.org).

The 2025 Fall Recipients of The Power of Change – Blue Ridge Region Abode of Liberation (Front Royal) received \$5,000 for their Community Integration and Wellness Initiative for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Columbus Club of Winchester received \$5,000 for the Utility Assistance Program for those in need.

Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP) Winchester received \$5,000 to supply diapers for low-income families.

2 for 2 Foundation (Winchester) received \$3,500 for the Youth Swim Literacy program for low-income children.

The ChildSafe Center Child Advocacy Program (Winchester) received \$2,500 for the expansion of play therapy services for abused children.

Samuels Library (Front Royal) received \$2,500 for their Youth Winter Literacy Initiative.

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (Boyce) received \$2,200 for their Junior Wildlife Conservation Program.

Front Royal Warren County Shelter for the Homeless received \$2,000 for the Home Revive project to replace kitchen equipment in the shelter.

REC provides electric service to over 183,000 connections in parts of 22 Virginia counties. With its general office in Fredericksburg, Va., the Cooperative operates and maintains more than 18,000 miles of power lines through its service area, which ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. For more information about REC, please visit [www.myrec.coop](http://www.myrec.coop). Follow REC on Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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**NEWS, from 9**



**Darker Evening Commutes And Deer Mating Season Breed Higher Risk Of Crashes**

On Nov. 2, the clock shifts back an hour, meaning earlier morning and shorter evening light. With that change, many people will be commuting home after work in darkness and during an active time of the year for deer.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is encouraging motorists to be extra vigilant as daylight saving time coincides with deer mating season, increasing the potential for crashes. The highest number of vehicle crashes involving deer in Virginia have historically occurred in November.

Deer are especially active in the fall — particularly from mid-October through November — during their mating season. Motorists should be careful and expect to see more deer on the roadways because deer take advantage of roadside edges for foraging, particularly as other fall foods become limited. Deer cross highways and roads throughout Virginia at all times of the day, but particularly at dawn and dusk.

Drivers should especially use cau-

tion near forested areas, along streams and in locations where deer crossing signs have been installed, as these areas have been identified as particularly high deer traffic areas.

Night driving is especially dangerous because visibility is limited to about 250 feet for normal headlights, which creates less time to react to something in the road, especially when driving at higher speeds. Make sure headlights are working properly, clean the windshield for streaks and dim dashboard lights.

Similar to deer, elk in Southwest Virginia mate in the fall and take advantage of roadside edges for foraging. The main difference is the size of elk, with average mature males weighing 750 pounds. Elk regularly roam near and along Corridor Q: Route 460/121 and Route 744 (Southern Gap Road) in Buchanan County. Motorists should use extreme caution in these areas, especially at daylight and dusk.

**Driving Tips**

While the urge to swerve is instinctual, do not veer for deer. Swerving aggressively could cause you to lose control of your vehicle and increase the severity of a crash. If a deer jumps in

front of you, gradually brake to avoid hitting the animal.

Prepare for the unexpected. Deer may stop in the middle of the road or double back.

If you see one deer, slow down because they usually travel in groups so there's likely to be others nearby.

Check the shoulders of a road or highway and use your high beam headlights when able. Deer tend to stand on the sides of the road and then suddenly move into the road. Slow down and hit your horn to scare the deer, as they dart and run in either direction.

If you hit a deer, pull off to the

shoulder and turn on your hazard lights. Do not exit your vehicle and search for the deer, because it could hurt you.

If you drive in Virginia's Elk Management Zone in Southwest Virginia, particularly on Corridor Q: Route 460/121 and Southern Gap Road, keep in mind:

Elk travel in large herds, are more lethargic in their movements (more similar to cattle) and have huge body sizes. Average mature males weight 750 lbs., while females are around 500 lbs.

Also, unlike deer, elk are less likely to jump in front of vehicles. However, when they are present on the side of a road, they are less likely to move. Never assume an elk (or any animal) will avoid you.

