

Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 24 • Early December, 2025

Recipe: Stuffed Shells with Spinach and Ricotta



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BACK COVER:



INDICTMENTS



Seasonal celebrations bring light and fun



Front Royal's Main Street and Gazebo are ready and waiting for the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting along with more exciting and fun events happening on Saturday December 6 from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

The Holiday Season swoops in bringing spectacular parades, tree lightings, fun, Santa Claus in all his exuberant cheer, hot cocoa, pancakes, homemade gifts and art, music including carols, opportunities to donate food for those who need it, and much more.

People look forward to a wealth of cheerful and memorable ways to celebrate during the shortest

days of the year and to observe holy days of more than one religion or also only as a secular event, emphasizing traditions that don't necessarily have a religious basis.

Local area celebrations generally center around Jesus Christ's birth, and Christmas events are more common, however they are celebrated.

An ancient belief is that Angels come very close to the Earth to bring comfort and wonder to all, and if this is believed, it would of-

fer hope for bright times for the present and future.

The following are a sample of the many different types of events in the area, in the order of their dates (some overlapping).

Early December marks the beginning of holiday events and traditions.

Winchester's 2025 Holiday Parade is on Monday, December 1 at 7 p.m. Join the celebrating folks for Winchester's brightest nighttime parade! Find a spot along Piccadilly, Braddock, or Cork Streets to cheer on bands, local groups, and businesses.

After the parade, head to the

walking mall (by the Old Civil War Courthouse Museum) for the

Warren/Frederick County Report

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In early December Main Street locations display Christmas decorations in preparation for the Holiday Season. Ole Timers Antiques, as always, has an assortment of wonderful pieces to offer in memory of the past. Their window has a hopeful "Nice" message dominating the naughty one.



The Blue Ridge Arts Council shows off Santa's creative side, as he works on his interpretation of local natural beauty.

official tree lighting, music, merriment, and a visit from Santa!

On the following weekend, travel south to enjoy on December 4, at 5:00 p.m., the Warren Memorial Auxiliary Annual Celebration of Lights.

This will be held at Warren Memorial Hospital at 351 Val-

ley Health Way in Front Royal. The ceremony, held annually for over 40 years, offers families and friends a way to honor or remember loved ones while supporting local healthcare.

This year the tree lighting includes music, hot chocolate, and a chance to reflect on those we care about. The event is organized by the Warren Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Individuals can donate \$5 or more to place a light on the tree in honor or memory of someone special. Donors receive a confirmation letter, and so does the person being honored (or their family). This year, for the first time,

donations can be made online using a QR code or link included in a mailed letter or pamphlet. Donations are tax-deductible, and 100% of proceeds support Auxiliary projects.

The Auxiliary hopes the Celebration of Lights will continue to bring comfort and connection to the local community, being about remembering people who are loved and lighting up the season with hope. Also, the lights on the beautiful tree can be seen all the way from across the hill where the hospital sits.

How to Donate or Volunteer:
• To dedicate a light, call (540) 536-6939 or visit the hospital website at www.valleyhealthlink.com (a QR code is available in

printed materials)

• To volunteer: Apply online or call the hospital's Volunteer Services office.

Two days later, the town and visitors will converge to take part in the Front Royal Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting with Christmas Carols on December 6 from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The festive seasonal celebra-

tions will be centered on Main Street and the downtown Gazebo at Main & Chester Street.

All are welcome, and to illustrate this, the message from local folks says, "Join us for a fun filled, festive holiday event with food and drinks. Food trucks and local businesses, such as coffee companies and barbecue, are on-site.

There will be family entertainment around the Gazebo from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. and the Merry Market will be open and offering a variety of goods, including handmade crafts, unique gifts, Christmas decorations, and fresh-baked goods until 7 p.m. This annual holiday festival features over 40 local vendors and community organizations.

The market includes live performances, with one event showcasing a dance studio performance. Children's activities include face painting, and a photo booth with Christmas scenes often available. The spectacular Christmas Parade begins at 4 p.m. with Santa and Mrs. Claus launching the season

See EVENTS, 4

Warren/Frederick County Report

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EVENTS, from 3

from their high perch on one of the creatively decorated floats.

The sparkling and beautiful Tree Lighting is scheduled to be accompanied by Christmas Carols led by the Blue Ridge Singers immediately following the parade at the Gazebo.

Other activities happening around the event that day include: Front Royal Kiwanis Pancake Day at Warren County High School from 6 a.m. - 1 p.m., and a Battlegrounds Fitness Battle Buddy Brawl.

At least two local musical groups will be performing in sev-

eral locations on dates that offer more than one chance to attend, if folks are craving more excellent holiday music.

These are:

The Valley Chorale, performing their Holiday concerts with the "Making Spirits Bright" theme, described as "A jubilant, choral Christmas concert filled with new takes on timeless Christmas classics, sacred hymns, and a few holiday surprises." The concert is free for ages 25 and under. For ages 26 and up, tickets are \$18 and can be purchased in advance on The-ValleyChorale.org. Tickets at the door are \$20.

Their concert schedules are:

- Friday, December 5 – 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Loudoun Street, Winchester
- Saturday, December 6 – 2:00 p.m. First Baptist Church, 14 W. 1st St., Front Royal
- Saturday, December 6 – 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley, 6380 Valley Pike, Stephens City
- Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick Street, Staunton

And..

