

Warren/Frederick County Report

Volume XX, Issue 25 • Late December, 2025

Recipe: Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle



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INDICTMENTS



Belle Grove Decorated for the Holidays

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary with "Let Freedom Ring"



Belle Grove Outreach Coordinator Elizabeth Dalton with the War of 1812 drum that inspired this year's theme. Courtesy Belle Grove

From December 5th to 30th, Belle Grove Plantation is decorated for the holidays and open for touring. The decorating theme this year is "Let Freedom Ring," in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

"Through their decorations,

area garden clubs and Belle Grove staff and volunteers remember the contributions of the patriots and founders, as well as those who have worked to make our country a more perfect union," said Executive Director Kristen Laise.

Guests are greeted on the front

porch with natural decor and "Uncle Sam" for "250 Years of Freedom." In the hall, the Middletown Garden Club rings in visitors with "Beautiful Virginia Bells," cardinals and flags to mark the Commonwealth's contribution to the birth of our nation.

The Colonial Garden Club honors the founding fathers in the parlor and has whimsical displays of patriot Byers' Choice dolls. Also in the parlor is the official Belle Grove Christmas tree decked in red, white, and blue.

The Little Garden Club used Frederick Douglass's quote "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free," to uplift "Freedom Through Knowledge" in their decorations for the library. In the day sitting room, the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club commemorates the Women's Suffrage Movement.

A War of 1812-era drum from the Belle Grove collection joins bells and horns in the plantation office for "Sounds of Freedom" decorated by Belle Grove staff and volunteers. Hawthorne Garden Club's décor in the dining room evokes an "Independence Day" celebration.

The Garden Club of Warren County decorated the bedroom with "Freedom through Music" featuring antique sheet music, instruments, and memorabilia. In the nursery there are patriotic touches to a child's "Awaiting Saint Nicholas" decorations by Glen Burnie Garden Club.

On the lower level the Friends of Belle Grove depict "Home of the Brave" with vignettes of a Revolutionary War patriot's return home on winter leave and a remembrance of World War I doughboys.

In the Kitchen, the Shenandoah Garden Club of Woodstock presents the "Freedom Trail" with information about the Underground Railroad and what Christmas was like for those who were enslaved.

In the "Unearthing Enslaved Lives" archaeology exhibit, votive candles for each of the 270 men, women, and children enslaved by the Hite family. Each candle bears the name of the person and candles are arranged in family groups. The candles are illuminated every day from 2-8 p.m. and a candle lighting ceremony will take place on Friday, December 5, 1 p.m. It is a free program, and the public is welcome to attend.

Belle Grove Plantation, including the Museum Shop and exhibits in the Beverley B. Shoemaker Welcome Center, will be open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Belle Grove will be closed on Christmas Eve and

Christmas Day and will close for the winter starting December 31.

Belle Grove Plantation at 336 Belle Grove Road Middletown, VA 22645. Call (540) 869-2028 www.bellegrove.org, www.facebook.com/bellegrove, www.instagram.com/BelleGrove1797

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Community has resources for residents' needs



Seniors First members were enjoying their move last year to the new, more spacious Warren County Senior Center for their activities in the renovated area by the gymnasium at Front Royal's 15th Street Health & Human Services Complex.



Seniors are transported to and from the center and to field trips and celebrations out of town in the Seniors First minibus.

By Carol Ballard
Warren/Frederick County Report

Recently, a letter was sent out by the Meals on Wheels America

with a petition to be sent to lawmakers saying "I'm writing today because we're hearing from Meals on Wheels programs across the country. The cost of providing

needed social connection and nutrition is rising, and the number of seniors who need these services continues to climb. The statistics say that one in three local Meals on Wheels programs has a waitlist and seniors are waiting an average of four months for vital service."

Although this is true nationwide, a phone call to local Director of Development for Seniors First Greg Stockton, was reassuring.

"Although we see a steady need of services by older adults with demand increasing each year as the senior population increases, as

best as we can tell the program is as sound as it has been," he said. "Which is good news."

He said that awareness needs to be raised that, yes, although many seniors are in need, Meals on Wheels, at least locally, is a stable

program.

"The Home Delivered Meals program, commonly referred to as Meals on Wheels is ongoing," he noted. "This past fiscal year, we served approximately 69K meals and will likely reach or surpass that

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

Answers:
1. Fireplace has candles 2. Missing mirror on mantel 3. Plant on back left wall is taller 4. Clock has two fives

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

Answers:
1. Candle in boy's hand is gone 2. Gold coins on table 3. Gift has a larger bow 4. Woman is replaced with man in back



One site for local folks for food and other resources is the Front Royal-Warren County C-CAP office on 316 N. Royal Avenue in Front Royal.

number this fiscal year, but the rumors of Meals on Wheels being taken out are not affecting these programs.”