If you hit and kill a deer or elk that needs to be picked up or encounter a deceased animal creating a hazard on a state-maintained roadway, you can fill out a report on VDOT's website at [my.vdot.virginia.gov](http://my.vdot.virginia.gov) or call 800-367-7623 (FOR-ROAD).



**Upcoming events with Dan McDermott**

Fri. Oct 31, 2025 (7-11pm) Halloween Karaoke & Music Bingo at Stephens City, Va Moose\*

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

Mon. Nov 3, 2025 (6-8pm) Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

Wed. Nov 5, 2025 (6-9pm) Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Thurs. Nov 6, 2025 (6:30-8:30pm) Music Bingo at Winchester, Va. Elks\*

Sat. Nov 8, 2025 (8:30-11) Private Event (USMC Ball) at James Charles Winery

Mon. Nov 10, 2025 (6-8pm) Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

Wed. Nov 12, 2025 (6-9pm) Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Nov 14, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm) Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles\*

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

Sun. Nov 16, 2025 (2-8pm) Wedding in Frederick County

Mon. Nov 17, 2025 (6-8pm) Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

Wed. Nov 19, 2025 (6-9pm) Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Sat. Nov 22, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm) Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock, Va. Moose\*

Mon. Nov 24, 2025 (6-8pm) Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose\*

Wed. Nov 26, 2025 (6-9pm) Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

\*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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**Community and Chamber events**

Mark your calendars for the Car Show benefiting Cars Changing Lives at Warren County Fairgrounds on November 1st, 9 a.m. -2 p.m. The event includes awards, door prizes, 50/50, a kids Halloween costume contest, adult and kids games, bake sale and music.

Join the Doubletree by Hilton Front Royal Blue Ridge Shadows for an unforgettable evening where dinner comes with a side of scandal, secrets, and shocking surprises at their Murder Mystery Dinner on November 1st.

The Warren Heritage Society is delighted to announce its Annual Dinner, A Swinging Affair, on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at the DoubleTree Hilton in Front Royal. This lively evening will feature a live swing band and dancing, a delicious dinner and drinks, and a joyful celebration of community and history. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now.

For their 15th year, Able Forces Foundation is once again supporting military and veteran families with financial assistance during the holiday season. Please consider the Adopt A Warrior Family For Christmas program in your holiday giving. Contact Skip Rogers directly, (703) 220-1822 with questions.

Mark your calendars and make your way to Backroom Brewery on November 8th, 10-5 for their Holiday Market. This event is an indoor, rain or shine event featuring tons of food, beverage, and entertainment.

You're invited to Warren County VA Habitat for Humanity's 2025 Sneaker

Ball on November 15th at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. Sneakers meet formalwear at this high-energy fundraiser, where fashion and philanthropy build stronger futures for Warren County families! Tickets and sponsorship information here.

Belle Grove's Kris Kringle Market is on Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Early shoppers on Saturday 10 a.m. - noon will have an entry fee of \$2/adult (children 12 & younger free) and all other times, admission is free.

----

**Possible delay in November SNAP benefits due to federal shutdown**

FREDERICK COUNTY — The Frederick County Department of Social Services is warning Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients that November benefits may be delayed — or not issued at all — if the ongoing federal government shutdown continues.

In a public notice issued Oct. 21, the agency said federal funding for SNAP depends on an appropriation bill from Congress, and since the new fiscal year began Oct. 1, no bill has been passed. October SNAP benefits were funded prior to the shutdown and are being distributed as normal, but November benefits require new federal authorization.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has advised states not to submit the electronic files needed to release November benefits. If Congress resolves the shutdown soon, benefits could still be issued on time or with only a short delay. However, if the shutdown extends beyond mid-October deadlines, November SNAP payments may be significantly delayed or not issued at all.

The department urges households to plan ahead by conserving remaining October benefits, purchasing non-perishable foods, and monitoring official updates. Local food banks and community organizations are preparing to assist affected families.

SNAP offices remain open and will continue to process applications and recertifications for October, but approval of any new or ongoing cases for November depends on federal funding.

For updates, visit the Frederick County Department of Social Services website or call the Dedicated SNAP Hotline at 1-800-552-3431.