The Blue Ridge Singers

The Blue Ridge Singers will also be performing their "On Christmas Night" Concert Series which features a diverse program with local heart, including classic carols, rich harmonies, and joyful surprises. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$15 to support the group's ongoing work.

Concert schedule:

- Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. Front Royal Presbyterian Church 115 Luray Ave., Front Royal, Virginia
- Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church at 379 Gay St., Washington, Virginia
- Sunday, December 14 • 3:00 p.m. First Baptist Church of Winchester 141 N. Washington St., Winchester, Virginia

Another place to find unique and wonderful gifts and family fun on Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. is the Christmas Holiday Maker's Market Event by The Homestead Farm at Fruit Hill Orchard at 2502



A miniature box inside the BRAC Gallery is a tiny recreation of the life-size Santa-as-artist seen in the gallery's window display.

N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, Virginia

The folks at Homestead Farm at Fruit Hill Orchard at 2502 N.

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Royal Zaika Grill & Bar owners displayed their beautiful tree and cheerful decorations in celebration of the Season.



Schewels Home has recruited the Jolly Old Elf to ring in the Holiday Season on Main Street.

mas Holiday Maker's Market. For ideas for friends and family there are many local artisan vendors offering a beautiful variety of handmade articles, seasonal decor, and unique finds that will make memorable and thoughtful gifts as you shop for the Holidays.

With the added treats from the hot cocoa bar and freshly baked holiday confections, a special visit with Santa will make the day even more magical.

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

"Thos is one of our favorite traditions on the farm," they say. "It's the perfect way to celebrate the

season, support local makers, and enjoy a cozy winter day with family and friends!"

For an extra dose of convivial experiences and a delicious one, on Friday December 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., the Front Royal-Warren County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Cookies and Cocoa event at the Chamber at 201 2nd Street in Front Royal, which is free and open to the public!

"Drop by the Chamber for a delicious cup of hot cocoa, cookies and some festive conversation," they say.

And for another creative ap-

proach to the holiday entertainment, plan on celebrating the Winter Solstice by visiting Arterra Wines/Hawkmoth Arts at 1808 Leeds Manor Road in Delaplane, Virginia on December 20 from 12-5 p.m.

The invitation includes all the public and welcomes with this message, "Join us at Arterra Wines for our Annual Winter Solstice Celebration — a full-day event filled with warmth, music, and community spirit!"

On the schedule is live music from Joe Martin to enjoy while sipping favorite Arterra wines and celebrating the season.

The following enticements are

described below.

"Choose between a complimentary bowl of hearty chili or creamy butternut squash soup and treat yourself to freshly baked holiday cookies throughout the day. Mulled Wine will also be available."

For a bit of festive fun, hunt for a "Where's Jason?" card hidden around the tasting room to unlock special discounts on wine purchases.

And during the visit, a visit to the Hawkmoth Arts Gallery is worth the trip to discover unique holiday gifts and pick up one of the custom-crafted 2025 Arterra Ornaments, described as "The perfect keepsake for the season."

But there are a limited number

available, (only 25) and with no holds.

"We'll also be accepting monetary donations for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, helping to support local families during the holidays," they say. "Come celebrate the turning of the season with great wine, good company, and the joyful spirit of the Winter Solstice at Arterra Wines."

Admission is free! Seating is First Come, First Serve.

The winter solstice, also called Midwinter, marks the Shortest Day and the Longest Night in the Northern Hemisphere, occurring on December 21 this year.

It signifies the beginning of winter and is significant in many cultures as a time of rebirth and renewal, as the days begin to lengthen after the solstice and has been an important celebrated event throughout human history.

It occurs when either of Earth's poles reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun, happening twice yearly, once in each hemisphere. For that hemisphere, the winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year, and when the Sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky. Each polar region experiences continuous darkness or twilight around its winter solstice.

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Col James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society - Veterans Day



SAR participants, front row l. to r. Allan Phillips, Brian Bayliss, Brett Osborn, Dale Corey, Paul Parish, Richard Tyler. Back row l. to r. Jim Cordes, Chip Daniel, Paul Christensen, Bryan Buck, Clay Robinson and Ken Morris. Photo courtesy of Chip Daniel.

On 11 November 2025, the Col James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution co-sponsored with the American Red Cross a commemoration on Veterans Day at Mt Hebron Cemetery to honor all members of the US Armed Forces who served the country. Veterans are defined as "a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable." Today, there are six U.S.

military branches, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast. On 11 November, communities and organizations hold ceremonies to honor all veterans who served throughout the past 250 years.

