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Warren County Report

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Send briefs to Laura at layout@warrencountyreport.com**Briefs****September 5, 2008****Vehicle Theft**

The Front Royal Police Department is investigating a motor vehicle theft. Sometime during the evening hours of Tuesday, August 19th and the early morning hours of August 20th, a 2005 Chevrolet Aveo LS Hatchback was stolen from the 200 block of Clymer Avenue. The vehicle is described as being spice orange in color and having after market American Racing 5 Star wheels. The vehicle had displayed VA registration of YPK-2898 at the time the vehicle was stolen. If anyone has any information on the whereabouts of this vehicle, please contact Investigator Crystal Hirsch of the Front Royal Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division at (540) 636-2208.

**Motorcycle Theft**

The Front Royal Police Department is investigating the theft of a 2001 Suzuki blue & white in color motorcycle. The motorcycle was stolen on the morning

of Wednesday, 09/03/2008 from the 700 block of West 15th Street and displayed VA Registration #467537.

A witness observed the stolen bike in the bed of a white extended cab pickup truck at approximately 5:00 am on the morning of the theft, traveling in the area of where the larceny occurred.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Investigator Kevin Nicewarner of the Front Royal Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division at (540) 636-2208.

John Marshall Highway Intersection & Sidewalk Improvements

The Town of Front Royal Department of Environmental Services is pleased to announce that the John Marshall Highway Intersection Improvements and Sidewalk Construction project has reach substantial completion. This project constructed a left-turn lane on John Marshall Highway at Jamestown Road, widened Jamestown Road to provide both a southbound right- and left-turn area, improved stormwater management along John Marshall Highway, and installed over 2,200 linear feet of asphalt sidewalk.

This project was initiated by the Town Council to enhance multi-modal transportation in the Town by reducing congestion on the Town's arterial roadways and facilitate pedestrian access along John Marshall Highway. The completion of this sidewalk will allow continuous pedestrian access from Westminster Drive along John Marshall Highway to Commerce Avenue and north to the South Fork Bridge on North Shenandoah Avenue.

Stormwater runoff from Richmond Road, Jamestown Road,

and John Marshall Highway will be treated in a vegetated swale west of Jamestown Road. Prior to its ultimate outfall in Happy Creek, pollutants will be removed from the stormwater by the grass and vegetation to reduce impact to the creek.

The Town has received two generous contributions from its citizens to install new trees and benches along the sidewalk. The Town is also working to repopulate the vegetated buffer between Richmond Road and John Marshall Highway with trees and vegetation better suited to be located beneath overhead utility lines. This work is anticipated to begin in the fall.

The Town wishes to thank our citizens for bearing with us during construction and apologizes for any inconveniences, which the construction created. We hope that reduced stress on your drive along John Marshall Highway and enjoyable walks on the sidewalk will offset any inconvenience you encountered.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the Department of Environmental Services at (540) 635-7819.

September 7, 2008**Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army has received funding which will assist us in providing emergency shelter and food for our homeless in the Front Royal/Warren County, Virginia area. Applicants must be a resident of Warren County and lack a fixed, regular, or adequate night-time residence. We will take pre-screening calls and walk-ins on Mondays from 9:30am to 5:00pm and Thursdays from 9:30pm 4:00pm. More info: Debbie Clarke 540-635-4020 ext. 102

September 10, 2008**A 'Wayside Farewell' For Leo M. Bernstein**

Middletown -- A "Wayside Farewell" will be Celebrating the Life of Leo M. Bernstein (7 March 1915 – 30 August 2008) on Friday, September 26, 2008 at 11:00 AM. The service will be held at the Wayside Inn and Restaurant Event Tent, 7783 Main Street, Middletown, Virginia 22645. The public is invited to attend and Honor Mr. Bernstein. Town of Middletown Councilman, Mark Brown, is coordinating the arrangements for the Memorial Service. If you need information about the service, please call Mr. Brown at (540) 868-0560.

Please come and celebrate with the individuals, and residents of The Towns of Middletown, Strasburg and Berryville as well as the community of Millwood that have been touched by "Mr. B's" love and vision to the Shenandoah Valley. "Mr. B" injected life, jobs, and prosperity into this small corner of the Valley. His name and generosity will forever be associated with his many associations with the towns of Berryville, Middletown and Strasburg, as well as the Burwell- Morgan Mill, The Battletown Inn, The Wayside Theatre, The Wayside Inn, St. Thomas Chapel, the Strasburg Emporium, Hotel Strasburg, the Stonewall Jackson Museum, the Presidents Museum, Crystal Caverns and the Jean Dixon Museum and Library.

Mr. Bernstein is survived by his wife Beverly, his two sons Stuart and Richard, and his daughter Mauree Jane, two step- children, Lauren and Lane; seven grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Mr. Mark Brown's email address is wnantqs@verizon.net

September 12, 2008**Five Rings**

Five Rings Martial Arts Academy is announcing a new, ongoing class in Tai Chi, offered Wednesday mornings at 9:00am. For more information, call 540-636-2787.

Art classes for children are being offered after school at Five Rings Arts & Education Centre. For more information, call 540-636-2787.

September 13, 2008**National 4-H Week**

Warren County youth will join others in Virginia and across the nation to kick off a new year by celebrating National 4-H Week. A 4-H Open House will be held at the Warren County Government Center beginning Monday, Oct. 6 through Friday, Oct. 10, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Each night will showcase a different 4-H Activity.

Monday: Livestock & Horses

Tuesday: Afterschool

Wednesday: Science

Thursday: Head, Heart, Hands & HEALTH!

Friday: 4-H Camps

Join us for activities, meet 4-Hers, and win a free 4-H shirt! Show your enthusiasm for 4-H and wear green on Wednesday, Oct. 8th – We're "Keeping It Green!"

For more information about Warren County 4-H and these programs contact, Morgan Riggs at 540/635-4549.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Warren Extension Office at 540/635-4549/TDD* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

September 17, 2008**Wayside Theatre Presents "The Mousetrap"**

Middletown - Wayside Theatre

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Briefs

Send briefs to Laura at layout@warrencountyreport.com

Artistic Director, Warner Crocker, today announced the cast for the fourth production in Wayside Theatre's 2008-2009 Season in our newly renovated theatre facility, the Agatha Christie Mystery thriller, "The Mousetrap." The production is sponsored by WVPT, Virginia's Public Television.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" has been running for over 57 years in London's West End. The mystery play has intrigued all ages in this "who dunit" thriller for decades. A young couple, Mollie and Giles Ralston, who have started up a new hotel in the converted Monkswell Manor, are snowed in together with four guests and an additional traveler, who ran his car into a snowdrift. Detective Sergeant Trotter arrives on skis to inform the group that he believes a murderer is on his way to the hotel, following the death of Miss Maureen Lyon in London. When one of the guests is murdered, they realize that the murderer is already there. Everything is not as it seems.

Front Royal Giles B. Cook Post 53, American Legion Community Support

Members of Giles B. Cook Post 53, by extending assistance to those who live in the Warren County Virginia area, have a positive and dramatic effect. Post 53 remains committed, as in the past, to the community, state, and nation by supporting appropriate local and national programs. Although the Legion motto is "Still Serving America," the Post's continuing assistance to the region reflects extensive service to the local community.

State police mark 25th anniversary of unsolved murder

Request information on death of FRPD Sgt. Dennis Smedley

FRONT ROYAL, VA - On September 20, 2008, twenty five years will have passed since Front Royal Police Sergeant Dennis Smedley walked out of his apartment in the Town of Front Royal, in route to work, and was shot and killed by an unknown assailant. Sergeant Smedley was in his uniform and getting into his vehicle when an unknown person approached him from behind and shot him three times in the back. Sergeant Smedley returned fire before succumbing to his wounds.

The unknown assailant fled the scene. Over the years, on two separate occasions, two individuals were charged with the murder of Sergeant Smedley, both were acquitted of the charge and the case remains unsolved.

Now, with the passing of time, Virginia State Police are hoping that anyone with information on Sergeant Smedley's murder, who may have been reluctant to come forward in the past, will come forward now and provide that information so the case can finally be resolved.

Anyone with any information should contact the Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation at 540-829-7400 or 1-888-300-0156. (from a Sept. 15, VSP press release)

The Post 53 family, consisting of Legionnaires, members of the Ladies Auxiliary unit, and Sons of the American Legion, reached an all time high this past year by providing assistance totaling more than \$80,000.00 to veterans and numerous area community programs.

American Legion programs are the cornerstone of our organization. American Legion Baseball, Boys State/Nation, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, Junior Shooting Sports and Scouting are a few of Post 53 programs that are supported for the youth of our area. We are especially proud of supporting the Front Royal Challenger baseball team and their bowling league.

Through the many activities sponsored by the American Legion, our community's youth are provided programs that help to prepare them to meet the tasks they will face in the years to come.

In 2008, Post 53 awarded scholarships totaling \$22,000 to students of Warren County and

Skyline High Schools. The Post also gave awards to students of Randolph Macon Academy and supported the local DARE program, Front Royal midget football, Disabled American Veterans Shenandoah Area Agency for the Aging, Little League baseball, and the American Legion Community Band. We donated American flags to organizations and individuals. We also supported high school oratorical contests, the Indigent Children's Fund, Middle School Americanism essays, the Domestic Violence Shelter, the Military Family Support Program, Honors at Veterans' funerals, and the Martinsburg Veterans Hospital. Additionally, we funded improvements to playgrounds, sent "care" packages to U.S. troops in Iraq, and lent medical equipment and gave temporary financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

The American flags that you see around town on special holidays are put there by Post 53 Legion members who are out early in the mornings putting up the flags

and late in the evening retrieving them, to ensure that our national emblem is flying proudly.

Giles B. Cook Post 53 American Legion welcomes veterans who care about America, other veterans and their families, and our nation's youth. The Legion invites you to join now. Membership brings an impressive array of benefits. For details call the Legion at (540)6358519 or stop by the Post at 22 West 8th Street in Front Royal and pick up an application. A DD214 will be required to verify eligibility. Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion memberships are also available.

Post 53 shall remain dedicated in the future to serving America and the community and to actively supporting our troops. We invite the community to visit the Post 53 booth at the annual downtown Wine and Craft Festival and the Festival of the Leaves celebrations and learn of our activities. Point of contact: Doug Ramos or Clifton Dick (540) 635-8519

Warren County Report

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Daniel P. McDermott
editor@warrencountyreport.com

Managing Editor and Reporter:
Roger Bianchini
(540) 635-4835
rogerb@warrencountyreport.com

Advertising & Layout Manager:
Laura E. Flood
layout@warrencountyreport.com

Assistant to the Publisher:
Ashley Lotts
ashleyl@warrencountyreport.com

Billing:
billing@warrencountyreport.com

Advertising:
(540) 636-1014
www.warrencountyreport.com/adinfo

Contributors:
Paula Conrow, Features Writer
Cassidy Custis, Entertainment Writer
Tony Elar, Cartoonist Extraordinaire
Kevin S. Engle, Humor Columnist
Leslie Fiddler, Writer
Bo Kane, Columnist
Ryan Koch, Cartoonist Extraordinaire
Jim Smithlin, Writer
Mary Ellen South, Writer
Timothy R. Thompson, Writer
Matt Swain, Business Writer

Transcriptionist:
Roya Milotte
dreamindawn82@yahoo.com

Circulation:
Leslie Bennett

If you are interested in contributing articles to our paper, please e-mail: rogerb@warrencountyreport.com

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Letters

Humane Board under fire

Dear Editor,

As a concerned member of the Humane Society of Warren County (HSWC), a taxpayer of Warren County, and a previous employee of the Humane Society, I feel this letter must reach the public before it is too late.