----

**Riverton Church Breakfast**

Riverton Church will host a community breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, located at 55 E. Strasburg Road.

An offering will be accepted. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits, sausage gravy, juice, and coffee. All are welcome to attend.

----

**Former Shenandoah County Commonwealth's Attorney indicted**

*Faces two felony counts related to use of funds*

WOODSTOCK — Today, Oct. 29, 2025, agents with the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Culpeper Field Office took Amanda Wiseley, 47, of Strasburg, Va., into custody on two felony counts. Wiseley, the former Shenandoah Commonwealth's Attorney from 2012 until 2024, appeared before a magistrate and released on her own recognizance.

On Oct. 16, 2025, a Shenandoah County grand jury indicted Wiseley on two felony counts of making a false statement of a tax return and misuse

of public assets. The charges relate to her time in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter will serve as special prosecutor in the case.

The indictment follows an in-depth investigation by the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Culpeper Field Office.

All persons charged with a criminal offense are presumed to be innocent. The fact a person has been charged with an offense is not evidence of guilt and the Commonwealth bears the burden of proving each element of every charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt. Because the case still needs to proceed through the justice system, no further comment on the charges can be made at this time.

----

**Front Royal man arrested after standoff with Warren County Sheriff's Office**

FRONT ROYAL — A Front Royal man was arrested Friday evening after a tense hours-long standoff with deputies and multiple assisting law enforcement agencies following reports of shots fired and threats against a neighbor.

According to the Warren County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded around 5:55 p.m. on Oct. 17 to the 200 block of River Manor Drive for a report of a dispute between neighbors involving gunfire. While deputies were taking a statement from the complainant, additional shots were heard in rapid succession.

Deputies said the suspect, identified as Bradley E. Treece, 60, of Front Royal, refused to come out of his home or communicate with law enforcement. The complainant told deputies that Treece had threatened to kill him, shouted a racial slur, and fired approximately 20 to 30 more rounds.

Due to the escalating situation, the Sheriff's Office established an incident command post and activated its Crisis Negotiations and Special Operations teams. Assistance was requested from drone units with the Fauquier and Rappahannock County sheriff's offices

and from the Winchester Police Department's tactical team.

After several hours of negotiations, Treece was taken into custody without injury at about 10:19 p.m. He was evaluated by Warren County Fire and Rescue personnel and transported to the Rappahannock Shenandoah Warren (RSW) Regional Jail. No injuries were reported to deputies or residents.

Treece was charged with attempted first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, reckless handling of a firearm, obstruction of justice, and assault and battery (hate crime). He is being held without bond and is scheduled to appear in Warren County General District Court on Dec. 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Sheriff Crystal Cline praised the coordinated response, saying, "Our priority was a safe resolution for everyone. By activating incident command early, coordinating specialized teams, and using negotiation first, we brought this to a close without harm to the community or our deputies."

During the incident, the Sheriff's Office issued a RAVE Alert advising nearby residents to shelter in place. A follow-up alert was sent once the scene was secure. Residents can register for future emergency alerts at [www.getrave.com/login/warrencountyva](http://www.getrave.com/login/warrencountyva).

The Sheriff's Office thanked the Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Winchester Police Department, and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources for their assistance and coordination.

See NEWS, 12

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**NEWS, from 11**

The investigation remains active, and additional information may be released as it becomes available.



**Revolutionary War Grave Marking Ceremony**

On 18 October 2025, the Col James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution conducted a Revolutionary War Grave Marking Ceremony for patriot Colonel Meredith Helm. The event was held at the Milburn Cemetery, Stephenson, Frederick, Virginia. Col Helm was born 1753 in Frederick County, the son of Meredith Helm and Elizabeth Neill. Prior to the Revolutionary War, he was a land owner in Kentucky and patriot who was active in the affairs of the community. About 1775, he married the widow Frances Sanford Fowler by which they had eight children and lived on his farm, Belleville located approximately four

miles on the Winchester Pike, from Winchester. His proved children were Margaret, Frances, Harriet, Selyna, Mari, Strother, Catherine and Helen Maria. During the Revolutionary War, Helm served with Daniel Morgan's Riflemen and furnished supplies to the cause. In 1778, Helm bought land on Opecquon Creek and in 1796 and 1798 land in Frederick County. He died 12 October 1804 and was buried in the graveyard at his home, Belleville.