Present items needed
Stockton did add that there are a few items needing donations.

These are one van with Seniors First WellTran at approximately \$7,800, and a Side-by-Side Commercial Freezer approximately \$5,000, for the Shenandoah Senior Center. (www.seniorsfirst.info/

services/transportation)

Stockton said that the WellTran program provided 7,134 trips for seniors, to or from medical appointments, and currently has 10 vehicles in service, but one vehicle that can no longer be in service.

“We have an opportunity, through the end of the year, to replace the out of service vehicle by raising approximately \$7,800, with the remaining funds being covered by federal dollars (80%) and state

dollars (10%),” Stockton said.

Also, the Shenandoah Senior Center needs a Side-by-Side Commercial Freezer (Approximate cost \$5,000). This is where meals are stored until delivery to homebound seniors with Meals on Wheels.

To donate, contact info@seniorsfirst.info, or call (540) 635-7141.

He also had one reminder for people who have a senior in their

family.

“It’s really nice during the holiday season if the seniors can get calls from their loved ones to keep their spirits up, to be especially mindful of them at this time of the year.”

Meals on Wheels

The instructions for eligible seniors to sign up for meals is <https://seniorsfirst.info/services/meals-on-wheels/>

It says that someone aged 60+ who is homebound, unable to prepare their own meals can be helped by the Meals on Wheels - Home Delivered Meals program to receive tasty, nutritious meals delivered directly to their home.

- One meal alone will account for a third of their daily nutritional needs.
- For no-cost meals, eligibility is required.
- Donations toward the cost of the meals are appreciated.

Meals are delivered to seniors in the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren, as well as the City of Winchester. If a

person qualifies and needs Meals on Wheels, or knows someone who does, please contact (540) 635-7141 or info@seniorsfirst.info.

Warren Senior Center

If you’re interested in joining the local Senior Center, please contact the Center Manager for more information.

Misty Alger, Manager
Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

465 West 15th Street, Front Royal

(540) 635-8652
warrenc@seniorsfirst.info

National Meals on Wheels petition letter

Following is information added from the National Meals on Wheels petition letter about the plight of our elder population.

“Nearly 13 million older adults across the country face the threat of hunger. This number is going in the wrong direction, having grown from 10 million in 2022. In fact,

See **COMMUNITY, 6**

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in New York on December 19, 1972. I began acting at age 8 after landing a role on a national tour of “Annie.” I rose to fame as a teen on a television show about a male housekeeper. I later starred alongside two other “sisters” on a magical show.

Answer: Alyssa Milano

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food service.

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate



COMMUNITY, from 5

one and two seniors living alone lacks the income to pay for basic needs," it states.

The letter added that the senior population is growing and changing rapidly and older adults are living longer with less money, so seniors are at greater risk of hunger and malnutrition, and they are facing a silent crisis of both loneliness and hunger.

Some facts:

- Here in America one in four people is over the age of 60, with 12,000 more turning 60 every day.

- Of those, 56% are lonely, a declared epidemic.

- One in two seniors living alone lacks the income to pay for basic needs.

- About 13 million seniors are threatened by or experience hunger.

- The national statistics say that one in three local Meals on Wheels programs has a waitlist and seniors are waiting an average of four months for vital service.

"When you give to Meals on Wheels America you help support local programs that provide more than 251 million meals each year

plus the friendly check-ins that keep seniors feeding connected and cared for.

Nine out of ten local Meals on Wheels programs rely on federal funding, and 79% of home delivered meal participants say the meals helped to improve their health, 84% say the services help them feel more secure and 91% say the meals help them live independently.

The knock on the door when a volunteer delivers a meal to a senior means so much. It brightens their day, sometimes it even saves their life.

They ask that people take action by doing what they can so Meals

on Wheels is there for all who need it as prices remain high and home-bound seniors continue to need help.

They also ask for a donation and the request to send a petition to lawmakers.

The address is:
Meals on Wheels America
P.O. Box 98207
Washington DC 20090-8207

Local sources for food and other necessities

Along with seniors, there are others in our local community who need help for food and other necessities.



Upcoming events with Dan McDermott

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 Front Royal Moose*

Wed. Dec 17, 2025 (6-9pm)
Trivia & Music Bingo at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St.

Sat. Dec 20, 2025 (7:00-10:30pm)
Karaoke/Music Bingo at Woodstock Moose*

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

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

Fri. Dec 26, 2025 (7:30-11:30pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at New Market Eagles*

Sat. Dec 27, 2025 (6-10pm)
Music Bingo & Karaoke at Shenandoah Valley Axe Throwing Company
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 20 South St.