On Monday, Sept 15, 2008, at the monthly HSWC board meeting, the current Board of Directors for HSWC was given a letter from members of the Humane Society of Warren County requesting a special meeting of the members to have a vote that the current board be removed (see attached letter below).

All board members were present, except for the secretary, Ken Garvey. The meeting started with Ted Kane, the treasurer, going over financial statistics. Mr. Kane reported that within the past 3 months the shelter has lost over \$9,000 due to no fundraising and the fact that donations have dropped off.

Fundraising is a mandated activity for board members. During my tenure as shelter director fundraising had been done by staff, previous Board VP Kim Vohs and myself. It was following Kane's report that Board President Doug Scott called an executive session. At that time HSWC member Kim Vohs asked if there would be an open forum for HSWC members to speak at the meeting. Doug told her no. Based on the bylaws of HSWC, members should have the right to speak and address any issues at meetings. With the board poised to adjourn to closed session, Kim Vohs stated, "Well, in that case, I have something to give all of you," to which Doug Scott replied, "I've been waiting for this."

Kim passed out the letter attached below to each board member. Doug looked at his copy and flung it into the center of the table. He said it was unacceptable because the secretary was not there to receive it for the board. He then began pushing HSWC members out of the conference room and Kim had to physically put her foot in the door to keep Doug from immediately slamming the door in members' faces.

At that time I raised the question of who the acting secretary

was. Doug stated, "There is no acting secretary." I stated there has to be an acting secretary present to legally record the minutes. Doug's reply was to push Kim out of the way and slam the door in our faces. There have been no minutes recorded that I am aware of for the past several meetings. I verified with legal counsel that minutes must be provided for all meetings, and that as long as the board members received the letter cited below they could not deny getting it. There were over 20 witnesses to them receiving the letter.

In the wake of Kane's description of the financial situation at the shelter, as a member of HSWC I am concerned that should the shelter go under financially, the bylaws state that the Board of Directors has the right to sell the building and property and decide what other non-profit organization to give the monies to.

Isn't Doug Scott the president and founder of Life Decisions International, a non-profit organization?

Isn't Ken Garvey, secretary of the board at HSWC, also an employee of that same non-profit, Life Decisions International? Are there other board members with an interest in Scott and his non-profit organization?

Also, as of Sept. 17 shelter manager Angela Arrington was fired by Doug Scott. As volunteers, board members, including the president, should not have the authority to fire shelter staff. Angela was the only current staff member certified to euthanize animals. If there are sick animals at the shelter now, as I believe there are and they take a turn for the worse, or if animal control brings in an injured animal that needs to be euthanized, what happens now?

A recent visit to from the State Vets office found violations of state codes at the shelter regarding record keeping and the movement of animals. To date, I believe none of the animals improperly moved have been accounted for. Do not let Dr. Hammett and Doug's wishes to "find a better solution" than euthanasia blind you to the facts. On numerous occasions, Dr. Hammett has been requested to come to the shelter to euthanize animals that were near death. To my knowledge he never showed up. Unfor-

tunately, euthanasia is a necessity. Until people become responsible pet owners and spay and neuter their pets, pet overpopulation will continue, not just in Warren County, but everywhere.

Within the next 2 weeks there will be a special meeting to oust the entire board of HSWC. If you are a member, or even a concerned taxpayer, please attend this meeting! Haven't the animals of Warren County suffered enough in the past 3 months? A date and time for the meeting will soon be announced. Please turn out and be a voice for the animals.

Jeanette Farrell

(Managing editor's note: Jeanette Farrell was forced to resign as Julia H. Wagner Animal Shelter Director by Scott and the board in June in the wake of a civil suit filed against her and board members over a failure to return a dog picked up by county animal control to its owner. Then board Vice President Kim Vohs, a former shelter director herself, resigned in support of Farrell. Farrell has confirmed the state inspection citing violations at the shelter she references, was based on a complaint she lodged.)

Referenced letter:
Humane Society of Warren County
1245 Progress Drive
Front Royal VA 22630
Attn: Ken Garvey – Board Secretary

Dear Mr. Garvey,

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the HSWC Bylaws, the undersigned request a Special Meeting of the Membership for the following purposes:

- 1) To remove the current Board of Directors in its entirety due to lack of confidence by the membership.
- 2) To vote for the installation of a temporary five-person panel as proposed by the undersigned for the primary purpose of searching for and recommending a permanent Board of Directors for the HSWC.

The membership has expressed a lack of confidence in the current Board due to its refusal to follow State Law in the handling of shelter property (animals) and

in record keeping procedures. In addition, the HSWC Bylaws have been consistently ignored in the areas of personnel management, membership eligibility, and the powers and duties of Board officers. Not only have shelter animals suffered as a result of Board misconduct, several have died a cruel death in the past several months.

It is anticipated that the turnout for this meeting will be large. This group suggests that this meeting be held in the Supervisor chambers at the Warren County Government Center. Two available dates we propose are Saturday, September 27th and Saturday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. Once a meeting date is scheduled and agreed upon, this group will incur all costs and responsibilities of membership notification. We await your timely response.

Sincerely,

(Signed by 19 HSWC members Presented to Board of Directors Sept. 15, 2008)

Dear Editor,

It is truly unfortunate that Jeanette Farrell and her handful of followers continue to publicly attack the Humane Society of Warren County (HSWC) while they covertly work to subvert the efforts of the majority who are dedicated to its mission. Through an orchestrated campaign of disinformation, Farrell's gang seeks to paint the Society's volunteer Board of Directors as uncaring, ill-equipped and out of control in a rather appalling game of revenge.

Farrell has referred to a recall petition distributed by her cohort, Kim Vohs, to the HSWC Board of Directors at a recently held meeting. She was surprised to learn that the Society's secretary, Ken Garvey, was ill. HSWC Bylaws require that such petitions be presented to the Secretary. Farrell asserted that the Board must have an "acting secretary" who is taking notes at the meeting. This is true, but she confuses a substitute note-taker, which is usually a machine, with the organizational secretary. There were several other problems with the petition as well. We expect Farrell and her bunch to file such a petition in a proper manner and

we expect it to be correctly written. They would expect no less from us.

Any statement by Farrell regarding minutes not being taken at any Board meeting are flatly false. It's that simple. Once transcribed, reviewed for accuracy and approved by the Board, they are made publicly available.

According to Farrell, the Society is significantly behind in fundraising. While our planned fundraising is behind schedule, we are happy to report that the Society is in the best financial condition in its history. Moreover, it is important to remember that we are talking about a volunteer board of directors. We all have regular jobs. I personally spend some 50 hours per week on HSWC business, often to the neglect of my paid job. The vast majority of this time in spent dealing with one crisis after another—most often caused by Farrell and/or her allies. Furthermore, since they continue to publicly attack the Society, it seems they must bear a great deal of responsibility for difficulty in raising funds. What have these people done to help raise money for the care of helpless and needy animals over the past several months? Absolutely nothing. They prefer to play a role in making the raising of money difficult so they can use it against the Board of Directors.

We are in a rather difficult situation. Farrell, Mike Kerns, and others who have been terminated or asked to resign may tell the press anything they wish about the circumstances surrounding the decision of the Board. Each former employee knows the real reason(s), but they understand that, by law, we are very limited in what we can say to the public. We can say, however, that in our opinion no former employee has been completely honest with the press about their discharge.

The suggestion that the HSWC Board would redirect funds to a nonprofit organization with which any member is associated is absurd. Completely, totally, and utterly absurd. What Farrell neglected to say is that our Bylaws require any disbursements be made "only to a like organization." In other words, it would have to be an animal welfare organization and the only such group any member of the Board is associated with is the Humane

Letters

Send letters to Laura at layout@warrencountyreport.com

Society of Warren County itself. It is regrettable that Farrell would have to turn to such scare tactics to garner unwarranted support for her apparent desire to return as Shelter Director while taking revenge on those who asked for her resignation.

It is sad that the only person associated with the Society, past or present, to be officially charged with criminal action is the same person making unfounded allegations against others.

We can assure the community that the Humane Society is in compliance with all laws and regulations. We can assure the community that all animals at the shelter continue to receive

top-level care. We can assure the community that the Board of Directors is dedicated to doing that which is best for the Society and the animals we serve, despite the efforts of those who would love to see us fail.

While those who seem to place little value on truth and fairness could be expected to engage in such unconscionable behavior and gossip, it is still quite pathetic. We call of Farrell and her disciples to end these petty and self-serving deeds and work with us to increase revenue and assure the continued success of the Humane Society. All we ask is that they withhold judgment and stop the attacks for a period of 12

months. Once we have only the welfare of those we were elected to serve – the animals – to worry about, I can assure Farrell and her associates that the Humane Society will be doing better work than ever before. Revenge may feel good, but it will only do harm to those in need.

*Doug Scott
President, Board of Directors
Humane Society of Warren
County*

Executive Experience

Dear Editor,

Am I the only one who is

amused by the Republican Presidential Candidate's charges that his opponent, Senator Obama, has a "lack of executive experience". It seems to me that since Senator McCain's pre-senatorial experience consisted almost entirely of work as a naval aviator and staffer, (both non executive jobs) Senator McCain's executive experience is less extensive than his opponent's.

It also seems to me that there is an interesting contrast (executive experience wise) between the two candidates when one examines the recently completed primary contest for the presidential nomination. Senator McCain's organization seemed - from reports in

the newspapers - to be a series of crises, including many changes of top-level personnel, inadequate money management, and the like, whereas Senator Obama's campaign organization was free of such problems. It appears to me that the only comparative example of executive management skills available to us shows clearly that Senator Obama's management abilities far overshadow his opponent's.

Sincerely,

*Glenn L. White
Middletown, VA
540-631-9447*



Chefs David and Stacy Gedney prepare tasty desserts and salads for diners at Apartment 2G on South Royal Avenue in Front Royal. See story pg. 9.



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Food



Above, art and fruit combine to make a delicious dessert for diners at Apartment 2G on South Royal Avenue in Front Royal. See story pg. 9. At right, A server delivers salads at an event catered by J's Gourmet.