The ceremony was emceed by compatriot Marc Robinson with the Presentation of colors by the Virginia Society Color Guard, which was represented by compatriots from four chapters. Chaplain John Kuvakas of the Culpeper Minutemen provided chaplain duties and greetings from the Virginia State President and along with compatriot Thomas "Chip" Daniel dedicated the monument, which was unveiled by compatriots Eric and Clay Robinson. Wreath presentations included the Virginia Society (John Kuvakas), German Society (Dave Cook), Col James Wood II Chapter (Allan Phillips), Culpeper Minutemen Chapter (Kuvakas), Fairfax Resolves (Jim Cordes), from the Daughters of the American Revolution the John Alexander Chapter (Deborah Corey) and Preservationists Jim Weinmann and David Branham. Charles Hunter (Pledge of Allegiance), David Carpenter (SAR Pledge), Dale Corey & Phoebe Buck ("God Bless America"), and Ken Bonnell (SAR Recessional) contributed to the program. Additional color guardsmen include Will Reynolds (Col James Wood II), Steve Van Deusen (Sgt Maj John Champe)

and Greg Hall (Col William Grayson). Photo is the musket squad firing a salute l. to r. Allan Phillips, Bryan Buck, Sean Carrigan, Will Reynolds, Steve Van Deusen, Greg Hall and Chip Daniel. (Photo courtesy of Will Reynolds)

**Fatal Crash in Page County**

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash that occurred at 12:41 a.m. on Oct. 15, 2025, on U.S. Route 340 in Page County.

A 2013 Volkswagen Passat was heading southbound on Route 340, near the intersection with Newport Road, when it crossed the centerline and struck a 2012 Hyundai Elantra head-on.

The driver of the Elantra, Cassie N. Hutton, 28, of Luray, Va., died at the

scene. Hutton was not wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the Passat, Clarissa C. Sosa, 19, of Stanley, Va., suffered serious injuries. Sosa was wearing a seatbelt.

Charges are pending. The crash remains under investigation.

**Two Crashes in Rockingham County Overnight**

Virginia State Police is investigating two two-vehicle crashes that occurred early this morning (Oct. 30, 2025) on Interstate 81 at the 238-mile marker in Rockingham County.

At approximately 12:15 a.m., Virginia State Police responded to a crash involving two tractor trailers on northbound Interstate 81. The crash

occurred when the first tractor trailer jack-knifed, and the second tractor trailer struck the jack-knifed tractor trailer. Both vehicles then came to rest in the median. The driver of the second tractor trailer was taken to an area hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the jack-knifed tractor trailer as charged with reckless driving.

A Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Company fire truck was travelling southbound on Interstate 81 and responding to the crash (with its emergency equipment activated). As the fire truck slowed down, it was struck by a 2018 Ford sedan, also travelling southbound. The driver of the sedan was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries. A passenger in the sedan was also transported to an area hospital with injuries. Nobody on the fire truck was injured.

The crashes remain under investigation.

**Samuels Public Library Adult Programming November, 2025**

You can find and register for all library events on our website, [www.samuelslibrary.net](http://www.samuelslibrary.net).

**One-Time Events**

Studio 330: Sewing 201 – Holiday Table Topper: Part 1 Wednesday, November 5, 5:00-6:30 PM In person. Holiday Table Topper Parts 1 and 2: Part 1 Nov 5th, Part 2 Nov 19th,

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**The holidays get a little sweeter**

**Cheesecake Truffles**  
 Makes 25

300 grams (10 ounces) full-fat soft cheese, like cream cheese or mascarpone  
 50 grams (2 ounces) icing sugar  
 176 grams (6 ounces) biscuit (cookie) crumbs, finely crushed

**Decoration**  
 200 grams (7 ounces) milk chocolate, melted  
 50 grams (2 ounces) biscuit (cookie) crumbs, finely crushed

Add the soft cheese to a bowl and mix briefly until smooth before adding the icing sugar and briefly mixing again until combined. Pour the crushed biscuit crumbs into the mix and fold together until combined. Refrigerate the mixture for at least 2 hours.