Mon. Dec 29, 2025 (6-8pm)
Musical 5-in-a-Row at Front Royal Moose*

Wed. Dec 31, 2025 (7pm-1am)
New Year's Eve Karaoke at Edinburg, Va. VFW **Special Event OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** 100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824

*Private clubs open to members and properly invited guests

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weather forecast

Friday, December 12, 2025: A chance of snow, mainly between 9am and 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Calm wind.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 3 to 7 mph.

Saturday Night: Snow likely, mainly after 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 23. Calm wind becoming northwest around 6 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

sible.

Sunday: A slight chance of snow before 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 27. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19.

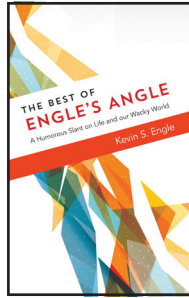
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 52.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Thursday: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Chance of precipitation is 40%.



ENGLE'S ANGLE: "Bah Humbug!"

by Kevin S. Engle

Nothing says Happy Holidays more than a price increase. And that's exactly what we get every year at this time from our cable and internet provider. They send a naughty notice in our December bill that goes something like this:

Dear Sucker Valued Customer,
It's that glorious time of year. A time to give thanks, count our blessings and cherish those who mean the most to us. And that's you. Honestly. If not for all that dough you fork over every month, we wouldn't have made record profits this past year. And that don't happen by keeping prices low. Our costs are going up again next year. Maybe they are, maybe they aren't, but it's what we always say. And guess what? You're gonna pay for them. Just like a real Grinch, we're taking away some of the discounts you currently receive and increasing prices wherever we can. Yeah, it's good to be

us. Thanks again for being so important to our success. As a token of our gratitude, we'll make a donation in your name to our corporate holiday party. It's going to be the best one yet. Sorry, you're not invited but we will raise a glass of bubbly in your honor. Season's Greetings.

Bah humbug! Do they have to do this in December? Couldn't they wait until January? Come on! I know who deserves one very big hot lump of coal in their stocking.

I'm sending them a Christmas card this year. And the greeting inside?

That popular line from the movie Home Alone 2.

"Merry Christmas ya filthy animal." *Just like his namesake Kevin McAlister in Home Alone, the author loves Christmas trees. What he doesn't love is decorating them.*

– kevinengle456@comcast.net

The Best of Engle's Angle is available online or pick up a signed copy at a lo-

cal bookstore.



Ask Stewart

Hey Stewart,

Can I plant my live Christmas tree?

– Brian

Yes. Each year, 33 to 36 million Christmas trees are produced in America, and many people like to use live trees which can be planted. The Balsam Fir, Douglas Fir, and Fraser Fir are among the most popular types of real Christmas trees.

Here are some tips for a successful

Warren/Frederick County Report **Alison Duvall**
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*Wishing Peace & Joy to all
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

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- Before Planting
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- Acclimate: Gradually move it to cooler spots before moving it outside to prevent shock.
- Prepare the Hole: Dig the hole (twice as wide, same depth as root ball) before the ground freezes if it's cold.

Planting Steps

1. Position: Place the tree so the top of the root ball is level with or slightly above the ground.
2. Burlap/Wire: Remove twine and as much burlap/

- wire as possible without disturbing the root ball.
3. Backfill: Use the original soil, tamping gently to remove air pockets.
4. Water & Mulch: Water thoroughly and add 1-2 inches of mulch (keep mulch away from the trunk).

- Aftercare
- Water regularly, especially in the first year, as winter conditions can be dry.
 - Choose a spot with full sun and well-draining soil for long-term growth.

Fun Fact: Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states.
Merry Christmas,

– Stewart
The Front Royal/Warren County

Tree Steward program began in 1997 with volunteers dedicated to improving the health of trees by providing educational programs, tree planting and care demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the commu-

New Website!



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VIRGINIA

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

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

John Hewa Calls for Stronger Partnership and Leadership Action to Prepare for Virginia's Energy Future

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

(REC) president and CEO John Hewa gave the keynote address at a community energy forum in Berryville on Dec. 3, 2025. More than 20 attended the breakfast event, representing area community, educational and government leaders.

"From an electric co-op's perspective, we want to make sure we're working with the counties, working with economic development, working with emerging large-scale members, to get the job done." Hewa said. "We want to make sure we just want to do it in a way that doesn't harm, and in fact brings benefit to the balance of Virginia, and the rest of our membership."

Hewa laid out the Commonwealth's energy demands and capacity and

See NEWS, 10

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Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025 (7pm - 1am)



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NEWS, from 9

called for partnership on the immediate actions needed to ensure Virginia's energy future and mitigate the foreseeable energy shortages driven by

rapidly escalating energy demand. "The status quo is unsustainable," Hewa warned, citing a 2025 U.S. Department of Energy Study. "A lot of the outcome is going to come down to how do federal and state policies open

up what happens with the location of new large energy loads and how do we meet our energy needs of the future."