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Opinion

Since the current US national population is "303 MILLION" persons, let's just take \$303 MILLION dollars "of our money" from the US Treasury and make every American citizen a Millionaire! – Hold it! I have an even better idea! Let's use that \$303 MILLION dollars and give "immediate complete health care" to every single American citizen!

One Man's Opinion: **A simple health care plan for all Americans** *Could our federal tax billions be better spent at home?*

In the last 5 years we have spent "\$500 BILLION" dollars in Iraq. In 2007 we gave the Mexican Government "\$400 MILLION" dollars to help us fight the war against drugs. Wait a minute – if we can take that kind money from our US Treasury to spend on "other nations and their problems," why can't we take "our money" and take care of "our people?" Since the current US national population is "303 MILLION" persons, let's just take \$303 MILLION dollars "of our money" from the US Treasury and make every American citizen a Millionaire! Hold it! I have an even better idea: Let's use that \$303 MILLION dollars and give "immediate complete health care" to every single American citizen! Actually it would be quite simple to implement. Since each American is now required by federal law to obtain a SSN at birth the US Government will establish an "interest earning account" in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (\$1 Million Dollars) for each legal US Citizen using each person's Social Security Number (SSN) as an accounting/control mechanism. This account can "ONLY" be used to provide proper necessary medical care to the person whose name is on the SSN account.

Here's how the system would work: A person has a medical need and goes to his/her doctor. The doctor performs whatever medical service is necessary for the person. The doctor bills the persons SSN medical account thru the main government office, which we will call "US HEALTH CARE SERVICE". The doctor's bill is paid within 60 days (or less) and the amount is automatically deducted from the persons SSN account. Naturally a system of ID (photo/thumb print/Iris print) would have to be developed to control use of the account. With the technology available in today's world, I am certain we can come up with something that will enable proper effective control of the system.

SYSTEM SAFEGUARDS:

- A "Mandatory MINIMUM of 6 months in jail" (with no possibility of parole) for any person who is convicted of attempting to illegally use the SSN medical account of another person.
- A "Mandatory MINIMUM of 1 year in jail" (with no possibility of parole) for any person who is convicted of illegally using the SSN medical account of another person.
- A "Mandatory MINIMUM of 5 years in jail" (with no possibility of parole) for any doctor who is convicted of attempting to illegally submit fraudulent medical service claims or permits another person to illegally use another's SSN account.
- The SSN of "all" deceased persons shall be kept on file (updated monthly) with "US HEALTH CARE SERVICE" headquarters. Any activity on such deceased persons SSN account would require an "immediate" report to the FBI for action.

Upon the death of each person – all funds remaining in his/her SSN account would be "automatically" returned to the government. I see only one major drawback in my proposal – we would have to "require" that the American Medical Association "standardize" their medical procedure prices on a national level "in the interest of being able to provide proper health care for all Americans." Oh, and it would mean eliminating the bulk of, if not the entire health insurance industry as middle man in assuring health care for ANY American citizen – which may be a problematic aspect since the U.S. medical profession and government have allowed the insurance industry to become the prime mover in U.S. health care and medicine. I consider it a "Shame and a National Disgrace" that today, as the richest nation on the planet, we have 47 MILLION Americans who have no health care of any kind. But then "sharing the wealth" has become a distinctly unfavored political notion in a country where the separation between the very rich and everyone else is rivaling the pre-anti trust days in the era of the U.S. "robber baron" industrialists of the 1800s and early 1900s. There are those who will say this cannot be done. These are the same folks who could care less about their fellow Americans! – These are the CEO's who bankrupt companies through economic recklessness and take home \$9 to \$17 MILLION DOLLAR severance packages when their Fanny Mae's and Freddie Mac's, et al collapse, leaving stockholders holding an empty bag. Anyone got a better idea?

Lets hear it!

By: 1SG Tony E. Cerella, USA, Ret.



An event is catered by J's Gourmet on South Royal Avenue in Front Royal. See story pg. 9.

“When you do a pre-fee a lot of people look at that price and say ‘that’s too much.’ But they’ll easily spend that on a dinner elsewhere. When they’re looking at it in chunks they don’t do the math in their head ... And all of a sudden you’re in the mid-\$30s and you’ve only had two courses. We were doing five courses for \$40.” – Apartment 2G’s David Gedney

Food

From J’s to 2G and Element, getting your money’s worth



David and Stacy Gedney with chef trainee, Wyeth Gedney

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

Cooking classes and a suddenly vacant upstairs apartment may not sound like a natural beginning to what has become the finest fine dining experience in Front Royal and Warren County ... and beyond (see final subhead section). But according to David Gedney that is exactly how Apartment 2G began.

Gedney and his wife Stacy now own a three-pronged fine food and wine-based operation at 206 South Royal Avenue directly across the street from the Royal Oak Bookstore. That operation includes the site’s original business, J’s Gourmet, along with restaurants Apartment 2G and Element. Each business complements the other as proprietor David Gedney explains, from the take out gourmet sandwich, salad, wine and cheese options at J’s, to the pre-fee, reservation-based weekend elegance of Apartment 2G, to creative daily lunch and dinner offerings at Element.

Every story has a beginning and the Gedneys began prior to their early 2003 arrival in Front Royal. Both David and Stacy had experience and backgrounds in

fine dining and food preparation. After stints at the Inn at Little Washington, Four Seasons in Georgetown, Restaurant Nora in D.C., and the Ashby Inn, David said both he and his wife were burned out – “we lost the desire to do the high end, high stress food,” he said.

A month after leaving the Ashby Inn, an old college connection led to his and his wife’s reentry into what was initially a more down to earth food and beverage situation.

“My friend from college was the GM at Old Dominion Brewing Company. They were in the tech corridor (in Ashburn, Loudoun County), with AOL, and when MCI and World Com and all those were big – and it was a different opportunity. What they’d had was basically a burger and fish and chips joint with beer, with great beer. I was the chef and my wife was the pastry chef there. But they were looking to go a little more upscale hoping to capture the newly rich folks over at AOL and those tech places. Eventually they were looking to evolve – so, that was sort of a tangent; then we came back here and kind of fell into creating a fine dining atmosphere in Front

Royal.”

What they found was a start up opportunity in the space on the second floor above Jorie Martin’s J’s Gourmet in April of 2003. What had been a long occupied apartment was suddenly vacant.

“I had been talking to Jorie about doing some cooking classes and I was looking at the space and our area here,” Gedney recalled pointing to his surroundings in the old second floor apartment. “One of the problems with cooking classes is you really have to market it and I didn’t think this area would support cooking classes,” Gedney explains of the evolution toward Apartment 2G. The numbers game – from square feet to those registered for the classes – didn’t leave much room, literally and figuratively, for a viable operation based solely on gourmet cooking classes, Gedney felt.

“So my idea was that you have kind of an awkward space for a restaurant but everything you really need is here – you have the sink, the oven all the basics.”

Those basics led to two well-attended special events, wine dinners for Linden Vineyards hosted by the Gedneys in what had once been and would again soon be, albeit in a different incarnation,

Apartment 2G.

“Both were sold out,” Gedney says of those initial events. “[Jorie] was happy with what she had seen and more or less was okay with the restaurant idea. She said if I wanted to run with it, go ahead.”

And run with it is exactly what the David and Stacy Gedney did.

Apartment 2G

“Jorie had pretty much given me carte blanche to do whatever I wanted to do upstairs,” Gedney said of the roots of 2G. “I have a graphic design background and to me logoing something and creating a distinct identity, I felt was kind of important.”

Working from the theme of the apartment space he had inherited, that identity was reborn as Apartment 2G. The space itself would lead to how the business evolved, Gedney explains.

“We encouraged reservations on the weekend. In one room there were two large tables of six. Our capacity per evening was about 20. And one of the difficulties we dealt with was our space. We tried to do kind of a European seating, where you might sit next

here were used to sharing a bathroom or dining space. One thing we noticed then was that a lot of people would come in the door and they’d recognize someone from the same B&B. And they’d end up sitting there talking to them.

“Because we had those two large tables, if two people were sitting there we would try to get someone else [there also]. So the idea of reservations kind of evolved out of having to do that negotiation. We’d ask, ‘would you mind sitting with another couple?’ So the reservations became kind of a necessity. But also from my standpoint of trying to do a menu out here and being different than everything Jorie was doing downstairs, we needed to make sure we were buying in accordance with our guest count.”

Gedney also said Apartment 2G’s initial local customer base developed from word of mouth through Martin and her social and Gourmet shop clientele base. “But you can only get your friends to come in so many times. And when we started it was at \$40 for five courses.

“Someone called back then and was sort of appalled that we were



A selection of wines at J’s Gourmet

to strangers at a large table. That’s a very different idea for not only this area, but I think even this country,” Gedney laughs. “We’re used to more personal space here than most places are. It worked somewhat because of the bed & breakfasts in the area. A lot of the people that were coming out

going to be doing a \$40 menu. When you do a pre-fee a lot of people look at that price and say ‘that’s too much.’ But they’ll easily spend that on a dinner elsewhere. When they’re looking at it in chunks they don’t do the math in their head as they order what they want. They’ll go, ‘Oh,

Food

"Apartment 2G is an open invitation to the chefs' 'apartment.' David and Stacy Gedney prepare everything on premises daily in expectation of your visit. Come hang out in the kitchen or watch the meal come together from the privacy of your table."

the salad's only \$8, I'll have the salad and then I'll have the entrée – that's not so bad, it's only \$27! And all of a sudden you're in the mid-\$30s and you've only had two courses. We were doing five courses for \$40.

"It was a struggle initially," Gedney admits of gaining local acceptance of high quality, pre-fee, reservation-based dinners. "Interestingly enough as we progressed the B&B's were our best customers. They were people who were out in the area from Northern Virginia who thought this was a great find and a great steal. A filet mignon in the city could easily cost you \$40, and here you were getting four courses built around the filet for \$40. Eventually locals celebrating special events like birthdays, anniversaries, the graduation of children, prom nights and other special events began to catch on to what Apartment 2G had to offer for that special evening on the town.

Ultimately it has been quality and value for your dollar that has driven the Gedney's vision of fine dining in Front Royal.

"When we approached our wine list, our wines were only priced \$4 above [J's] retail because with a wine shop downstairs I didn't want people to be offended that I simply brought a bottle of wine up the stairs and was going to charge them the standard restaurant mark up, which is four times [higher]."

Gedney explains the initial relationship between J's Gourmet and Apartment 2G.

"The idea was if I can get you up here trying something new and open your horizon to a new wine that I'm not gouging you for, you may develop a taste for that wine and you may come back as a customer for that wine downstairs from the Gourmet shop."

Gedney says Apartment 2G featured wines from "all over," largely mirroring the gourmet shop's inventory. Local wines eventually

made up a larger portion of the inventory as well.

"Initially it was Linden [Vineyards] but we've added seven or eight wineries from this area since then. Rappahannock I think started the same year we did. So, we've added them and a few others. We were taking wines right out of the wine shop [downstairs]. I try to put myself in the place of the customer and say what would I want to pay for this. And I think people notice that. Even places like the Olive Garden now has wines you can get at Costco for easily four times less."