Take the chilled mixture out of the fridge and scoop into truffle shapes using 2 teaspoons or a melon baller, then place onto a tray lined with parchment paper. Return the truffles to the fridge for another hour, or the freezer for 30 minutes.

To decorate the truffles, carefully dip each into the melted chocolate and place back onto the lined tray. You can use small spoons or forks to help with this. Once dipped, sprinkle the tops with the extra crushed biscuits.

Candy and other sweets take center stage during the holiday season. Whether guests are gathering for festive parties, exchanging treats with friends and neighbors, or simply enjoying a cozy evening at home, there are plenty of ways to indulge a sweet tooth or two.

Making something decadent to share is easy when you choose a simple yet irresistible recipe. Try this version of "Cheesecake Truffles" from "Jane's Patisserie" (Sourcebooks) by Jane Dunn.

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5-6:30pm. Celebrate the season with a handmade touch! In this Sewing 201 class, you'll create a festive fabric topper perfect for your holiday table. Learn how to cut and piece seasonal fabrics, finish edges, and explore a variety of stitching. To attend the November 19th part 2 of this program, you must sign up and attend part 1 on November 5th. Must have completed Sewing 101 or have a basic working knowledge of using a sewing machine. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Studio 330: Sewing 201 – Holiday Table Topper: Part 2 Wednesday, November 19th, 5:00-6:30 PM In person. Holiday Table Topper Parts 1 and 2: Part 1 Nov 5th, Part 2 Nov 19th, 5-6:30pm. Celebrate the season with a handmade touch! In this Sewing 201 class, you'll create a festive fabric topper perfect for your holiday table. Learn how to cut and piece seasonal fabrics, finish edges, and explore a variety of stitching. To attend the November 19th part 2 of this program, you must have signed up and attended part 1 on November 5th. Must have completed Sewing 101 or have a basic working knowledge of using a sewing machine. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Resume Workshop with Virginia Career Works Thursday, November 6th from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM In person. Registration Required. Welcome to the Resume Workshop, presented by Virginia Career Works! Join us on Thu Nov 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM for an

informative session on crafting the perfect resume. Whether you're a job seeker looking to polish your resume or a student preparing for future opportunities, this workshop is for you. Our experienced professionals will provide tips and tricks to make your resume stand out. Don't miss this chance to enhance your job prospects!

Job Fair Thursday, November 6th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM In person. Come prepared to meet employers looking for people to hire! Need help reviewing your resume beforehand? Email [winchester@virginiaworks.gov](mailto:winchester@virginiaworks.gov)! Any questions? Contact 540-678-7079 Option 8.

Seniors First Workshop: Medicare Savings Programs & Extra Help Thursday, November 13th from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM In person. Learn about financial assistance programs that help with Medicare costs. Questions? Call VICAP at 540-635-7141 or visit [seniorsfirst.info](http://seniorsfirst.info). Registration for this event is in regard to attending the hour-long informational program. One-on-one 20-minute counseling sessions can be booked beginning at 2:00 p.m. by contacting Samuels Public Library staff at 540-635-3135 ext. 105.

Trivia Night: Winter Holidays Thursday, November 20, 6:00-7:30 PM Test your knowledge about upcoming Winter Holidays and traditions at Trivia Night! Build your teams of up to 6 people and compete for bragging rights and fabulous prizes! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Registration required.

Ongoing Programs  
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! The library will be closed 11/11 in observance of Veterans Day, so there will be no What the Tech! Program on this day.

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. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult. The library will be closed 11/27-11/28 in observance of Thanksgiving, so there will be no Embroidery Club meeting on 11/27.