The current outlook demands action now, both nationally and in our state, Hewa emphasized, illustrating the energy capacity challenges through key metrics and trends. "Virginia needs to double its capacity by 2040 according to PJM forecasts, either in the Commonwealth, or in a neighboring state." PJM is a regional transmission organization that serves all or parts of 13 states, including Virginia.

Hewa advocated for considering all available energy capacity generation options, and for siting the new generation in Virginia.

"The fix for Virginia's energy challenge is actually a grand economic development opportunity," Hewa said. "If Virginia embraces bringing power plants of all types back into the Commonwealth for new expansion, it brings a lot of new investment. We have counties we serve where power plants have been the largest tax contributor for decades, bringing jobs and career opportunities."

Hewa asked the audience to partner with REC in advancing four solutions to ensure Virginia's ability to meet the demands of its residents and its continued economic development.

Accelerating regulatory processes.
Accelerating permitting processes.
Invoking energy storage and backup generation.
Immediately authorizing 10,000MW of dispatchable baseload generation, sited in Virginia.

Hewa wrapped up his comments with a positive vision for the future of the Commonwealth.

"The solution for the energy challenge is surrounded by new investment, it's surrounded by jobs, and it creates an opportunity for Virginia to be the absolute epicenter – not just for energy consumption now right now, but an epicenter for energy produc-

tion and the technologies that surround that," Hewa said. "The solution for the energy challenge could well catapult Virginia into more than the driver's seat globally for energy technology development."

About Rappahannock Electric Cooperative: Serving over 184,000 connections across 22 Virginia counties, REC is a pillar in its communities, with over 18,000 miles of power lines extending from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. For more information about REC, please visit www.myrec.coop. Follow REC on Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Youth Tour 2026: High School Juniors, Apply Now for an Incredible Experience in Our Nation's Capital

The 2026 Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to form connections with a select group of students from around the country and get a behind-the-scenes look at the Capitol. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2026.

High school juniors are encouraged to apply if their family receives electricity from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC). Those selected will join the 2026 Youth Tour, held June 15-19, 2026, in Washington,



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D.C., and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA).

Youth Tour has shaped generations of leaders. Not just a summer trip, it's an unforgettable and unique experience to stand where our nation's greatest leaders have stood and to see history in the making. Through the tour, students learn about their local electric cooperatives and the relationship they have with the government and the impact they have in their communities.

Apply today: <https://myrec.coop/youthtour>

Front Royal man arrested

On November 24, 2025, the Warren County Sheriff's Office (WCSCO) received a report from a 28-year-old

female victim alleging that a male attempted to rape her at a residence located in the 700 blk of Mountain Road. It was determined the suspect attempted to have nonconsensual sex with the victim and prevented her from leaving the residence. Deputies immediately initiated a preliminary investigation, and the case was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division for further evidence collection and follow-up.

During the investigation, investigators conducted an interview with the suspect, identified as John A. Reel, 30, of Front Royal, and collected additional evidence related to the incident.

After a thorough investigation, WCSCO investigators obtained felony warrants for Reel for Attempted Rape, Abduction, and Strangulation. On December 1, 2025, Reel was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren (RSW) Regional Jail, where he appeared before a magistrate and was ordered to be held without bond. His initial court date is scheduled for January 14, 2026, in the Warren County General District Court.

This case remains active, and no further details will be released at this time. Anyone with information relevant to this investigation is encouraged to contact Investigator T.A. Romer at (540) 635-7100 or tromer@warrencountysheriff.org.

Hot Wheels Club

Winchester Hot Wheels Club: The next meeting is Sunday Dec. 21, 2025 from 1 to 3 PM in the War Memorial Building, Jim Barnett Park, 1001 E. Cork St. Winchester, VA 22601. Lord Fairfax room. This meeting will be our Pot Luck Christmas party. If you are able to bring a dish to share with other club members, that would be great !!! We will also be accepting donations for Toys for Tots this month. If you are able to contribute, the kids will be so grateful.

Buy, sell and trade diecast cars. We will have door prizes too! \$5 admission (under 12 is free). For more information : Dan Hammond at hwdan2@earthlink.net

Samuels Library Youth Events

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

Saturday, December 13
ALL DAY – Open House. There will be all types of activities, including a Santa Story Time. Check out our website and come in!

Monday, December 15
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

See NEWS, 12

Shear Elegance Pet Boutique
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Holidays!
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Saturdays! Dec 13 and 20 10am - 3pm

Santa will take a 30 minute break from 11:30am - 12 pm.