Apartment 2G is opened Friday and Saturday evening's only. The menu is adjusted daily and pre-fee is now \$50 – not bad when you consider how inflation has impacted everything else over the past five years. The mood the Gedneys create in their upstairs "apartment" is noted on their menu.

"Apartment 2G is an open invitation to the chefs' 'apartment.' David and Stacy Gedney prepare everything on premises daily in expectation of your visit. Come hang out in the kitchen or watch the meal come together from the privacy of your table."

One recent example of 2G's menu highlighted a first course of Homemade Fettuccine with Shrimp, Peas, Mint and Lemon; a second of Mixed Green Salad with Balsamic, Stilton and Garlic Popovers; followed by choices of Filet Mignon with Potato Onion



Apartment 2g

Pie and Spinach; Roasted Rack of Lamb with Polents and Pipperrade; or Seared Sea Scallops with Roasted Cherry Tomatoes, Corn Coulis and Balsamic Syrup ... yum.

Element

They say diversification is often the key to business success. So in addition to the refined elegance of Apartment 2G upstairs and the carryout gourmet shop from which that elegance sprang, the Gedney's also offer daily lunch and dinners Tuesdays through Saturdays at Element. Element is located adjacent to J's Gourmet on the first floor of 206 South Royal Avenue. Lunches are in the \$8 to \$10 range, with dinners running

from \$12 to \$18. Element's menu is adjusted three to four times a month.

One recent offering featured some distinct and tasty sounding sandwiches including the Old Rag Mountain – Ham with melted Smoke Gouda topped with lettuce, tomato and Honey Mustard on a Romano Roll served hot; the Shenandoah Ranger – Spinach, Artichoke Hearts, Cream Cheese mixed with Onion and Roasted Red Peppers on a Romano Roll, also served hot; and various other combinations based on Roast Beef, Pastrami, Black Forest Ham, Turkey and a very intriguing offering – The New Guy, comprised of Ham, Bacon and Pastrami (that's a heck of a start), with Bell Peppers, Red Onion, melted Provo-

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During a subsequent conversation with Gedney, he noted that at the recent Taste of the Town food competition in Winchester, Apartment 2G and another downtown Front Royal restaurant, Soul Mountain Café swept the top two spots in the People's Choice Award voted on by 230 invited black-tie guests.

Food



Element

lone cheese, lettuce, tomato and Burgundy Poppy Seed Mayo, also served hot a Romano Roll (I am salivating as I type this one up).

The dinner menu included entrees of Pan Roasted Chicken with Mashed Potatoes and Aus Jus; Salmon over Black Beans with Mango Sauce; Shrimp Primavera over Farfalle Pasta with garlic Cream Sauce; and a Shoulder Tenderloin Steak with Roasted Red Potatoes, Zucchini Ribbons and Caramelized Onions.

The Element kitchen is open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with the bar remaining open through 11 p.m. with snacks

available.

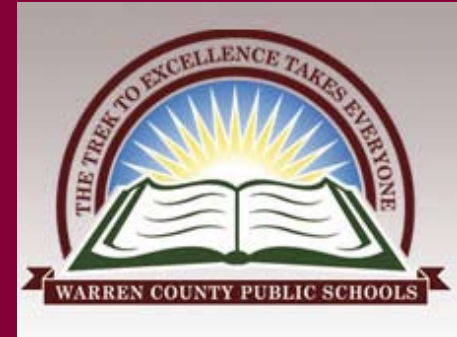
A Front Royal dining sweep

During a subsequent conversation with Gedney, he noted that at the recent Taste of the Town food competition in Winchester, Apartment 2G and another downtown Front Royal restaurant, Soul Mountain Café swept the top two spots in the People's Choice Award voted on by 230 invited black-tie guests. And while Winchester's eating elite may be confused that the best restaurants in the area are now located in Front Royal – Gedney

laughed that the People's Choice winner was announced as "Apartment 26" – that seems like a logical segue to our next feature on dining options in Front Royal. So stay tuned in a coming issue for part 4 of our downtown dining series, when we return to East Main Street and Soul Mountain Café – with a swing by their newer barbeque and ribs site at the intersection of South Street and South Royal Avenue. Till then good eating and remember – you don't even have to leave town for it!

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Howdy

“This was the last of the sports models. Absolutely – there’s never been a fighter airplane built since then that was as simple to maintain, operate and for a pilot to learn to fly – absolutely.” – former F-86 fighter pilot Al Ogden

Old friends gather to say hi to a friend

Local airport’s F-86 fighter jet re-dedicated by pilot, flight crew



Al Ogden tells some old stories on his flying days in his F-86 fighter jet nicknamed Howdy Doody as a dad and his daughter reach out and touch a piece of American history.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

As reported here last issue, the former flight crew of Howdy Doody, Front Royal-Warren County Airport’s F-86 fighter jet, had spruced the plane up for a rededication ceremony tied to the planned Balloonfest-Air Show.

Well air show or no, that flight crew of Cecil Artrip, Donald Leight and Kenny Evans, joined by family and friends, as well as Howdy’s pilot, Al Ogden, held that rededication ceremony in front of an interested, if small crowd of public and press, including military working press.

Ogden and his wife Cecile flew in – appropriately, though the former air force and United Air Lines pilot wasn’t driving this time – from their home in Denver, Colorado, for the event. Ogden regaled his old and new friends with some personal remembrances of those days when the West Virginia Air National Guard housed at Martinsburg helped provide an aerial umbrella over the nation’s capital during

the nuclear-fueled tensions of the Cold War.

“There was a DC wing and it had Martinsburg, Dover, Delaware, and Baltimore I think, and DC was at Andrews,” Ogden recalled of his 1959-61 National Guard posting. “I had three years of active duty of active duty [in the air force] where I not only learned to fly but I taught for a year. I was a T-33 instructor when I resigned from the air force in December ‘58 and I immediately came to West Virginia and I was commissioned in the West Virginia Air Guard in January.”

Ogden pointed out that he never fired a shot in anger during his days piloting Howdy. “We were good, we were ready, we were prepared, we were Minutemen – and because we were ready we never had to shoot,” Ogden said during formal remarks acknowledging his old WV Air Guard plane’s presence as a recovered piece of American history now on station at the Warren County Airport.

Ogden said he hadn’t laid eyes on Howdy since April 1961. But

that sight and the anticipation of it resurrected many fond memories, a number of which he shared on Sept. 13.

“You can think about it and Al had talked about it – but when you see it, it really brings back those memories,” Cecile said of her husband’s anticipation of dedicating his old plane at FRR.

“Those planes ended up all different places. I personally took, a different tail number, but eight of us took eight of [the F-86s] out to Davis-Markham Airfield in Tucson, Arizona, which is the airplane graveyard. A lot of military and a lot of airliners are out there. And they just sit in the desert and they take parts when they need them. And gradually when they’ve gotten everything useful they put it through the bailer.

“And I’ll tell you, that was a sad day when we got out of those because we loved that airplane. And the airplane we got to replace it was a C-119 built by Fairchild in Hagerstown. And it was a totally different mission and it was a hobbled together airplane and really wasn’t very good to fly.

“This was the last of the sports models,” Ogden said affectionately of the front line F-86s. “Absolutely – there’s never been a fighter airplane built since then that was as simple to maintain, operate and for a pilot to learn to fly – absolutely. The start procedure, I can still remember: get in, strap yourself in, push the button and bring the throttle around the horn. And the only other thing you had to do was close the canopy. And that was it, that was it,” Ogden recalled somewhat amazed.

During his formal remarks Ogden acknowledged both the plane he loved to fly and his old crew chief’s role in making the day’s event happen.

“This airplane was one of 28 airplanes, and we had approximately 28 pilots, and we were full-strength we might have had 28 crew chiefs ... and the crew chief of this airplane and the man responsible for all of us being here today, really, is Cecil Artrip. Cecil was responsible for the maintenance and operational readiness of this airplane.”

Artrip, as I have reported both last issue and when Howdy was first brought to its current station, has been instrumental in reconditioning the plane to duplicate its look as an active-duty, frontline American jet fighter.

Ogden noted how some decommissioned planes made it into communities, rather than a desert aircraft burial ground.

Look what I found

“There were probably a dozen of them that made it into various communities – everybody likes having a free gift but nobody wants to take care of it. Most of them were vandalized and eventually scrapped. This one had the good fortune to get buried in the woods and was discovered by another crew chief, who is here today, Ken Evans, who was crew chief of another airplane. And in his attempt to resurrect that airplane, which I believe sits now in Martinsburg at the Air Guard base he was looking for parts. And this is one of the places he looked because actually two airplanes came down here. So, he discovered it, dragged it out of the weeds. Called Cecil and these guys have been working on it for three years to get it restored and we really owe them a great debt of gratitude for resurrecting a 50-year-old experience.”

How come Howdy?

Ogden acknowledged the origin of his plane’s character – Howdy, for 1950s child show character, Howdy Doody, a wooden puppet.

“Why is it Howdy Doody?” Ogden said he asked his crew chief about the label placed on his plane. “And he wouldn’t tell me – he just giggled. And I noticed that Kenny and Doug and the other guys were standing around and they were just practically rolled up. So I finally found out – they never told me – that they had passed around the base when I came in as a 25-year-old

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"I was simulating dive bombing her uncle's house ... the cook was the only one home at the time and I must have darn neared scared her to death. So, I just tore up that place. I made about four runs at the thing before I said that's enough. They probably haven't got a cow left that's not psychotic." – Al Ogden recalling old school fighter pilot courting rituals

Howdy



From left, Kenny Evans, woman whose name we didn't get (Mrs. Evans maybe), Cecile and Al Ogden, Cecil Artrip, Marty Bail, Donald Leight and Jim Roberts pose in front of old friend, Howdy the F-86, prior to re-dedication of the old Korean and Cold War era fighter jet at Front Royal-Warren County Airport.

first lieutenant, they said that boy is too young. When he was commissioned they couldn't have given him lieutenant's bars – they must have given him a Howdy Doody button instead."

"And there was a button," Artrip chimed in. "I think I sent you one recently, didn't I?"

"Yes, you did," Ogden deadpanned, recounting Howdy and his human TV show sidekick Buffalo Bob.

"But I can't tell you what a thrilling moment it is for me to be back here, not just to get back with these guys that were buddies of mine from the time I got to the

West Virginia Air Guard ... But Cecile my wife and I have some very fond memories of this area, this valley," Ogden said of the Northern Valley site of his honeymoon during which he traveled the Skyline Drive through Front Royal on the way to Martinsburg.

In fact, Ogden said he has told his two children, "When I fly west I wouldn't mind having my ashes scattered in Back Creek Valley, one ridge over from Martinsburg – just gorgeous, beautiful land that we should all appreciate."

But my favorite story involved one that wasn't in Ogden's planned remarks.