General Education Development (GED) Class Every Monday & Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, starting October 6th 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>.

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. Glowforge is not available during walk-in hours. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult. The library will be closed 11/27-11/28 in observance of Thanksgiving, so there will be no Studio Walk-in Hours this day.

Studio 330: String Theory – A Fiber Arts Club Every Saturday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM In person. Welcome to a fiber arts community for experienced, novice, or first-time artists 13 and up looking to meet other artists, relax, and/or share their expertise! Bring your own knitting, crochet, weaving, or other project to Studio 330 on Saturdays 2pm to 4pm. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Scary Words Book Club Saturday,

November 8th from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM In person. A horror book club for people who should be afraid of the dark. This month's title is: Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton.

Bad Romance Wednesday, November 1st 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. November's theme is Cats! 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, November 12th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM Second Wednesday of every month. In person. Join our genealogy club in November to prepare for holiday genealogy treasure hunting. The holidays are a perfect time to build your family tree and capture family stories. This session will give you the basics of getting started in your genealogy research. We will provide handouts and ideas to engage your family members in the hunt. Register or drop-in. No food allowed in the studio and patrons between 13-

17 must be accompanied by an adult. Books & Beyond Book Club Thursday, November 13th from 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM Second Thursday of every month. In person. Do you love books and sharing them as much as we do? Join us to delve into new worlds of conversation about new books at your community's public library! The theme this month is: Revenge.

Phoenix Project – Hope for New Beginnings Tuesday, November 18 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 are available to provide crisis intervention, supportive counseling, safety planning, information, education, and more. Their services are free, confidential, and trauma-informed. Hope. Help. Healing.

**Samuels Public Library Youth Programming November, 2025**

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

Saturday, November 1  
5:00 PM – Holiday Writing Contest Deadline. All entries, written and artistic, are due before the library closes. There must be an entry form attached to each entry. Good luck to everyone!

Saturday, November 1  
1:00 PM – Chess. For ages 10-18. Come learn or practice the game or test your skills against others who enjoy chess too! Registration is required.  
2:30 PM – Manga Gathering: Teens Connect. For ages 12-18. Join us as we "geek out" about our favorite manga stories, characters we enjoy and look up to, and enjoy a few Japanese snacks. Registration is required.

Monday, November 3  
10:15 AM - Music & Movement for Babies (ages 0-23 months).

11:15 AM – Music & Movement for Toddlers (ages 2-5). Join our fun and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multi-sensory activities designed to delight your baby or toddler. Registration is required.

Tuesday, November 4  
10:30 AM – Lollipop Density: Homeschool Hub. For ages 6-11. Learn what density is and see how to make different colored lollipops have different densities. Registration is required.

Wednesday, November 5  
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time  
11:00AM –Preschool Story Time  
Come in for an enjoyable time with a special visitor, Mark Gorkin, reading his book Where is Charlotte? His story captures the game of Hide-and-seek,



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EMBOLISM  
GAS EXCHANGE  
HEMOGLOBIN  
HYPERCAPNIA  
HYPOXEMIA  
LUNGS  
OXYGEN  
PERFUSION  
PNEUMONIA  
RESPIRATION  
SPIROMETRY  
TIDAL VOLUME  
VENTILATION  
VITAL CAPACITY

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

**NEWS, from 13**

played by a feisty and fun little fireball.  
 Friday, November 7  
 3:00 PM – Wee Ones in the Garden with Scarecrows (ages 3-5 with parent)  
 4:00 PM – Elementary Green Thumbs with Scarecrows (ages 6-11)  
 Come listen to why people use scarecrows and make one of your own, using items supplied or brought from home. Registration is required.