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Check out our Facebook Page for Weekly Updated Pictures & SALE Information!!

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026!!

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NEWS, from 11

required.

Tuesday, December 16
10:30 AM – Agamographs: Home-school Hub. For ages 6-11. Learn about visual effects and make your own agamograph to take home! Registration is required.

Wednesday, December 17
10:15AM – Toddler Story Time.
11:00AM –Preschool Story Time. Come in for an enjoyable hour filled with Christmas & Hanukkah stories, exciting sing-alongs, finger plays, and a craft.

Monday, December 22
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, December 23
4:00 PM – Gingerbread Ninja Ornament. For ages 6-11. Come listen to gingerbread stories and make an ornament that smells wonderful! Registration is required.

Wednesday through Saturday, December 24, 25, 26, & 27

The library will be closed for the holidays.

Wednesday & Thursday, December 31 & January 1

The library will be closed for the holidays.

Our Winter Reading Program will begin on January 3rd! Look for more information coming soon!

Virginia residents can download app to replace driver's license

By Ella VanGundy
VCU Capital News Service

RICHMOND, Va. -- The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles launched an app that allows Virginians to carry a valid state driver's license or identification card on their phone.

The Virginia Mobile ID app, available on both the App Store and Google Play, can be used at Transportation

Security Administration checkpoints, DMV customer service centers, and select Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority stores, according to a press release. It is also accepted by law enforcement,

The six Virginia airports that accept the Mobile ID are Reagan Washington National, Washington-Dulles, Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News/Williamsburg and Roanoke.

There are nine pilot ABC stores located in the Greater Richmond region that currently accept the Mobile ID:

Scott's Addition - 3100-A W. Broad St., Richmond

Carytown - 20 S. Nansemond St., Richmond

VCU area - 1217-1219 W. Broad St., Richmond

Short Pump Crossing - 3450-3452 Pump Road, Suites 21 and 22, Henrico

The Shoppes at Bellgrade - 11400 W. Huguenot Road, Suite 121, Midlothian

Ironwill Centre - 9953 Ironbridge Road, Chesterfield

Oak Hill Plaza - 3063 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Richmond

Brandy Creek Commons - 6589 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville

Pole Green Commerce Center - 7407 Pole Green Road, Mechanicsville

The app is meant to be convenient for state residents, but also secure, according to the press release.

"Most of us rely heavily on our phones, which is why Virginians should have access to a safe, secure form of mobile identification on the devices they use all the time," stated Secretary of Transportation W. Shepard Miller III in a press release.

The app functions similarly to Apple Pay, according to Gerald E. Lackey, DMV commissioner. A person can either tap their phone or pull up a scannable QR code that will connect them to another device.

"If they're scanning it, all that scanner is doing is creating a unique connection between your phone and the device just like tap to pay works,"

A post-meal treat tailor-made for holiday parties



- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cups strong brewed coffee
- 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2/3 cup good-quality milk chocolate, chopped
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 cups fresh raspberries
- 6 cups fresh blueberries
- Milk chocolate, shavings for garnish

1. For the cake: In a large bowl, sift together the first 6 ingredients. Add the coffee, buttermilk, eggs, oil, and vanilla and mix until just combined. Transfer the batter to a parchment-lined baking pan. Bake at 325 F for 25 to 30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Cool and then cut the cake into 2-inch pieces.

2. For the chocolate pudding: Whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, cocoa powder, and salt in a large saucepan. Gradually whisk in milk and cream. Bring to a boil over moderate heat, whisking constantly. Boil until mixture thickens, about 2 minutes — it will get thick very quickly. Remove from heat and whisk in chocolate and vanilla quickly. Continue whisking until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and chill, placing a piece of plastic wrap directly on the pudding to prevent a skin from forming. Chill until cold, at least 2 hours.

3. To assemble the trifle: Get out eight small serving cups (approximately 8 ounces). Place cake pieces, a bit of raspberries and blueberries at the bottom of each serving cup. Spoon chocolate pudding on top, spreading it into any spaces in the cake layer and smoothing the top so it is as flat as possible. Continue with the second layer of cake pieces, berries and pudding. For the third top layer, sprinkle only pieces of cake and berries and then garnish with shaved milk chocolate.

The festive nature of the holiday season is on display in many places throughout the month of December, and that includes private homes. Gatherings with family and friends fill celebrants' social schedules throughout the holiday season and present various opportunities to catch up with loved ones in a fun, warm and welcoming setting.