Veterans Day was originally founded as Armistice Day to honor those men and women who served in World War I or what was known as the Great War. It occurred between 1914 and 1918, basically fought in Europe and included more

countries and people than any previous conflict. The United States entered the war in 1917. Over 5 million Americans served during the time with over 2 million overseas. Of those, we suffered over 320,000 casualties. There were three main reasons for our entry into the conflict. Germany had an unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking American ships, to include the "Lusitania". It was also revealed there was a proposed German-Mexican alliance and in addition, geopolitical interests of U.S. loans to the Allies. This war was the first major conflict involving the tank, machine guns, airplanes and gas warfare that caused a significant number of casualties for all participants. It is estimated that there were 9 - 11 million military deaths and 6 - 13 million civilian death in the four years it was fought. There were several reasons for Germany surrendering. They included military exhaustion, a failed economy as well as the entry of American troops and a British naval blockage that caused severe food shortages and public unrest. On 11 No-

vember 1918, at 11:00, the guns fell silent with a signed armistice to stop the fighting. After the war ended, people wanted to honor those who served in this war that was considered the war to end all wars. In 1919, countries began observing 18 November as a commemoration to the veterans. After the war ended, it was determined we needed to honor those who died, but whose bodies were not found or could not be identified. In 1938, Congress declared Armistice Day an official U.S. holiday. After WWII, it was felt that all veterans should be honored and not just those who served in WWI. In 1954,

the name was changed to Veterans to expand the meaning of holiday to honor the sacrifices of all military veterans. In 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was built at Arlington National Cemetery. This tomb was to honor unidentified soldiers whose bodies remained in Europe and offered a place for families and friends to grieve a lost loved one. One Unknown Soldier from WWI was buried in the grave on 11 November 1921 to represent all unknown American service members who died in the conflict. After WWII, it was expanded to include one each from WWI, WWII and the Korean War.



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!!

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Later a burial was held for a Vietnam War service member. He was eventually identified and reburied in Missouri at his family's request. There is an empty crypt that is dedicated to all missing Vietnam War service members. The tomb is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by elite soldiers who are specially selected and trained for this duty. On the Tomb are inscribed the words "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."

Veterans Day is observed by countries throughout the world. The British Commonwealth began using red poppies in Remembrance Day ceremonies. During the war British Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields" after the Second Battle of Ypres, which was fought in 1915. McCrae's friend was killed during the battle and he went back visit

the site where soldiers were buried. Poppies were growing throughout the field in between the rows of crosses. He was inspired to put into words how he felt and it became a symbol for the losses sustained. It is used today as a symbol of remembrance for all those who have died in a conflict.

The ceremony was held in the chapel at Mt Hebron Cemetery due to the cold, windy weather. The service was attended by 60

participants and opened with a welcome and salute to veterans by compatriot Dale Corey. The guest speaker was Willis Nelson, US Army Veteran from American Legion Post 41 and a retired Air Traffic Controller. The Virginia SAR Color Guard presented arms for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. After honors and recognition of the military services and the American Red Cross, the Virginia Color Guard Musket squad fired a three round salute in honor of all veterans. It was followed by compatriot Charles Hunter playing "Taps" to close out the ceremony. ARC provided coffee and refreshments to the 60 individuals who braved the cold and wind to honor our veterans. Participating for the SAR were com-

patriots from the Col James Wood II, George Mason, General Daniel Morgan and Fairfax Resolves Chapters. They were joined by the American Red

Cross, Fort Loudoun DAR, Korean War Veterans Association, VFW Post 2123, VFW Post 1860 and the Civil Air Patrol.

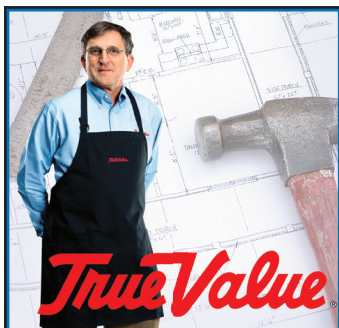


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INDICTMENTS

2025 October Indictments October Term

Dalton Welch

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 14, 2025, in the County of Warren, Dalton Welch, 23, of the 5900 block of John Marshall Hwy., 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.

Christopher Allen Rhoades

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 19, 2025, in the County of Warren, Christopher Allen Rhoades, age and

address unavailable, 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.

Kristen Ann Hylton

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 4, 2025, in the County of Warren, Kristen Ann Hylton, 38, address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously, drive or operate

a motor vehicle on a highway, or an engine or train in the Commonwealth during the time the accused was deprived of the right to do so upon conviction of a violation or of an offense set forth after the license had been revoked or in violation of the terms of a restricted license issued. The accused committed this offense within 10 years after having committed two or more violations of the Code of

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GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born on December 3, 1968 in Indiana. I made my acting debut in a crime reenactment for "America's Most Wanted." I'm a star who made it big in the 1990s with various action movies, including a trilogy about mummies. After a hiatus, I made a strong comeback and even won an Academy Award.

Answer: Brendan Fraser

WORD SCRAMBLE

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Answer: Payroll

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WARREN COUNTY VIRGINIA

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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.)

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

Virginia.

Rebecca Starr Melvin

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about May 28, 2025, in the County of Warren, Rebecca Starr Melvin, 44, of the 500 block of Avalon Dr., 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.

Tucker Timothy Pontier

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 5, 2025, in the County of Warren, Tucker Timothy Pontier, 29, of the 600 block of S. Royal 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.

Hollie Marie McLendon

The Warren County Va. Cir-

cuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about April 8, 2025, in the County of Warren, Hollie Marie McLendon, 32, of the 400 block of Cherrydale Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, while being a parent of, guardian for, or person responsible for the care of a child then under the age of eighteen years, commit a willful act or omission in the care of said child which was so gross, wanton, and culpable as to show a reckless disregard for human life.

Raymond Lee Jackson Jr.