Saturday, November 8  
 2:00 PM – Hard Act to Follow Special Needs Theater Troupe. Come see them perform If You Give a Reindeer the New Christmas Stamps. Fun for the family!  
 Monday, November 10  
 10:15 AM - Music & Movement for Babies (ages 0-23 months).  
 11:15 AM – Music & Movement for Toddlers (ages 2-5). Join our fun 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 or toddler. Registration is required.  
 The library will be closed on November 11 for the holiday.  
 Wednesday, November 12  
 10:15AM - Toddler Story Time.  
 11:00AM –Preschool Story Time  
 Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Pumpkin stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a fun craft.  
 Friday, November 14  
 4:00 PM - Story Time at Melissa

Ichiuji Studio Gallery. Come listen to stories about female artists, enjoy snacks and get inspired!  
 Saturday, November 15  
 2:00 PM – Native American Spear Throwing Workshop. For ages 7+ at the Discovery Center in Shenandoah River State Park. There will be stories, a presentation on Native American history, the value of plants and stones, and opportunity to participate in throwing spears at hay bales. Registration is required.  
 Monday, November 17

10:15 AM - Music & Movement for Babies (ages 0-23 months).  
 11:15 AM – Music & Movement for Toddlers & Preschoolers (ages 2-5). Join our fun 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 or toddler. Registration is required.  
 Tuesday, November 18  
 10:30 AM – Marshmallow Design: Homeschool Hub. For ages 6-11. Come hear marshmallow stories and

Welcome home to this beautiful brick Cape Cod on 2.9 acres on Strasburg Rd! Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, this property offers both comfort and versatility: Main level living with 2 spacious bedrooms; Two laundry areas one in the finished basement (ideal for an in-law suite) and another conveniently off the kitchen; Multiple outdoor spaces: two covered porches plus a large back deck perfect for entertaining. Car enthusiasts or hobbyists will love the heated and cooled 2-car garage with a half bath, while the attached carport and an expansive 37' x 17' storage area provide even more convenience and space. All of this just minutes from shopping, dining, and everything the area has to offer. Offered at \$524,000 - Don't miss this rare find! Schedule your private showing today. 1064 Strasburg Rd • Front Royal, VA 22630



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**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breathing.

**H O T U M**

Answer: Mouth

**GUESS WHO ?**

I am an actress born on November 6, 1988 in Arizona. I appeared on stage for the first time as a youth. I've played several prominent roles, and won my first Academy Award in 2016 in a musical romantic comedy film about pursuing dreams in Los Angeles and a second in 2023 for a dark comedy role.


Answer: Emma Stone

**Hamrick's Sudoku!**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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



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

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learn about shapes as we build with marshmallows. Registration is required.

Wednesday, November 19  
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time.  
11:00AM - Preschool Story Time  
Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Thanksgiving stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a fun craft.

Friday, November 21  
4:00 PM - Story Time at Melissa Ichijji Studio Gallery. Come listen to stories about female scientists, enjoy snacks and get inspired!

Saturday, November 22  
10:30 AM - Aspiring Artists. For ages 6-11. Listen to an autumn story to get inspired and then use colored corn kernels to make a mosaic picture. Registration is required.

2:00 PM - Indigenous Voices. For ages 5+. Come hear stories, flute music, and participate in Native American dancing! Bring the family. Registration is required. There will be Native American items for sale.

Monday, November 24  
10:15 AM - Music & Movement for Babies (ages 0-23 months).

11:15 AM - Music & Movement for Toddlers (ages 2-5). Join our fun and joyful time with your little ones as we listen to music while learning some basic movements and multi-sensory activities designed to delight your baby or toddler. Registration is required.

Tuesday, November 25  
4:00 PM - Cranberry Codes. For ages 6-11. Join us for an afternoon of Invisible stories and find secret messages! Registration is required.

Wednesday, November 26  
10:15AM - Toddler Story Time.  
11:00AM - Read with the Sheriff Preschool Story Time

Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Family stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a fun craft. Meet a visitor from the Sheriff's De-

partment.

The library will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday, November 29  
2:30 PM - Press Play. For ages 12-18. Come enjoy an afternoon of playing Nintendo video games! Registration is required.

**Government shutdown strains Shenandoah National Park during peak season**

By Carson Nealy  
VCU Capital News Service

RICHMOND, Va. - Employees at Shenandoah National Park and other national parks are going unpaid during the government shutdown during their busiest season of the year.