Gatherings undoubtedly make the holiday season more special, and food plays an important role during this festive time of year. Dessert might not be on the menu year-round, but a tasty post-meal treat certainly makes for a fitting ending to a holiday meal with loved ones. With that in mind, hosts can whip up this recipe for "Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Pudding and Mixed Berry Trifle
Makes 8 servings

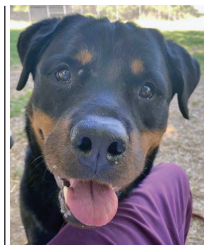
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Humane Society of Warren County

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Brownie is a 10 year old mellow hound looking for his forever family! He is extremely sweet and docile. He is good with other dogs and kids. He is neutered, up to date on vaccinations and microchipped.



Leo is approx 5 and would love a home with older kids and maybe a female dog friend. He's neutered, chipped, utd on vacc. loves a car ride and swims!! This big guy does it all... (almost.. no kitty's please)

Come visit and bring your dog to meet him.

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Willow is 3 yr GS mix who's a love-bug ready to go! She's housebroken/crate trained, utd on shots, likes kids, dogs and cats! She's waiting for her forever family...come visit today!!



Oreo is a 3 year old male border collie mix who is full of energy and love! He is good with kids but may do better with older ones. He has lived with small dogs but not dogs his size. We do require a dog test before adoption. We are unsure of him and cats. He loves to swim and ride in the car!

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Lackey said.

Businesses can download the VA Mobile ID Verifier app to scan the Mobile ID on a customer's phone to verify their age and identity, according to Lackey.

Mobile ID users have the ability to choose what information to share allowing users to feel safe while showing ID, according to the press release. They have the option to leave out certain information such as their address and name while verifying their age.

Lackey expects the app to gain traction across the nation.

"There's a lot of interest in this across the country right now," Lackey said. "There are 20 different states that have this and we expect there to be about 175 million Americans, out of roughly 350, so about half of us by 2030, to have a mobile ID."

Companies are furthering the concept of a mobile ID, according to Lackey. They are working on a way for a card and ID to be run at the same

time. One tap allows customers to pay and have their age verified.

"So, you can imagine if you're at a baseball game and you're buying a beer, you just tap, you pay for the beer and you get your ID verified at the same time," Lackey 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.

American Municipal Power (AMP) Scholarship Opportunity for Front Royal

American Municipal Power's Lyle B. Wright Scholarship (\$3,000) - must be a student whose household receives electricity from the Town of Front Royal.

Purpose: To establish an educational program encouraging high school students to further their education, and to create an awareness of careers

in the municipal electric utility field.

Awards: There are up to five (5), one-time scholarship awards of \$3,000 each. Each municipality in the AMP member community (Town of Front Royal is a member) is to send AMP one nominee.

Rules and Eligibility: The following provisions will govern the acceptance of an applicant:

1.) Applicant must be a graduating high school senior who has met all of the basic requirements for college or technical school entrance and has a cumulative, unweighted grade-point average based on an unweighted 4.0 scale for six (6) semesters

2.) Applicant must send a completed application with a short essay on Electricity or Green Initiatives and attach their high school transcript with a cumulative grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale for six (6) semesters, to the Town of Front Royal by Wednesday, December 17, 2025. A committee will review all applications and one nominee will be selected. The Town will submit a letter to all applicants advising them of their status after December 19, 2025.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have been looking for some new ways to make some extra money, and now might be the time to start putting your plan in motion. Good fortune awaits.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Passion is on your mind this week, Taurus. Get together with a spouse or romantic partner and enjoy an evening with just the two of you. Embrace this chance to let the sparks fly.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

A gift would be a wonderful surprise for a loved one or friend this week, Gemini. Perhaps there is something that this person has had an eye on for some time now?

CANCER – June 22/July 22

A group activity may bring new information and people into your life, Cancer. You might meet people from different backgrounds. Keep your eyes and ears open.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you might be interested in expanding your horizons. You could think about attending a lecture or seeing a documentary on a particular subject. The education will enlighten.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a long-awaited phone call or text from a person who has been out of touch for some time could come through this week. This may reopen the lines of communication between you both.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if finances have been on your mind, now is a good time to read the financial pages or study the stock reports. You also may want to sit down with a financial planner.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, keep communication with business partners warm, open and honest. This will help you see your ideas come to fruition. It's always easier to catch flies with honey than vinegar.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your tasks should go smoothly and quickly this week, particularly any paperwork you may have. Others are willing to help out if you need it.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, newfound communication heightens the relationship you have with a romantic partner this week. Feelings and memories are shared willingly, and you may learn something new.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

A number of interesting visitors may come to your home this week, Aquarius. At least one may present some fascinating facts on a subject that is new to you. Enjoy the interaction.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, expect some interesting new neighbors to move in shortly. A friend will likely introduce you to these people, and a relationship could bloom.