The Warren County Va. Cir-

cuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 9, 2025, in the County of Warren, Raymond Lee Jackson Jr., 44, 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.

Paul William Nichols

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 16, 2025, in the County of Warren, Paul William Nichols, 60, of the 100

See INDICTMENTS, 10



Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

Sat. Nov 29, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Mon. Dec 1, 2025 (6-8pm)
Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose*

Wed. Dec 3, 2025 (6-9pm)
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Thurs. Dec 4, 2025 (6:30-8:30pm)
Music Bingo at Winchester, Va. Elks*

Sat. Dec 6, 2025 (7-11pm)
Karaoke & Music Bingo at Mt Jackson Moose*

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

Wed. Dec 10, 2025 (6-9pm)
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Fri. Dec 12, 2025 (7-11pm)
Private Party Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Co. **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Sat. Dec 13, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630

Mon. Dec 15, 2025 (6-8pm)
Musical 5-in-a-Row at FR, Va. Moose*

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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INDICTMENTS, from 9

block of Mineral Springs Dr., 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.

Shawn Lee Keller
The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about April 8, 2025, in the County of Warren, Shawn Lee Keller, 34, of the 100 block of Choptank Rd., Stafford, VA 22556, 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 volume 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; or while having a blood concentration of 0.02 milligrams or more of cocaine per liter of blood, 0.1 milligrams or more of methamphetamine per liter of blood, 0.01 milligrams of mor of phen-

cyclidine per liter of blood 0.01 milligrams or more of 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine per liter of blood. The accused committed this offense after having committed two prior violations.

Melissa Sue Erwin

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about August 8, 2025, in the County of Warren, Melissa Sue Erwin, 45, of the 20000 block of Broadnax Pl., Ashburn,



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kids' corner

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

2	0	9
8	0	6
3	4	9

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

Answer: Perfect vision

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world's first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

NEW WORD

FOCUS

pay particular attention to

CLUES ACROSS

- Dough made from corn flour
- Rise
- Gratitude
- A low wall
- Kidnap
- A cup golfers want to win
- Outgoing
- "Partner" to flow
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- Proverb
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Helps a body recover
- Baseball Cy Young winner
- Very fast airplane
- Offensive baseball stat
- Body of water
- Record of one's heartbeat
- Signs a contract
- Atomic #24
- Bind securely
- French Jesuit theologian
- Fragrant brown balsam
- Post office box
- Sells tickets at inflated prices
- Places to hang coats
- Jewish salutation
- Yellow fruits
- Poorly educated
- Microorganism
- Talk show host Barrymore

- Romanian city
- Making sour
- Take a seat
- "The Golden State"
- When you hope to arrive
- Pointed ends of pens
- Extinct flightless bird
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Nape of neck
- Problems (Spanish slang)
- Narrow carpet
- To avoid the risk of
- Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- Equally
- Traditional cars still need it
- Eligible voters
- Greek alphabet letter
- Body part
- Referee-declared outcome
- Means to moving money
- Popular footwear brand
- Cockatoo
- NFL's big game
- Botswana currencies
- News-reporting organization
- Batman villain
- Urgent request
- Not all
- Hallmark's specialty
- Knot in a tree
- Satisfy
- Notable space station
- Baby's dining accessory
- Stitch clothing
- ___ and behold

CLUES DOWN

- A way to plan
- Three-banded armadillo
- Mobile

Health FACT!

What is the name of the chart that eye doctors use to measure vision?

Answer: Snellen scale

How they say that in...

- English:** Sight
- Spanish:** Vista
- Italian:** Vista
- French:** Vue
- German:** Sicht

Did You Know?

Bifocal or multifocal lenses help people who have different visual impairments see clearly with one pair of eyeglasses.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye exam equipment

VA 20147, did unlawfully and feloniously, maliciously shoot, stab, cut, wound or by any means cause bodily injury to James David Fincher with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill.

William Bradford Fuller
The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 1, 2014, through March 1, 2014, in the County of Warren, Wil-

liam Bradford Fuller, age and address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously, without the use of force, carnally know a child thirteen (13) years of age or older but younger than fifteen (15) years of age.

and maliciously prevent, obstruct or delay the sending, conveyance or delivery in the Commonwealth of an authorized communication by or through a wireless transmission device under the control of a telephone or telegraph company doing business in the Commonwealth with the intent to prevent another person, from summoning law-enforcement, fire, or rescue services. Date of the offenses was on or about April 5, 2025.

that: on or about June 14, 2025, in the County of Warren, Jamie Allen Sargent, 49, of the 800 block of W. 13th St., 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.