Shenandoah National Park is the only national park in Virginia and 1 of 63 in the U.S.

"National parks remain as accessible as possible during the federal government shutdown," the National Park Service website states. "However, some services may be limited or unavailable."

Visitors can access the contingency plan for the National Park System on the U.S. Department of the Interior's website.

Furloughed NPS employees should pay attention to public broadcasts and government websites for information regarding their employment when the shutdown nears its end, according to the contingency plan.

The plan also states that "they will be expected to return to regular duty on the next workday immediately after the end of the lapse in appropriations." The Shenandoah National Park Trust is encouraging visitors to choose another "fall adventure" if they are not ready to be the park's caretaker for the day.

"The NPS staff are already stressed, and now they're more stressed because they're not getting paid, but they have to go to work," said Jessica Coccione, executive director of the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

The park received 1.7 million visitors in 2024 with 25% of visitation happening in October, according to Coccione. It could lose approximately \$2 million this month.

"The park's not collecting any money this month," Coccione said. "That's a problem."

Coccione encouraged visitors to leave a \$30 donation to the trust when the day pass money is not being collected, as that is what the price would normally be.

The day pass is how the park collects money outside federal funding and donations to the trust, but the park cannot charge for day passes during the shutdown.

The trash and bathrooms at the park have overflowed during past government shutdowns, because the park could not fully staff those areas, according to Coccione.

Another big issue is visitors going off the trail and damaging the natural resources, due to park rangers not being as readily available.

Emergency services have also been delayed during the shutdown. It could take a while to reach an individual in danger, so guests are urged to be careful and stay on the paths to avoid injuries.

Anthony Durso, a hiking enthusiast, has not been to a national park during a government shutdown until this month, but he said visitors will not see much of a difference.

"There were still some restrictions with hiking," Durso said. "The only real difference was we didn't have to get the day pass."

Durso knew the shutdown might cause problems for the park, so he brought his own toilet paper, soap, water and towels.

"Just be prepared, just in case there isn't somebody staffed at the bathroom," Durso said. "I don't know if they're collecting garbage regularly."

Virginia Park Visitors Important for Economy

Park-related tourism is important for the state, according to a previous Capital News Service report. When it comes to visitor spending, jobs supported, value added and economic output, Virginia ranked No. 5, according to National Park Services data.

Visitors brought in over \$35 billion in 2024, according to a press release from Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Youngkin applauded the 1 million additional overnight visitors who were drawn to the state's "unmatched beauty, rich heritage, and welcoming communities."

"When visitors choose Virginia, they're not just taking a trip, they're investing in our economy, our workforce, and our future," Youngkin said.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Communication. Students in the program provide

state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

**Dominion Ridge Academy launches Club America chapter**

FRONT ROYAL — Dominion Ridge Academy has announced the launch of a new student organization, Club America, powered by Turning Point USA (TPUSA). The initiative aims to promote civic engagement, leadership development, and open discussion among students.

Club America chapters operate nationwide, giving young people a platform to advocate for values such as free markets, limited government, and individual liberty. The Dominion Ridge chapter will host guest speakers, explore current events, and help students build organizational and leadership skills.

"We believe in equipping our students not just with academic knowledge, but with the moral and intellectual foundation to navigate and lead in a complex world," said a school representative. "The establishment of Club America represents a commitment to providing a space for students interested in championing the foundational principles that shape our nation."

The inaugural leadership team includes senior James Sackett, president; junior Peyton Gray, vice president; and senior Malena Haworth, secretary. The group will guide the club's early direction and programming.

The club will meet every other Wednesday after school, with the next official meeting scheduled for Nov. 5

from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. at Dominion Ridge Academy. All interested high school students are invited to attend. For more information, contact Tim VanCuren, club sponsor, at [tvancuren@dominionridgek12.com](mailto:tvancuren@dominionridgek12.com) or 540-635-6799.

Dominion Ridge Academy is a private Christian school emphasizing academic excellence, character development, and leadership. Turning Point USA is a national student movement that promotes freedom, free markets, and limited government.

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