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Tori Kelly, Singer (33)
- DECEMBER 15
Adam Brody, Actor (46)
- DECEMBER 16
Theo James, Actor (41)
- DECEMBER 17
Sarah Paulson, Actress (51)
- DECEMBER 18
Sia, Singer (50)
- DECEMBER 19
Ken Marino, Actor (57)
- DECEMBER 20
Jonah Hill, Actor (42)

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INDICTMENTS

2025 November Indictments October Term

George Howard Dykes

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 17, 2025, in the County of Warren, George Howard Dykes, 59, of the 700 block of Copp Rd., Strasburg, VA 22657, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Dederick Lamar Brooks

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 5, 2025, in the County of Warren, Dederick Lamar Brooks, 43, of the 300 block of Rollason Dr.,

Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, commit an assault or an assault and battery against B. Doffermire, knowing or having reason to know that such person was a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his public duties.

David Lee Arbogast

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about March 17, 2025, in the County of Warren, David Lee Arbogast, 61, 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.

Cheryl Lee Coombs

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about June 11, 2025, in the County of Warren, Cheryl Lee Coombs, 58, of the 300 block of Alsberry St., Strasburg, VA 22657, did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act.

Evelyn Rae Daggett

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Evelyn Rae Daggett, 29, of the 6200 block of Zei-

gler Rd., Leeds, AL 35094, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Evelyn Rae Daggett did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. Date of the offenses was on or about June 8, 2025.

Raymond Eugene Ford

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about April 12, 2025, in the County of Warren, Raymond Eugene Ford, 39, of the 100 block of E. 19th St., 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 Jay Doolan

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Christopher Jay Doolan, 41, of the 6100 block of Back Rd., Maurertown, VA 22664, with three counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Christopher Jay Doolan did unlawfully and feloniously, after 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. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously by force, threat, intimidation, or deception and without legal justification or excuse, seize, take, transport, detain, or secrete the person of Melinda Sours, with the intent to deprive her of her personal liberty.

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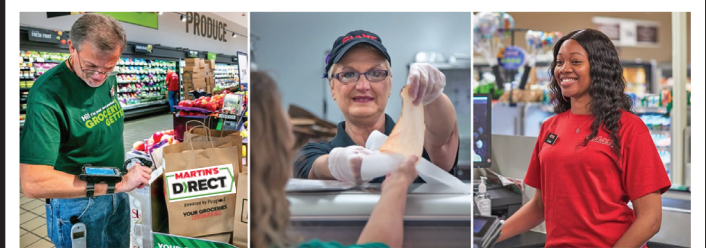
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Date of the offenses was on or about August 3, 2025.

Khalik Coleman Tinnell-Taylor

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 26, 2025, in the County of Warren, Khalik Coleman Tinnell-Taylor, 22, of the 300 block of Cherydale 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.

Olivia Marie Woodell

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about September 8, 2025, in the County of Warren, Olivia Marie Woodell, 28, of the 600 block of McCoys Ford Rd., 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.

Devin Seymour Dyke

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Devin Seymour Dyke, 27 address unavailable, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Devin Seymour Dyke did unlawfully and feloniously, destroy, deface, damage a jeep belonging to Brenda Helsley, with the value of or damage to such property being \$1,000 or more. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously, knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Drug Control Act. Date of the offenses was on or about January 28, 2022.

Susan Jean Murphy

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

about March 21, 2025, in the County of Warren, Susan Jean Murphy, 50, of the 200 block of White Ln., Front Royal, VA 22630, did unlawfully and feloniously, take, obtain or withhold a credit card or credit card number from the person, possession, custody, or control of a Target Credit Card, without the cardholder's consent; or received with the intent to use or sell it, or transfer it to a person other than the issuer or cardholder, a credit card or credit card number knowing that it had been taken, obtained or withheld, without the cardholder's consent.

Sian Camille Bruno Marquez

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about July 26, 2025, in the County of Warren, Sian Camille Bruno Marquez, age and address unavailable, did unlawfully and feloniously take, drive or use a motor vehicle, having a value of \$1,000 or more and belonging to Alicia McDonald, without the consent of the owner, and in her absence, and with the intent to temporarily deprive the owner of possession thereof.

Thomas John Shultz

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Thomas John Shultz, 40, of the 200 block of Freedom Ln., Martinsburg, WV 25401, with two counts. COUNTS One and TWO: In the County of Warren, Thomas John Shultz did unlawfully and feloniously, being a person 18 years of age or older, use a communications system, or another electronic means, for the purpose of soliciting, with lascivious intent, a person the accused knew or had reason to believe was a child less than 15 years of age to knowingly and intentionally expose his sexual or genital parts to a child to whom he was not legally married or propose that the

child expose her sexual or genital parts to the accused. The accused is seven or more years older than the child the accused knew or had reason to believe was a child less than 15 years of age who was the subject of solicitation. Dates of the offenses were on or about March 13 to April 2, 2025.