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Odalis Arlene Plaza Rivera
The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Odalis Arlene Plaza Rivera, 35, of the 1000 block of Stuart Dr., Front Royal, VA 22630, with seven counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Odalis Arlene Plaza Rivera did unlawfully and feloniously destroy, deface, damage or remove the property of Beatriz Diaz Luciano, with the value of or damage to such property being \$1,000 or more. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously destroy, deface, damage, or remove the property of Luis Enrique DeJesus Diaz, with the value of or damage to such property being \$1,000 or more. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully, assault and batter Luis Enrique DeJesus Diaz. COUNT FOUR: did unlawfully, assault and batter Beatriz Diaz Luciano, a family or household member. COUNT FIVE: did unlawfully, being 18 years of age or older, willfully contribute to, encourage, or cause any act, omission, or condition which rendered a minor less than 18 years of age, delinquent, in need of services, in need of supervision, or abused or neglected. COUNTS SIX and SEVEN: did unlawfully, willfully,

Jamie Allen Sargent
The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

Answers:
1. Cookies changed to a gingerbread man. 2. Layer cake on counter. 3. Missing hanging lamp. 4. Woman's hair is longer on top.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

Answers:
1. Polar bear in back. 2. Waterfall on the right side. 3. Snowboarder is wearing goggles. 4. Missing skis back center.

weather forecast

Friday, November 28, 2025: Sunny, with a high near 39. West wind 14 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. West wind 3 to 7 mph. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 42. Calm wind.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of snow after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 48. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 42.

Monday Night: A chance of snow after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday: Rain and snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of rain.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.



Ask Stewart

Hey Stewart,

Did I see you planting trees last Saturday?

– Joyce

Yes you did! Saturday morning, 22 November, a group of 30 plus volunteers braved the drizzly rain to plant trees. Meeting at Burrell Park (next to Samuels Public Library) and fortified with donuts and coffee, the volunteers spread out to plant trees. The volunteers were from the Front Royal/Warren County Trees Stewards, members of ACES (Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability) and community members who had seen the flyer about the tree planting event. The holes had been dug on Friday by the town of Front Royal maintenance

crew.

The 28 trees were purchased with a \$10,000 reimbursable grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry. Three trees were planted in the library's Children's Garden which the library staff will water. Seven trees were planted in Burrell Park which the County will water. And 18 trees were planted along the Greenway, both the Happy Creek side and along the path – and the town of Front Royal will water these trees.

All the trees have a white tag that identifies them: River Birch, Tulip Poplar, Sycamore, Swamp White Oak, Bald Cypress – and all the trees are native to Virginia. With the many volunteer hands, all the tree planting was accomplished in less than 2 hours.

If you would like to be a part of the next community tree planting event, be sure to mark Saturday, December 20th on your calendar. The Tree Stewards and ACES volunteer team will be meeting at Eastham Park at 10am and everyone is invited to join in the fun. Just bring a shovel to help fill in the holes or a rake to spread the mulch. See you there!!

Your Pal in the Trees,

– Stewart

The Front Royal/Warren County Tree Steward program began in 1997 with volunteers dedicated to improving the health of trees by providing educational programs, tree planting

and care demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. The group now consists of over 30 active members with several interns working toward becoming certified tree stewards from our annual "All About Trees Class". Each month Stewart will answer a question from our readers. Please forward it to "Stewart" in care of:

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

www.treesfrontroyal.org



Washington Commanders Running Back Chris Rodriguez Jr. to Light Middletown's Christmas Tree at 13th Annual Holiday Celebration

MIDDLETOWN, VA — The Town of Middletown is proud to announce that Washington Commanders running back Chris Rodriguez Jr. will serve as the official tree lighter at the 13th Annual Middletown Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 28, 2025, at 4:45 PM. The event will take place at its new location at the Middletown Veterans Memorial.

Rodriguez, currently ranked in the Top 15 in the NFL in yards per carry, will join Santa, town residents, and visitors to kick off the holiday season with a night of celebration, tradition, and community pride. Another special guest appearance is expected and will be announced at the event.

The annual tree lighting has become one of the Shenandoah Valley's most beloved holiday gatherings, offering families and attendees free food, children's gifts, festive music by Jimmy Lee Music, and a warm community bonfire.

This year's celebration is generously sponsored by FNB Bank, Inc. and Kollectible Kings, with additional support from:

Shaffer's BBQ & Market
5 - Star Executive Chauffeuring
Daily Buzz Cafe
Chick-fil-A Pleasant Valley Road
Italian Touch Middletown
Middletown Liberty
McDonald's
Sheetz
Wawa
Blue Ridge Baking Company
Stacie Athey

Town Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV shared his gratitude ahead of the event:

"We have so much to be thankful for here in Middletown. Every year, this celebration grows, not just in size, but in heart. The fact that families can come together and enjoy free food, free gifts for children, and a night of

joy is truly a blessing. We are honored to welcome Chris Rodriguez Jr. and thrilled to continue a tradition that reflects everything good about our town. We are truly thankful for all of our sponsors and donors who make this event a reality."

Residents and visitors are encouraged to dress warm, bring coats, blankets, and holiday spirit as Middletown ushers in the season with warmth, excitement, and community pride.



SAR participants at Legacy Christian Academy, l. to r. Allan Phillips, Chip Daniel, Ken Bonnell, Bryan Buck, Dale Corey, Richard Tyler and Charles Hunter. Photo courtesy of Thomas "Chip" Daniel.