"You got to tell us about getting engaged," Artrip prompted his former pilot.

"That isn't in my remarks," Ogden replied, drawing laughter from the knowledgeable members of his audience. However, he picked up the conversational challenge.

"I'll tell you that I took this plane down to Greenville, Mississippi, when I got engaged to Cecile. That was Friday night. On Saturday I took the airplane and did a local training mission where

I was simulating dive bombing her uncle's house ... the cook was the only one home at the time and I must have darn neared scared her to death. So, I just tore up that place. I made about four runs at the thing before I said that's enough. They probably haven't got a cow left that's not psychotic."

Obviously courting methods among pilots haven't changed much over the years.

However, those cows and that cook had their revenge as Ogden told it. It seems when he went to start Howdy to return north – "I got in the airplane, and as I was telling some of you, the simplest airplane to fly – two-step procedure – that's all you had to do and the airplane started. So I punched the button – nothing happened. Problem."

A call to Martinsburg led to Artrip and wing boss Ed Strickland making a quick flight south in a T-33 with a replacement part and Strickland pulling rank to fly Howdy home, telling Ogden he was to chauffeur his crew chief back in the T-33.

"What else did I forget?" Ogden joked as he concluded his

remarks.

It's just too bad there wasn't a bigger air show crowd there to hear this special reminiscence of Howdy, its pilot and crew – but hey, Howdy still out there waiting for a visit. After all, the kids have always loved Howdy Doody.

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“More than disappointed we are broken hearted, really. It’s a crushing disappointment.” – Air Show Executive Committee Chairman Glenn White on event cancellation

Weather ‘threat’ cancels Air Show-Balloonfest

If not Hannah, weather fronts propelled east by Ike spoil the party



Some folks at the impromptu airport open house managed to get comfortable out of the sun under their plane’s wing.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

Chalk it up to experience – what had been ballyhooed as potentially the largest public event in county history with an estimated 20,000 potential attendees turned into a sparsely attended (100 or so) Open House at Front Royal-Warren County Airport (FRR) Saturday, Sept. 13.

When winds brought about an inch of rain to the airport in the hours prior to a scheduled 6 p.m.

kickoff “Balloon Glow” event, Friday, Sept. 12, and with a mixed forecast of scattered thunderstorms in the area the following day, county officials decided discretion was the better part of valor. That discretion called for cancellation of the entire three-day Warren County Balloonfest-Airstravaganza that had been in the planning stages for nearly a year.

Airport Manager Reggie Casagnol said a Friday conversation with representatives of the

Bealton Flying Circus that was scheduled to be the focal point of Saturday’s air show indicated skepticism the circus could guarantee “making it over the mountain” to the Front Royal Airport the next day due to the weather forecast.

North River District Supervisor Glenn White, who has overseen airport commission business over the past year and was Air Show

Executive Committee Chairman, explained that insurance coverage of a significant up-front financial investment by the county in the neighborhood of \$70,000 made it an all or nothing decision on Friday.

“There was one policy that was tripped by cancellation of the entire event due to weather,” White said. With the heavy rain and gusting winds making it impos-

sible to hold the Balloon Glow opening event on Friday and facing the prospect Saturday’s day-long event might be minus its primary attraction, not to mention the anticipated crowd due to unstable weather forecasts, organizers decided to err on the side of caution. If it was all or nothing it would be nothing.

Well not exactly.

Technically the entire event was cancelled prior to 6 p.m. Friday, allowing the county to recover “up to \$50,000” and likely break even on its investment. However, with some airport tenants and event participants present and looking for something to do, the decision was made to have a pared-back Airport Open House on Saturday.

That open house featured classic and customized aircraft and car displays, glider rides from the glider club housed at the airport, which offer those rides at FRR every weekend anyway, a U.S. Customs Office drug-sniffing dog demonstration, and the re-dedication of Howdy, the airport’s Cold War-era F-86 fighter jet that stands sentinel in front of the terminal.

Despite the nice time for the few, the hearty and the present on Saturday, White called the air show cancellation a bitter disappointment after about 10 months of research, planning and promoting the event regionally.

“More than disappointed we are broken hearted, really. It’s a crushing disappointment,” White

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“We learned an awful lot and we’re ready to give it a shot for next year. I want to emphasize a lot of people did a lot of work to see this thing fly – maybe that’s a bad choice of words.” – Glenn White

Aistravaganza



Medical chopper leaves the scene along with a tow plane and its glider as some took advantage of the glider club’s regular weekend offer of idyllic rides over the valley.

said. With no make-up date, White said he considers the event cancelled till next year.

“We learned an awful lot and we’re ready to give it a shot for next year. I want to emphasize a lot of people did a lot of work to see this thing fly – maybe that’s a bad choice of words,” White commented good-naturedly in the face of a serious disappointment. “What we learned should help us next year. All and all you live and learn and we’re raring to go next year.”

Whether (pun intended) that enthusiasm carries over to the rest of the supervisors remains to be seen. At the boards’ Sept. 16th meeting, Happy Creek Supervisor Tony Carter questioned some of the promotional techniques and suggested re-examining the county’s involvement in any subsequent event. However, Carter did not suggest outright scrap-

ping of the notion of a pared back air show along the line of previous events hosted at FRR in the 1990s.

While we’re going to have to curb our enthusiasm for a full-blown air show here in River City, we managed to have a nice time at the Open House on Saturday on what turned out to be the first of two largely uneventful weather days around the airport and county (I did lose my satellite service late Saturday afternoon as severe thunderstorms formed to our east threatening Fauquier and Prince William Counties).

In addition to the above-mentioned events and one smoke trailing plane buzzing the field and climbing at a 90-degree angle straight up over the runway, there was the little matter of re-welcoming Howdy to FRR on Sept. 13, air show or no (see related story on page 12).

Powerful Links Speed Citizen Access to Government Info

Common Cents



by Jim Williams

(From a release)

There was a time when getting official information from the federal government felt a little like old-time prospecting. It took lots of time, sifting and patience just for the possibility of uncovering a few gold nuggets.

These days, the best link between government and citizen is www.USA.gov. That’s not the creators and managers of the site speaking; it’s Time magazine, which rated USA.gov one of the 25 websites “we can’t live without,” and the Brookings Institution, which recently named USA.gov the best government site.

Interestingly, USA.gov is a product of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), best known as the government’s procurement arm and landlord. GSA’s traditional job has been to provide goods and services at best value to other agencies so they can focus squarely on their core missions. USA.gov, to our great delight, has helped redefine the GSA mission.

We’re also pleased that Brookings rated our agency website, www.gsa.gov, as the fifth best site in the federal government. Expanded content, improved navigation and a customized search engine have all made gsa.gov more valuable and user friendly. Popular topics include government per diem rates and forms, how businesses can get on the GSA schedule, and how to buy surplus federal property.

One of the greatest challenges for government in any generation is figuring out how to use technology to better serve citizens. This has the obvious practical benefit of disseminating information, but it also helps establish a closer bond between Americans and their government.

As well, high-tech information delivery methods hold special appeal for younger Americans more accustomed to clicking than calling.

USA.gov, the U.S. government’s official web portal, offers RSS Feeds, E-mail updates,

videos and much more on everything from hurricane information to government benefits to consumer protection for seniors. A state-of-the-art search engine provides documents, images, FAQ’s, and other information from federal, state, and local websites in a variety of formats, including mobile. And let’s not forget GobiernoUSA.gov, USA.gov’s Spanish-language counterpart, which offers the same latest and greatest information en español.

Six years ago, President Bush issued a direct challenge to those of us in the citizen services arena. To deliver citizen-centered electronic government of real value, the president said we needed to provide, “custom information from Washington when citizens want it, not just when Washington wants to give it to them.”

Many agencies took that challenge to heart. At GSA, we sat down, considered our existing websites, programs and initiatives, and thought long and hard about how to recast them in a way that would get us closer to the president’s objective. Six years later, there’s a lot more gold in our prospecting pan. USA.gov, plus our other citizen communications channels - the National Contact Center at 1-800 FED INFO - and the publications distribution center in Pueblo, Co. - racked up 222 million contacts with citizens in Fiscal 2007.

Jim Williams is Acting Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration

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9/11

Annie hesitated, then said, “Roger, I was down there when they exploded.” I was stunned. She had been closer than her home (11 blocks away), at 9 in the morning. Was she nuts? What was Annie, an artist, a sculptor doing in the financial district at 8:45 in the morning? I must have verbalized the question as well as thought it.

9/11: a personal memoir



The World Trade Center provided a surreal backdrop to the New York City skyline in this late 1970's photo taken near the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Midtown Manhattan.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

(Author's note: the following commentary was written on Sept. 11 and 12, 2001, as and immediately after events transpired. First printed on these pages last year at this time, we reprint it now to commemorate this month's seventh anniversary of that horrific day in memory of those died and those they left behind; and in the hope that the memory of those events and lives can be used to further meaningful communications that will lead to a less violent future, rather than simply as an excuse to perpetuate a violent status quo.)

The faint ring of a telephone stirred me from a restless sleep. I grudgingly opened my eyes and realized that it was fairly early in the morning on Tuesday, a

weekend for me in my current employment cycle. I rolled out of the sheets as the cats, Carlotta and Roscoe, who keep me as their pet, bolted from their positions at the crook of my knee and base of my belly, respectively. I stumbled into my adjacent office and without my glasses tried to make out the caller ID through a sleep-encrusted blur. I lift the receiver “Turn on your television!” my friend Dewey's voice commanded excitedly. “We were watching one of the World Trade Center buildings burning after a plane ran into it about 15 minutes ago and another one just flew into the other building!”

“When,” reality and dreams seemed to be mixing though I thought I was awake.

“Now!!! A second ago,” Dewey said & I knew this was not a “Jerky Boys” call. I hung up the phone without responding. I un-

derstood as my mind snapped to, that the information was presented not for discussion but for action. I was at my complex of three televisions at the far end of my third-floor loft apartment over the Main Street Mill that was so reminiscent to me of the fifth-floor walkup loft I had sublet for a year 11 blocks north of the World Trade Center some 20 years earlier. I hit the on button on the smallest of the three, the old 13-inch that I had gotten from my mom. It sat several feet from my living area couch and was my preferred home-alone viewing screen. Perhaps its size helped me maintain the illusion that I wasn't really addicted to it. The crystal-sharp satellite picture quickly focused and I picked up the remote and, punched in channel 970, channel 970, I shook my head at the implication. It was the satellite channel for the NBC affiliate in Washington, D.C. As a child, it would, as likely as not, have been the morning news station I would be watching as I got ready for school and my parents prepared for their respective federal government jobs in D.C. and Rosslyn, Virginia.

There they were, the twin towers gleaming in a bright September morning against a cloudless, bright, blue sky; except for the huge plumes of black smoke pouring from the top 20 or so floors of both buildings. I flashed on the old '70s movie, which I've never seen more than about 10 minutes of at a time, “Towering Inferno” – wasn't the greatest cut & slash runner of all time, O.J. Simpson, in that? And who was the main star, Moses, er, Charlton Heston? How did that piece of trash end?!? How many were saved? How long did it take to finally . . . just burn out???