Lucas John Salvetti

On or about August 9, 2025, in the County of Warren, Lucas John Salvetti, 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.

Ernest Linwood Tharpe III

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Ernest Linwood Tharpe III, age and address unavailable, with two counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Ernest Linwood Tharpe III, 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 a 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. The accused committed this offense after having committed a previous violation and the blood alcohol level of the accused was more than 0.20. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously while having been the driver of a vehicle involved

in an accident in which a person was injured or an attended vehicle or other attended property was damaged, fail to immediately stop as close to the scene of the accident as possible without obstructing traffic and fail to report the accused's name, address, driver's license number, and vehicle registration number forthwith to the State Police or local law-enforcement agency, to the person struck and injured or to the driver or some other occupant of the vehicle collided with or to the custodian of the other damaged property. The accident resulted in damage to property valued at \$1,000 or more. Date of the offenses was on or about September 1, 2025.

Tara Diaz

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Tara Diaz, 44, of the 2900 block of W. 21st. St., Brooklyn NY, with three counts. COUNT ONE: In the County of Warren, Tara Diaz did unlawfully and feloniously forge, with the intent to defraud and to the prejudice of another's rights, a license, or any other writing. COUNT TWO: did unlawfully and feloniously utter or attempt to employ as true a passport, knowing such document to be forged. COUNT THREE: did unlawfully and feloniously conspire to defraud, obtain by false pretense or token, belonging to Walmart Super Center #5105, having a value of \$1,000 or more. Date of the offenses was on or about August 3, 2025.

Bethany Ann Marshall

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 18, 2025, in the County of Warren, Bethany Ann Marshall, 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.

trol Act.

Glenn Wayne Marshall

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges that: on or about February 18, 2025, in the County of Warren, Glenn Wayne Marshall, 38, of the 100 block of Summit Rd., 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.

Jeanne Rebecca Ratcliff

The Warren County Va. Circuit Court Grand Jury charges Jeanne Rebecca Ratcliff, 46, address unavailable, with two counts. COUNTS ONE and TWO: In the County of Warren, Jeanne Rebecca Ratcliff possessed with intent to unlawfully and feloniously distribute a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II of the Drug Control Act, having previously been convicted of a like offense on one or more occasions. Date of the offenses was on or about September 18, 2025.

A Grand Jury Indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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TT052A - Certified Pre-Owned 2022 Toyota Sienna XSE All-Wheel Drive, 54k - **\$38,997**



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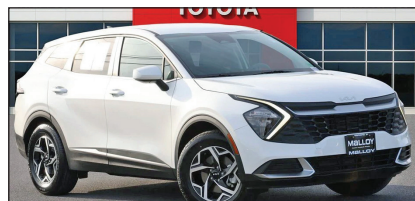
TS507A - Certified 2024 Toyota Highlander Hybrid XLE AWD, 31k - **\$43,457**



MT4229 - 2023 Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0T S All-Wheel Drive, 87k, Local Trade - **\$16,797**



MT4230 - 2024 Hyundai Palisade Limited All-Wheel Drive, 61k, Clean CarFax - **\$33,597**



TT040B - 2023 Kia Sportage LX Front-Wheel Drive, 33k, Local Trade - **\$20,297**



TS1181A - 2023 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid SEL Front-Wheel Drive, 31k - **\$21,397**



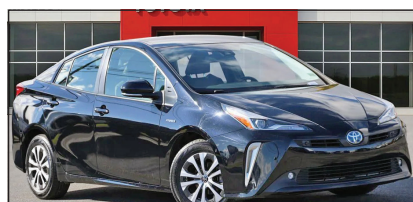
TS1143A - 2018 Toyota 4Runner SR5 Premium 4x4, 134k, Local Trade - **\$26,897**



MT4232 - Certified Pre-Owned 2023 Toyota Corolla Cross LE AWD, 21k - **\$25,997**



MT4233 - 2025 Toyota Tundra SR5 4x4 6k, Clean CarFax, One Owner - **\$45,997**



CT025A - Certified Pre-Owned 2022 Toyota Prius XLE AWD-e AWD, 43k - **\$24,597**



CT032A - 2024 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid Limited All-Wheel Drive, 14k - **\$39,597**



TT069A - Certified Pre-Owned 2023 Toyota 4Runner Limited 4x4, 32k - **\$45,597**



CT049A - 2023 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport 4x4, 54k, Local Trade, 1 Owner - **\$34,997**



MT4207A - 2018 Honda CR-V EX-L All-Wheel Drive, 71k, Local Trade - **\$19,597**



TT066A - 2016 Toyota Sienna XLE Premium All-Wheel Drive, 204k - **\$11,797**

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