Veterans Appreciation, Col James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Sons of the American Revolution

On 10 November 2025, the Col James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution as they began the commemoration of veterans with a presentation of the colors at the Legacy Christian Academy in Stephens City, Virginia. The event was a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by the Academy to honor the family members of the students who had served the country. There were 130 guests with 31 veterans honored at the ceremony. The ceremony began with the CJWII Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard presenting the colors with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem led by the Legacy 2nd grade students. After breakfast, a tribute was presented by Lt Col Edythe McGoff, USAF (Retd) on the Missing Man Table. Upon completion, 2nd grade class sang patriotic songs and recited the poem "Our Country's Flag". All veterans were asked to stand and were presented with a mail call. Maj David Jones, USA (Ret), the history teacher at the Academy, gave a presentation on the trials and tribulations he went through during his career and the need to honor and remember our veterans. The 2nd grade class paid tribute to the six military services and sang the military theme songs for each

Simple stuffed shells to please a hungry holiday crowd



come dinnertime.

Stuffed Shells with Spinach and Ricotta

Makes 6 to 8 servings

- Salt, to taste
- 32 jumbo pasta shells
- 10 cups frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 cups ricotta, softened
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated (divided), plus extra to serve
- 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3/4 cups marinara or spaghetti sauce

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook per package directions until al dente. Rinse pasta in cold water to stop cooking process and drain well.
2. Squeeze spinach dry. Transfer spinach to large bowl. Add ricotta, 1/2 cup Parmesan, garlic, and beaten eggs to bowl. Season mixture with salt and pepper, and mix to blend.
3. Preheat oven to 350 F.
4. Spoon 1/2 cup marinara sauce evenly over bottom of 9- x 13- x 2-inch baking dish. Fill each pasta shell with spinach mixture. Place shells, filling side up, in prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Parmesan. Cover loosely with foil and bake until heated through and bubbly, about 30 minutes. Spoon remaining sauce over shells. Garnish with Parmesan cheese, if desired, and serve.

Holiday hosting is a fun way to welcome loved ones. Opportunities to host abound between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, and savvy hosts know how useful an expansive culinary repertoire can be during a time of year when it's common to enjoy home cooked meals with loved ones.

Simple but flavorful meals are a holiday host's best friend. Such meals, which include the following recipe for "Stuffed Shells With Spinach and Ricotta" from Lines+Angles, give hosts more time to mingle but still ensure a delicious dish makes its way to the table

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branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The veterans of each service were asked to stand as the songs were played. These included "The Army Goes Rolling Along" for the Army, "Anchors Aweigh" for the Navy, "The Marines' Hymn" for the Marines, "The U.S. Air Force" for the Air Force, and "Semper Paratus" for the Coast Guard, and "Semper Supra" for the Space Force. Lt Col McGoff assisted by her husband, HM1 George Donovan (Ret), US Navy gave a final salute and prayer to the veterans in attendance, presenting each with a challenge coin to recognize their service to the country. The ceremony was closed with Taps played by SAR compatriot Charles Hunter. Participating for the chapter were Ken Bonnell, Bryan Buck, Dale Corey, Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Charles Hunter, Allan Phillips and Richard Tyler. All members are certified with the Youth Protection Training.

After this ceremony, color guardsmen from the chapter braved cold windy weather to conduct a short ceremony and place 310 flags on veterans graves at Mt Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, Virginia. These included Betty Ross Flags on the graves of Revolutionary War patriots and 50 Star Flags on veterans from all services. Participating for the chapter were Ken Bonnell, Bryan Buck, Dale Corey, Thomas "Chip" Daniel, Charles Hunter, Allan Phillips and Richard Tyler.

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It's All Gravy When VDOT Lifts Lane Closures For Thanksgiving Travelers

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is thankful for people who buckle up, drive sober and

put the phone down while behind the wheel so everyone can arrive safely to their destinations and enjoy a Thanksgiving Day feast.

VDOT will be suspending many highway work zones and lifting temporary lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia from noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26 until noon on Monday, Dec. 1.

While lane closures will be lifted in most locations, motorists may encounter semi-permanent work zones that remain in place during this time. Check VDOT's Travel Advisories for the latest travel alerts in your area and around the state.

Additionally, VDOT offers several resources to help plan travel ahead of time.

Plan ahead with 511 virginia and view the travel trends map

VDOT's free mobile 511 app offers information about construction, traffic, incidents and congestion as well as access to traffic cameras, weather, electric vehicle charging stations and more. By calling 511 from any phone in Virginia, use 511's "speak ahead" option for hands-free and eyes-free audible traffic alerts for incidents and construction along your route. Traffic information is also available at 511.vdot.virginia.gov.

The 511 Virginia website also includes a travel trends map for the Thanksgiving Day holiday period, showing peak congestion periods anticipated on Virginia interstates dur-