Bryant Gumble's calm, colorless, odorless TV voice hypnotically recited the facts as known at – I flicked the info button to see the time, 9:07 a.m.

“Two planes . . . believed to be a 737 and a 767 . . . 18 minutes apart . . . North Tower first, then the South Tower . . . Not known if intent/accidents . . . Here it is.

Watch to the right of your screen and you'll see the second plane as it approaches and plows into the South Tower . . .”

Oh man, that wasn't an accident! There was malevolent intent apparent the first time I saw it. That building was a target. But can't alarm the public with unsubstantiated theories . . . public – I have public there!!!

I raced back to my office for the phone. Stuart and Annie Lee, my friends since college days in Richmond, Virginia, at old VCU: the urban university. Stuart and Annie, whom I sublet that Lower Manhattan loft from in 1979-80, when I had my lower New York state of mind experience, still lived in that five-story walkup 11 blocks from the World Trade Center.

Two-one-two, two-zero-two, NYC/DC, I always transpose those area codes in my head. Two-one-two, I'm sure and the rest of the number raced back to my mind even though we were notoriously bad about staying in touch, and those old, transplanted Southerners without a computer and e-mail still, in 2001, just amazing, really. The line picks up on the second ring. It is Annie's voice, “Hello.”

“Annie, what the hell is going on up there,” I blurt out not letting on how relieved I am to hear her voice.

“I don't know but it's pretty bizarre,” she replied.

We used to joke about whether the North Tower, the closest one to their loft, would fall on their building if it tipped over on its side northbound. It seemed that close, that big looming up out their back windows and over the rooftop deck Stuart had built once they had finished with the basic living essential renovations that had taken them about eight months of steady, fulltime work to complete. That was after their 1977, or was it '78, wedding in Charleston, South Carolina, Annie's home turf. I glanced at the time on the caller ID. It was 9:11 a.m. “I just saw a tape of the second plane hitting the second building,” I said.

Annie hesitated, then said, “Roger, I was down there when they exploded.”

I was stunned. She had been closer than her home, at 9 in the morning. Was she nuts? What was Annie, an artist, a sculptor doing in the financial district at 8:45 in the morning? I must have verbalized the question as well as thought it.

“I was at the fish market they have in the parking lot on the east side of the Trade Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays (that's an acceptable reason, I thought). We heard a plane and we all ducked. We knew it didn't belong there so low over the city. Then the building exploded and we had to run under this building overhang to get away from all the burning debris that was coming down after the explosion. After the second explosion I thought I better get out of there and I went to look for my bike, which was on the Trade Center side. Luckily it was OK and I just came in the door when you called.

“You said the plane hit the building?” she trailed off, apparently just making the connection between the low-flying plane that had caused those at the fish market to duck reflexively and the first explosion. “I didn't, we didn't . . . Listen Roger, I don't mean to cut you off but I want to clear the line for my mom. I know she's going to try and call or I should call her before the lines get clogged up.”

“OK, sure. Where's Stuart,” I wanted to make sure the calm in her voice included knowledge of the Stu-meister's whereabouts.

“He's here.”

“Good. You all take care and stay in touch.” I hung up.

They were OK.

That she was down there in jeopardy had jolted me. If no one had answered I would have been a wreck. These two people, even with our mutual lapses in communications, were two of the most important people in the world to me. I once read on a Chinese restaurant placemat horoscope for my Rat-year birth, that I did not tend to keep lasting

9/11

As the day progressed into night, lower Manhattan took on an eerie look as powerful spotlights bracketed debris and the continually, rising cloud of smoke from fires burning deep within the rubble of 220 stories, estimated at 1.2 million tons of debris that will take a year to clear ... Who knows how long it will take my mind – or anyone’s – to assimilate what has happened.



September 13, 2001: A New York City firefighter looks up at what remains of the South Tower.

friendships. True, it seems ... except for a few – they were among those few.

I was back at the TV. I plopped on the couch. It was 9:15. It was like I was hypnotized, the emotional trauma of world-changing events perceived at an almost subconscious level. In a weird way it was like 1964 and 1968. But no, it was 2001 – the real first year of not only a new century but a new millennium ... 2001, much bigger deal than 1901 ... none like it since 1001 – a thousand-year bookmark on the pages of history. I flashed on the opening scene and chords of Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” – focus, pinhead! This isn’t a movie ... No, it’s TV ... is it real? Yea, but it’s not “Reality TV.” It’s history on TV before it makes the History Station.

I began channel surfing: CNN, MSNBC & CNBC, ABC, NBC, Fox out of D.C., and my favorite news outlet, NWI – News World International. I don’t have much

respect for American media. Odd perhaps, being that I have been a small part of it for over a decade. But it’s the televised media and the major national print outlets and those aspiring to a position there that are the worst whores, tabloid jerks, pseudo journalists ... Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather – the list goes on and expands continuously ad nauseum ... Anyway, the litany of reasons that I distrust and despise the national media goes to the root of my distrust of the way this country operates: The Korean Airliner down in the Sea of Japan after its detour over one of the Soviet Union’s most sensitive military bases as a classified-mission space shuttle passes overhead with a top-secret military spy satellite on board; Ruby Ridge; Waco; Panama; electronic satellite surveillance; is there any way to connect the truths of these situations from the mainstream media coverage of them? Not on a bet, Tom and Dan ... So, I channel surf throughout the morning

of September 11, 2001.

Hijackings? – Duh, you think?? A third plane? Smoke at the Pentagon – and the astute editorial comment on the D.C. Fox affiliate as those first shots of smoke billowing from the Pentagon appeared, “... and this is not a trash fire, people.”

Really? Where do they dig these people up?

The World Trade Center, the Pentagon are in flames! All air traffic to the U.S. being diverted and all planes in the states being brought down. How?

A plane down in the woods of western Pennsylvania. Did they miss Pittsburgh?

“Camp David may have been the target.” Did we shoot it down? What in the hell is going on! How big is this thing? Fifty thousand people work in the World Trade Center ... maybe only 10,000 are trapped, they are saying ... a car bomb reported at the State Department in D.C.? ... a fire in the mall in D.C.? ... the Capitol, the White House evacuated ...

BUT THEN – a huge plume of smoke in lower Manhattan. What the ... !?!

Is there only one building there? It’s gone.

In a panic I look for competent reporting and a familiar voice. CNBC is in lower Manhattan, competent, who knows? Familiar, yes.

“One of the two World Trade Center towers has collapsed,” ... camera across the Hudson River ... lower Manhattan looks like it is on fire ... back to NWI, they had the live feed from a New York City ABC affiliate earlier with the poor guy trapped on the 85th floor because the fire doors locked up, which building was he in? Is he dead? He said things were under control and stabilizing and he was giving directions to where he and one other person were trapped with windows blown out ... the firemen must have been going up ... watching NWI with their main Canadian affiliate as ... the ... second tower collapses from the top down, “Oh my God. Oh my God,” calm but distraught the on-air voice repeats with off-mike yelling and screaming in the background of the station as the North Tower joins its sibling on the ground ... where am I!!!! Two 110-story buildings ... gone ... back to CNBC in New York.

“This is a tragedy of unbeliev-



Stuart and Annie Lee with WC Report national correspondent Paula Conrow, NYC, January 2008.

able proportions ... the markets won’t open today (you think?).”

I watch lower Manhattan from across the Hudson River again. It is totally enshrouded in smoke. Are people suffocating in that? Could you breathe in there? At least the wind is blowing southeast it looks like, not up the island. Did the dust cloud get the 11 blocks north to Walker Street? Could Stuart and Annie keep their windows closed and be OK??

Again try to call for an update on their situation. Nothing, lines clogged as who knows how many people try to make a similar call. The bridges and tunnels are closed in and out of Manhattan, no phones ... worries over truck bombs in Manhattan ... Is that the Pentagon? No, it’s lower Manhattan totally enshrouded in a billowing, white cloud.

The tears I had been holding came and I sobbed with worry for my friends and for my old neighborhood; for 50,000 people I didn’t know; for two buildings that had stood like a magical, surrealistic backdrop to an already magical skyline for nearly 30 years; for the firemen and the cops who went in there trying to get trapped people out ... It’s just enormously, monumentally tragic and screwed up and I don’t feel bad about crying, although I’m glad I was by myself the first time it happened. No, I’m not. I wish to God I’d had somebody to cry with.

And the Pentagon ... having been born in D.C. and raised in Alexandria, the huge, old five-sided building itself, has been a part of my entire life and is part

of some of my earliest, fondest memories of car trips into D.C. with my mother and father.

That it has come to this is tragic in more than the obvious ways. Things will never be the same. A dark thought flashes – a disturbing distraction – is that what it is really all about?

As the day progresses I follow the pending collapse of adjacent buildings, watch ghost-like, dust-covered people stumble, walk calmly with their briefcases or run from the rubble and spreading, spewing cloud that covers lower Manhattan. As the skies over America clear of all air traffic for the first time in the age of air travel, an age that has existed all of my life, I wonder how the next attack will come and who will bring it. Islamic fundamentalists seem the foregone conclusion. It is not long before a specific name, Osama Bin Laden, is linked by the government, through the media, to the attacks. Well, at least it took them longer to pinpoint him than it did to nail poor, old Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963 – never forget history is a series of conspiracies surrounding the acquisition of power and the means to maintain that power.

As the day progressed into night, lower Manhattan took on an eerie look as powerful spotlights bracketed debris and the continually, rising cloud of smoke from fires burning deep within the rubble of 220 stories, estimated at 1.2 million tons of debris that will take a year to clear ...

Who knows how long it will take my mind – or anyone’s – to assimilate what has happened.

rogerb@warrencountyreport.com

Front Royal

Send briefs to Laura at layout@warrencountyreport.com



Glenn White, left, didn't take well to Matt Tederick's description of him as a ringleader of the "anti-progress regime" thwarting increased commercial development in northside shopping centers at Sept. 16 supervisor's meeting. Tederick brought reinforcements that night, fellow former late '90's supervisors James McManaway and Brett Haynes (seated behind Tederick), to urge the board to reappraise its stand with the town to hold the line on a double meals tax on corridor restaurants. Tederick flew solo at the council meeting a week earlier when he berated that body for nefarious, clandestine, conspiratorial maneuvers in the dark to drive away commercial growth. Discussing the situation with this reporter later, Tederick wondered at council's hard line refusal to negotiate with disgruntled northside chain restaurant representatives. Below, first-term Councilman Chris Holloway can hardly look while Tom Sayre seems somewhat bemused by Tederick's lambasting.