See NEWS, 14

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Your energy is contagious this week, Aries. Expect bursts of creativity and spontaneous fun to ensue. Perhaps an unexpected adventure will pop up? Take the lead in social situations.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
It might be a week for indulgence in the best ways possible, Taurus. Treat yourself to something delicious or cozy, and don't feel guilty about it. Patience will pay off in work projects.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Curiosity is your superpower this week, Gemini. Choose a new hobby or explore a class at the community college. You might discover hidden talents or interests.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, this is your week to shine emotionally. Reach out to friends or family who you haven't spoken with in a while. Small acts of kindness can come back to you in surprising ways.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
It's time to hear that roar, Leo. Your charisma is unstoppable right now and you're ready to step into the spotlight. Share your ideas and achievements with anyone who will listen.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Your knack for organization is a ticket to smooth sailing this week, Virgo. A little planning goes a long way right now. However, don't forget to add some fun, too.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
This week you may find yourself effortlessly charming all of those people around you, Libra. Social events or collaborations may be particularly festive.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, this week brings opportunities to dive in deep with something you are passionate about. Your intensity attracts attention, so embrace your magnetic personality.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. Whether it's a small trip over the weekend or a new hobby, your week is packed with excitement and energy. Your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Determination and hard work this week will have personal or work projects moving along faster than expected. Remember to reward yourself along the way.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, innovation is on your mind right now. Ideas and originality shine through in all you do. Expect some playful debates or spontaneous collaborations.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
It is alright to let your imagination run wild this week, Pisces. Creativity flows easily, and your intuition can guide you to some unexpected things along the way.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- NOVEMBER 30
Ms. Rachel, YouTube Star (43)
- DECEMBER 1
Robert Irwin, Conservationist (22)
- DECEMBER 2
Charlie Puth, Singer (34)
- DECEMBER 3
Amanda Seyfried, Actress (40)
- DECEMBER 4
Jelly Roll, Singer (41)
- DECEMBER 5
Shalom Harlow, Model (52)
- DECEMBER 6
Sarah Rafferty, Actress (53)

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Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

- Sat. Nov 29, 2025 (6-10pm)** Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Mon. Dec 1, 2025 (6-8pm)** Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose*
- Wed. Dec 3, 2025 (6-9pm)** Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Thurs. Dec 4, 2025 (6:30-8:30pm)** Music Bingo at Winchester, Va. Elks*
- Sat. Dec 6, 2025 (7-11pm)** Karaoke & Music Bingo at Mt Jackson Moose*
- Mon. Dec 8, 2025 (6-8pm)** Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose*
- Wed. Dec 10, 2025 (6-9pm)** Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Fri. Dec 12, 2025 (7-11pm)** Private Party Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Co. **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**
- Sat. Dec 13, 2025 (6-10pm)** Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Mon. Dec 15, 2025 (6-8pm)** Musical 5-in-a-Row at FR, Va. Moose*
- Wed. Dec 17, 2025 (6-9pm)** Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Sat. Dec 20, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm)** Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock, Va. Moose*
- Mon. Dec 22, 2025 (6-8pm)** Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal, Va. Moose*
- Wed. Dec 24, 2025 (6-9pm)** Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 20 South St. Front Royal, VA 22630
- Fri. Dec 26, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)** Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market, Va. Eagles*
- Sat. Dec 27, 2025 (6-10pm)** Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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NEWS, from 13

ing that upcoming time. While it cannot precisely predict when congestion will occur this year, it can help motorists avoid travel when traffic has historically moved the slowest. Using the menu at the top of 511.vdot.virginia.gov, click "Holiday Travel" to select the map.

Northern virginia express lanes schedule and other information

Find directional schedules for the reversible I-95 and I-395 Express Lanes, and information for the I-495 Express Lanes at expresslanes.com.

Hampton Roads tunnels and other information

Traveling through Hampton Roads — For Thanksgiving travel requiring water crossings between the Hampton Roads Peninsula and Southside during construction of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project,

motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes such as the I-664 Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel, the Route 17 James River Bridge, the free Jamestown-Scotland Ferry or I-95 to minimize potential delays.

Due to mechanical issues at the Route 17 George P. Coleman Memorial Bridge, longer than usual delays should be expected during bridge openings; the bridge openings could take approximately 45-60 minutes.

No work requiring lane closures will be conducted at any of the water crossings during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Stay safe

Here are some additional tips for safely navigating the roadways during the holiday travel period:

Buckle up every time and ensure passengers and car seats are secured.

If you plan to drink, have a designated driver, use public transportation or make plans for a rideshare.

Put your phone down and don't

drive distracted.

Be patient and follow the posted speed limit and consider leaving early to allow extra time to reach your destination.

Watch for deer and stay extra alert when driving near areas wildlife frequent.

Obey the "Move Over" law, requir-

ing motorists to move over one lane, if possible, for all vehicles with flashing lights, flares, or warning signs stopped on the side of the road. If drivers are unable to move over, they should reduce their speed and use caution.

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



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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Hot Wheels Club meets Nov. 23 in Winchester

The Winchester Hot Wheels Club will hold its next meet-up on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, from 1-3 p.m. at Jim Barnett Park's War Memorial Building (Lord Fairfax Room), 1001 E. Cork St. in Winchester. The event features buying, selling, and trading die-cast cars,

along with door prizes. Admission is \$5, with free entry for children under 12. For more information, email Dan Hammond at hwdan2@earthlink.net or visit the club's Facebook page at facebook.com/winchestershenandoahvalleyhotwheelsclub.

Virginia State Police Obtain Warrants for Missing Football Coach

WISE, VA — The Virginia State Police obtained 10 warrants for a missing high school football coach Monday, November 24, 2025.

Travis L. Turner, 46, of Appalachia, VA is wanted on five counts of possession of child pornography and five counts of using a computer to solicit a minor. The investigation remains ongoing. Additional charges are pending.