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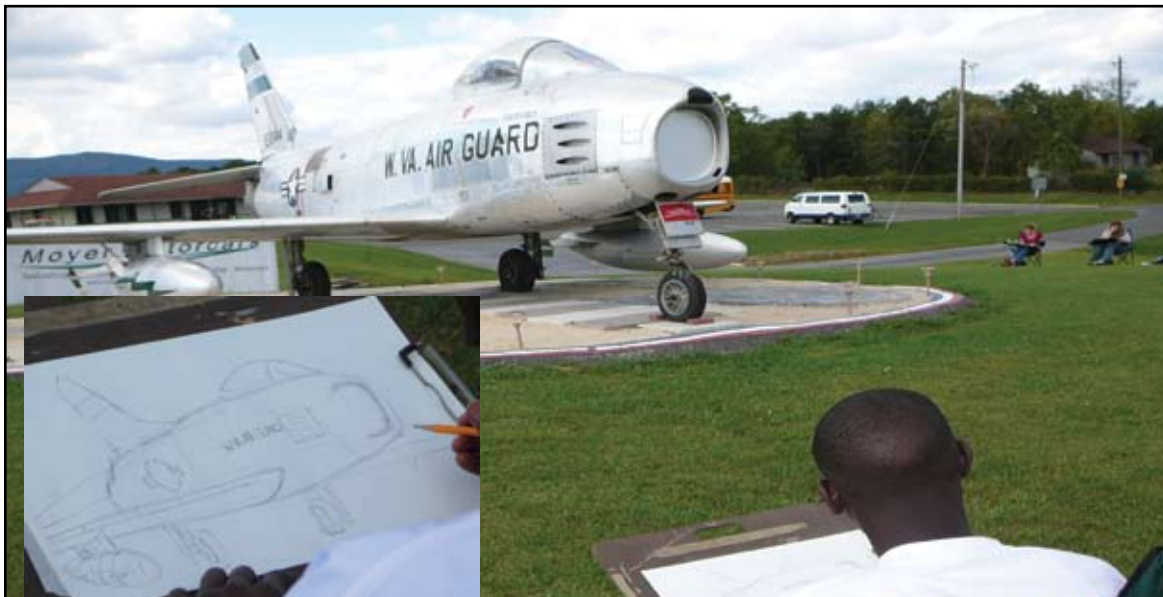
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Send briefs to Laura at layout@warrencountyreport.com

Business



Two days after Howdy's re-dedication ceremony, Jennifer Walker's Art 3 & 4 class from nearby Skyline High School visited the old F-86 war horse to do some sketching. We peered over senior Eric King's shoulder and checked his work - nice job, Eric.

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Elvis is in the house – Rotary going ‘Vegas’ for the kids

‘Viva Las Vegas’ catapults annual fundraising raffle and gaming event



Elvis hits the stage as Front Royal Rotarians find out this year it is “Viva Las Vegas” in annual youth activities fundraising event (see more photos pg 33)

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

It was no staid Friday afternoon luncheon for the Front Royal Rotary on Sept. 12 at the new north-side Holiday Inn Express Banquet

Room.

Well, it may have started a little slow as Rotarians and their guests, not to mention vulture-like media, circled the excellent buffet table and some routine announcements began. But then

to the strains of “Viva Las Vegas,” Elvis – or at least a reasonable local facsimile – entered the building to announce the theme to this year’s annual fundraising event – “\$10,000 Vegas Night.”

That’s right, folks, a 300-1 chance to win \$10,000 in support of Rotary’s annual “Cash Party” fundraising event. As described in this year’s invitation to sponsors, “The Cash Party is one of Front Royal Rotary’s major fundraising events of the year. Proceeds from this event fund many youth related activities including Little League football and baseball, school scholarships, Boy Scouts, 4-H, youth civic organizations and camps.”

This year’s event will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. As always, local businesses and individuals are being asked to help sponsor or contribute to the event. All contributions are tax deductible and help continue a 78-year tradition of Rotary giving back to the community.

For information on sponsorships, contributions or just a line on those highly sought after \$125 raffle tickets, call Co-Event Chairs Kelley Miller at 540 631-4339 or Rick Novak at 540 660-9597.

And with the list of potential youth activity recipients cited above, why not jump on the sponsorship bandwagon? – You’ve probably engaged in one or more of these activities yourself, albeit in your younger days, and your kids (or grandkids, old timer) may be enjoying these social character-building sport and recreational activities to this day. And with the promise, at pretty short odds (300-1), for a \$10,000 comeback, not to mention all the “high stakes” negotiating that goes on as the \$10k main event winds down to its last contenders, it’s a boatload of fun.

Only 300, \$10,000 grand prize raffle tickets will be sold at \$125 a pop, giving participants no worse than that 300-1 shot at the \$10,000 grand prize. In addition

to the 300 raffle tickets, \$50 event tickets are available that will gain admission and access to all the food and beverages that fuel the fun, \$100 in “fun bucks” for casino playing, as well as access to 50/50 raffles, the Golf Grand Slam Auction, Bingo and more.

And who knows, Elvis may even be in the house again – or in this case, the golf club banquet room or pro shop (we actually saw Elvis working on his back swing at the “Vegas Night” kickoff announcement, although it was with his fork, rather than a golf club).

(PS – our Elvis is actually “electrifying” local impersonator Richard Parker)

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In a recent interview Striker said the domestic dispute centered around an extended disagreement between family members that he had not been directly involved in.

Striker appeal

Striker appeals misdemeanor plea agreement conviction

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

How James Douglas "JD" Striker's appeal of a plea agreement conviction to a single misdemeanor charge of reckless handling of a firearm will play out will be determined by the actions of Special Prosecutor Glenn Williamson on the next Warren County Circuit Court term day, Oct. 6.

Striker's attorney Ilona Beatty confirmed she had filed an appeal of the conviction in WC Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in the wake of her client being sentenced to serve 30 days in jail, in addition to the imposition of \$296 fines and court costs. Striker, a 25-year veteran of the Front

Royal Police Department who retired in 2006, has no previous criminal record. With his familiarity with the judicial system from his two and a half decades of law enforcement work, Striker admitted to being surprised when J&D Court Judge Ronald Napier imposed jail time as part of his sentence. Napier sentenced Striker to nine months in jail with eight months suspended. Napier also suspended all but \$200 of a \$1,000 fine he imposed. Striker was also ordered to give up the involved .25-caliber weapon.

Striker's legal problems arose from a domestic incident at his Remount Road home on July 15. Striker was initially charged with a felony count of discharging a firearm in a residence and mis-

demeanor charges of brandishing and reckless handling of a firearm. The incident was reported shortly after 5 p.m.

In a recent interview Striker said the domestic dispute centered around an extended disagreement between family members that he had not been directly involved in. Striker said he fired his pistol from a window into remote woods surrounding his home near the Fauquier border to get his 29-year-old son Brian's attention in an effort to stop him from beating on the window of a van his (JD's) wife had locked herself in, in an attempt to end the disagreement. Striker pointed out the land is agriculturally zoned and there are no nearby residences. He also denied ever

pointing the gun in the direction of his son or the van in which, he pointed out, his wife was at the time the shot was fired.

Beatty said no reason for the appeal of a misdemeanor conviction in lower court is required and no grounds for the appeal need be cited. Beatty appeared for her client at a motions hearing on Sept. 12. She declined to speculate on whether Frederick County Special Prosecutor Glenn Williamson would elect to seek indictments on all the original charges. Williamson was appointed to handle the case due to Striker's past relationship to the local judicial system and its prosecutor's office.

Striker had initially been scheduled to report to Warren County

Jail, then the Frederick County Regional Jail on Sept. 4, to begin serving his sentence following his Aug. 21 plea. Beatty filed her client's appeal Aug. 28. Following imposition of the 30-day sentence, Beatty indicated Striker appeared to be a logical candidate for electronic home incarceration or work release.

Striker ran an unsuccessful campaign for Warren County sheriff in 2003, challenging Sheriff Daniel McEathron and others. McEathron said the decision to incarcerate Striker outside the county to serve his jail time was standard procedure for law enforcement officers in the jurisdiction in which they served.

rogerb@warrencountyreport.com

ARIZONA SONGSTRESS RETURNS TO VIRGINIA

Multi-CD award winning recording artist Vyktoria Pratt Keating brings her luminous voice and artful guitar work to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for 3 shows in October. Friday October 3rd, she will perform at The Lucky Star Lounge in Front Royal from 8-11pm, on Thursday October 9th catch her at The Irish Isle in Middletown from 7-10pm, and on Friday October 10th, Vyktoria plays an early show at Rae's Place in Sperryville from 6-8:30pm, after which she returns to The Lucky Star to make a guest appearance with local favs "Eye Soar" later that same night.



Vyktoria Pratt Keating

Originally from Washington DC, Keating lived in Sperryville, VA for many years, performing music in the small towns around the Blue Ridge. In 1999 she moved to Arizona and has since made the Sedona area her home, performing shows mainly out west.

In her 20 year music career, Vyktoria has performed in 46 states and the UK, released 6 CDs and won numerous awards. In 1999 she opened 42 shows for rock legends Jethro Tull, and her songs have appeared on 2 compilations CDs with Dave Matthews and other artists. She is currently promoting her newest CD, "Things That Fall From The Sky" produced by Tull keyboardist Andrew Giddings.

Her original music is quite progressive and covers a variety of unusual topics such as The Face on Mars, Black Helicopters, Exopolitics, Mutating Frogs, EVP, Ghosts, UFOs, Astrology etc. She will be performing her original songs plus a variety of celtic and acoustic rock tunes at the shows.

As one reviewer put it, "her brand of mulder-delic, swan-o-phonic ghost operatics doesn't show up in these parts very often..." (Flagstaff Live) Indeed it does not ... so come on out to her shows an experience some truly unique and thoughtful music.

For more info on Vyktoria and her music see www.vyktoria.com and www.paranormalmusic.com
FRIDAY, OCT 3rd - Lucky Star Lounge 8-11pm 540-635-5297 Front Royal VA
THUR, OCT 9th - Irish Isle 7-10pm 540-868-9877 Middletown VA
FRIDAY OCT 10th Rae's Place 6-8:30pm 540-987-3335 Sperryville VA



WCHS Sweeney Shiflett Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Robert Mason, former Lady 'Cat softball coach, tells fellow inductees Robert Green and Sam Haley, pictured, along with Irvin Grant what a credit they were to their school both on and off the playing field. Sweeney Shiflett, center, who lured Mason into coaching Wildcat softball and for whom the Hall of Fame is named, is an interested observer at pre-game induction ceremony on Sept. 12. The Wildcat gridiron team finished the evening in style by defeating R-MA 25-13, to raise their season record to 2-1 (see related story pg 25)

Schools

"After listening to all that's been said I feel like a chicken in a voodoo convention – I don't know which way to run." – Larry Andrews on pros and cons of second school bond issue

Vote on old WCHS bond issue delayed till Sept. 29

Economic variables, interest rate implications delay approval



Don't bury my alma mater on Prospect Hill may be the refrain of graduates supporting renovation of 68-year old WCHS for future use as a modernized middle school.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

At least there was no booing, hissing and spitting at supporters of a potential \$30.15 million bond issue to facilitate the start of Phase Two of the Warren County Public School 20-year capital improvement plan at a Sept. 16 public hearing before the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

My how things have changed.