Police are actively searching for Turner. Since his disappearance,




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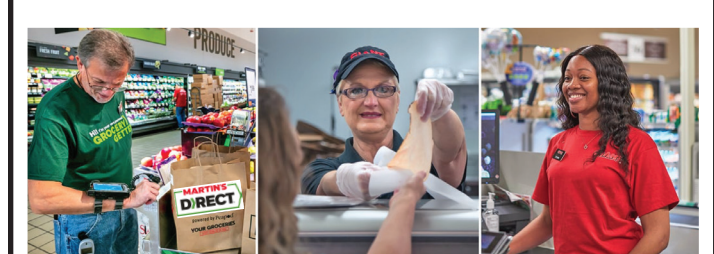
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VSP has utilized a number of assets, including search and rescue teams, drones and k9s, to assist in the search. VSP's main priority is locating Turner safely; he is now considered a fugitive.

On Thursday, November 20, 2025, as part of the early stages of an investigation, VSP Special Agents from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation Wytheville Field Office were sent to Turner's residence in Appalachia, located in Wise County. This was part of the investigation, and not to arrest him. While in transit, the agents were informed that Turner was no longer at the location.

Virginia State Police are asking anyone who may have information on the whereabouts of Turner to please contact Virginia State Police Division 4 at 276-484-9483 or email questions@vsp.virginia.gov. Tips can be made anonymously.

Frederick County burn ban lifted

Effective November 19, 2025, Frederick County will be lifting the Burn Ban that was put in place on November 5, 2025.

We would like to thank everybody for your cooperation during the burn ban. We will continue to monitor the weather patterns and ground fuel moisture, working with our state and federal partners. Please continue to monitor the county's website and social media pages for further information.

The Frederick County Fire Marshal's office would like to remind everyone that fire safety starts with you. While conducting any burning operation please make safety first and obey all burning regulations.

October 1st – February 14th Open Burning Permitted

Open burning is permitted for the burning of leaves, trees, brush, yard and garden trimmings generated on-site, where trash service is not available for this purpose.

Open burning is allowed under the following conditions:

- When not otherwise prohibited as outlined in the above Open Burning Prohibited section.
- All such burning must be reported to the Frederick County Emergency Communications Center at (540) 665-5645 prior to ignition and when the

fire is extinguished.

- Open burning may be no closer than 500 ft. from a brush/wood line.
- Open burning may be no closer than 500 ft. from an occupied dwelling, excluding your own, without prior written permission from the occupant(s) of the neighboring occupied dwellings.
- Fires shall be attended at all times by competent persons 18 years of age or older. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.
- If at any time the fire is not attended, it must be fully extinguished.
- Legally set open air fires are subject to all local regulations.

Learn before you burn at www.fcva.us/burn

VSP Trooper Suffers Minor Injuries in Crash during Pursuit

At approximately 7:37 p.m. last evening (Nov. 17, 2025), a Virginia State Police trooper was called to assist the Augusta County Sheriff's Department. While in the process of doing so, the trooper attempted to stop a vehicle which had failed to yield. This occurred on Interstate 81 near the 230-mile marker. The vehicle refused to stop, and a pursuit was initiated.

The pursuit continued southbound. At the Exit 222, the suspect vehicle exited and then re-entered southbound Interstate 81. The pursuing trooper crashed on the on-ramp to Interstate 81.

The suspect vehicle continued southbound for two more miles before crashing around the 220-mile marker, where the suspect, James McLaughlin, 20, of Rochester, N.Y., was taken

into custody. McLaughlin has been charged with reckless driving and eluding.

The trooper was taken to an area hospital to be checked out for minor injuries. He has since been released.

The incident remains under investigation.

Fatal Crash in Orange County

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal single vehicle crash that occurred Sunday (Nov. 16, 2025) at 2:01 a.m. on Constitution Highway (Route 20) in Orange County.

Law Enforcement with the Town of Orange Police Department was pursuing a 2014 Nissan Altima on Constitution Highway (near the intersection with Woodside Road) when the Altima went off the right side of the road. The vehicle then struck a ditch, a mailbox, and two trees. The Altima then went airborne and struck a second mailbox before coming to a rest.

The driver, a 17-year-old male, died at the scene. The juvenile was not wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.

Interstate 81 Advisory Committee Scheduled to Meet Dec. 2 in Augusta County

The Interstate 81 Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, at 1 p.m. in Augusta County. Blue Ridge Community College will host the meeting in the Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center, One College Lane, Weyers Cave, VA 24486. There will be a designated time for public comment during the meeting.

The committee is scheduled to consider the final report and recommendations from the I-81 Corridor


Improvement Plan (CIP) 2025 study.

The meeting agenda and related documents and materials will be available on Improve81.org, the dedicated website for the I-81 CIP, at the following link: Improve81.org - Advisory Committee.

The I-81 Advisory Committee is charged with providing advice and making recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) regarding the development and updates to the I-81 CIP, as directed in Chapter 846 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly.

The committee has 15 voting members: seven Virginia lawmakers, three CTB members representing the Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts, and the five chairs of the planning district commissions. The commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation and the director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation serve on the committee ex officio in nonvoting capacities.

The CIP unlocks I-81 by enhancing safety and reliability, reducing congestion and supporting economic growth. The nearly \$4 billion program includes 65 construction projects plus operational improvements along the 325 miles of I-81 in Virginia. Find out more at Improve81.org. The website includes an interactive map, videos and podcasts, and details about upcoming and current projects.



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