In the early 1990's as a \$26-million bond issue was sought to build a new 1,600-student Warren County High School complex eerily similar in design to the \$43 million Skyline High School that opened in 2007, placard waving public hearing opponents demanding no new taxes, many from the home-schooling community greeted both students and teachers citing the need for a more modern facility with the above mentioned array of verbal and excretory salutations.

And while a number of opponents of authorizing a new public school bond issue cited the

multiple financial responsibilities of home-schooling parents, the guidance of prayer, or a desire to not see real estate taxes raised even one penny – they were very polite in expressing that opposition.

In all the board heard from 19 public hearing speakers. The breakdown was 12 in favor, seven opposed to a 20 to 25-year payoff of approximately \$1.55 million annually to cover the cost of renovating the old, now vacant WCHS for conversion into a middle school. A number of supporters were current and past school board members or administrators, though one former school board member, Larry Andrews, spoke against proceeding with the project as proposed.

Points

Andrews, like several other opponents, said they did not oppose public school capital improvements on principal, but rather questioned the method of approval, the accuracy of cost

estimates and advisability of architectural designs from outside sources.

"After listening to all that's been said I feel like a chicken in a voodoo convention – I don't know which way to run," Andrews said in the colorful, homespun style that endears him to listeners regardless of which way he runs on an issue.

Andrews cited the inflationary trend that almost invariably brings such projects in above cost estimates. He also suggested tapping into the local community for voluntarism and expertise in various aspects of planning, design and construction before hiring an outside architect or engineer. "I think I heard a one or two cent tax increase in the next couple years. Are we going to have to lay off Doug Stanley or Blair Mitchell?" Andrews said with a nod to the county administrator and attorney. Later Andrews joked as to whether the county had a witness protection program he could enter following his stance.

"I share the thoughts of the

woman who spoke before me," Manuel Vincente said of Kathleen George's reasons for opposing the bond issue. "It sounds like my wife. My wife is not here. She is doing some night prayers ... we have prayed for you," Vincente told the board, acknowledging the difficulty of their job.

George, who said she home schooled her eight children, said that while "all education is important," suggested seeking "another way."

"The middle class is disappearing ... you don't have to tax us. Save money rather than borrow it," George said in support of an outright payment of the estimated \$27 million to \$30 million cost. George opposed "saddling future generations" with a debt payment.

On the economic front, a number of opponents cited the unsettled U.S. economy and its implications on not only the ability of citizens to support any tax increase, but the very stability of the financial institutions that support such bond issues.

"The mortgage industry is collapsing. The people who insure these bonds are going out of business. AIG, the biggest, may be out of business tomorrow," Dan Enrico said, referencing the plight of the nation's largest worldwide investment institution (the fed-

eral reserve bank stepped in to save AIG, at least short-term the following day).

Counterpoints

However, several supporters suggested the tightening economic climate could help bring the project in at a lower cost due to the more competitive "buyer's market" on construction projects.

"The economy will make construction costs more competitive in the bids we get, unlike the new high school construction (out to bid in 2004-05) This is being done in a different economic environment," former Front Royal vice mayor and county school board chairman Tim Darr said.

Having read a letter of support from Warren County Sheriff Daniel McEathron earlier, WCSO Capt. Jay Cornett returned to speak for himself.

"I don't have a problem paying taxes, what I have a problem with is letting the schools go and paying more later. Hit us with it now," Cornett said in reactions to calls for delays.

"Taxes are what fund county services and capital improvements ... I urge you to move forward for the county as a whole, rather than in a way some special interest group wants," McEathron

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“The mortgage industry is collapsing. The people who insure these bonds are going out of business. AIG, the biggest, may be out of business tomorrow.” – bond opponent Dan Enrico on economic dangers to long-term bonds

Prospect Hill

stated in his letter read by Cornett. A new public safety building and jail are among the next prioritized capital improvement projects on the county’s “honey-do” list.

School Board member and county Commission of the Revenue assessor Roy Boyles compared Warren’s 45-cent real estate tax rate to rates in the 60 to 70 cent range in surrounding communities.

Following the public hearing several supervisors reacted to what they had heard.

Saddled?

Glenn White stated that rather than “saddle” future generations with long term bond payments, such 20 to 30-year payment periods stretched the cost out to the future generations that would continue to use the facilities they were paying for. White said it

made no sense to saddle one generation with the entire cost of a project designed to serve a community for 20 to 30 years or longer.

Linda Glavis pointed out that while the bond issue was for “up to \$30.15 million,” that was a maximum figure and did prevent the county from achieving a lower cost.

Both White and Richard Traczyk pointed out that while the bond issue would require identifying a 2-cent funding source to cover the payment period that did not mandate a tax increase. Rather, an expanded commercial tax base, saving in other departments or some other yet identified variable could account for that revenue. A two-cent tax increase may eventually fund the bond payment but that is not written in stone, Traczyk said.

In a prepared statement Traczyk also said the county had been

exceptionally fiscally responsible in financing its capital improvement needs while maintaining the sound financial footing that has maintained an excellent bond rating, making favorable interest rates available.

“Mr. Chairman, I am determined not to allow Warren County to return to the Dark Ages. I am supporting this motion,” Traczyk said, echoing what appeared to be the unanimous consensus of his colleagues.

With a number of variables cited by bond consultants Ted Cole and Dan Siegel of Davenport & Co., the Richmond firm that helped the county through its \$89 million bond issue to build two new high schools and renovate Bing Crosby Stadium, the board unanimously voted to delay action until a Special Meeting called for 9 a.m., Monday, Sept. 29.

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WCHS welcomes new hall of fame inductees



Left to Right: Robert Green, Sam Haley, Mr. Shiflett, Irvin Grant, Bob Mason and Charlie Dodge

The Warren County High School-Lawrence Sweeney Shiflett Athletic Hall of Fame committee is proud to announce the Class of 2008. Induction ceremony will be held on September 12, 2008 during halftime of the RMA vs. WCHS varsity football game (in Wildcat Stadium).

Robert E. “Bob” Mason—WCHS Head Softball Coach: Graduate from the University of South Carolina. Earned a BS/MA in Secondary Education and Geography, Taught at WCHS from 1976 to 2008, Coached varsity football, middle school football,

middle school basketball and softball. Coached WCHS softball team for over 26 years. Teams won back to back Group AA State Softball Championships in 1984 & 1985. During his tenure he was honored as the Virginia High School Coach of the Year, National Association Region II Coach of the Year, VHSCA All Star game coach, and nominated for the National Coach of the Year. Compiled over 297 wins in Wildcat softball.

Charles T. Dodge—WCHS Head Wrestling Coach from 1986 to 1999 : Referred to as the “Fa-

ther” of Warren County Wrestling, Developed a middle school wrestling program, little league wrestling program, and helped to establish Massanutten Matmen Wrestling Club. Established and ran summer wrestling camps for youth. During his tenure, he coached 16 district champions, 5 regional champions, 24 all-region wrestlers, and 13 all-state wrestlers. Dodge finished his career with 116 team wins.

Robert L. Green—Athlete—’81: Starred for the Wildcats in Football and Baseball. ’79 & ’80 1st team All District, All Area, Most Valuable Player Football--’80 & ’81 1st team All District (All Area, Most Valuable Player, Northern Virginia Daily, Most Outstanding Athlete Award): Held the career rushing record for over 24 years. Baseball—1st Team All District, All Area, and All Region. Three-year letter winner in Football and Baseball. Attended James Madison University.

Samuel Haley, Jr.—Athlete—’82. Starred for the Wildcats in Baseball, Basketball, and Football, Named All District numerous times, All State in baseball (’82) as shortstop; Attended Appalachian State University and was drafted in the 3rd round by the Seattle

Mariners, played in Mariners’ organization for 4 years & traded to Montreal Expos organization and played for two years (Class A).

Irvin Grant—Athlete—’85: Starred for Wildcats in Track & Field. 4 yr. Letter winner, WCHS Pole Vault Record Holder, 6th at Jr. Olympics Nationals, 2x Northwestern District Pole Vault Champion, VHSL Group AA State Pole Vault Champion, National High School Track & Field All-American Honorable Mention. Attended NC State (Track & Field Scholarship—vaulted 15’7” injured--then transferred) and George Mason University ’91—Finance.

Former Classes of WCHS/Lawrence Shiflett Athletic Hall of Fame

Class of 2002: Lawrence “Sweeney” Shiflett—Coach, Athlete, Contributor

Class of 2003: Donald Henry ’58, Kelly Tharpe Martin ’85, Darrell Whitmore ’87, Estle Miers—Coach

Class of 2004: Malcolm Eugene Kendall ’58, Michael Love ’71, Dana Allison ’85, C. Yates Hall—Coach

Class of 2005: John Marlow ’57, Jim Cameron ’67, Francis Brooks, Jr. ’68, Sonja

Osbourn ’79, Warren Miller--Contributor

Class of 2006: Ricky Leonard ’76, Robbi Moose ’95, Brandie Dodson ’96, Jim Moose—Coach

Class of 2007: C. Lynwood Athey ’55, William N. Wood, Jr. ’67, Henry J. Owens III ’71, C. Russell ’87, John Blanton--Contributor

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Shenandoah Commons Apartments	:38 :38	8:38-11:38 / 1:08-4:08
Royal Plaza	:45 :15	8:45-11:45 / 1:15-4:15
Northwestern Community Services	:51 :21	8:51-11:51 / 1:21-4:21
Royal Arms Apartments	:54 :24	8:54-11:54 / 1:24-4:24
Gateway Plaza / Food Lion	:56 :26	8:56-11:56 / 1:26-4:26
Visitor's Center	:00 :30	9:00 - 12:00 / 1:30-4:30
Warren County Government Center	:03 :33	9:03-12:03 / 1:33-4:33
Park Department / Youth Center	:06 :36	9:06-12:06 / 1:36-4:36
Department of Social Services	:07 :37	9:07-12:07 / 1:37-4:37
13th Street & Belmont Avenue	:11 :41	9:11-12:11 / 1:41-4:41
17th Street & Belmont Avenue	:12 :42	9:12-12:12 / 1:42-4:42
Senior Center	:16 :46	9:16-12:16 / 1:46-4:46
Warren Memorial Hospital	:18 :48	9:18-12:18 / 1:48-4:48
Kendrick Avenue Apartments	:21 :51	9:21-12:21 / 1:51-4:51
The Family Store	:23 :53	9:23-12:23 / 1:53-4:53
Samuels Library	:26 :56	9:26-12:26 / 1:56-4:56
Warren County Courthouse	:28 :58	9:28-12:28 / 1:58-4:58
Visitor's Center	:00 :30	9:30-12:30 / 2:00-5:00

Saturday service

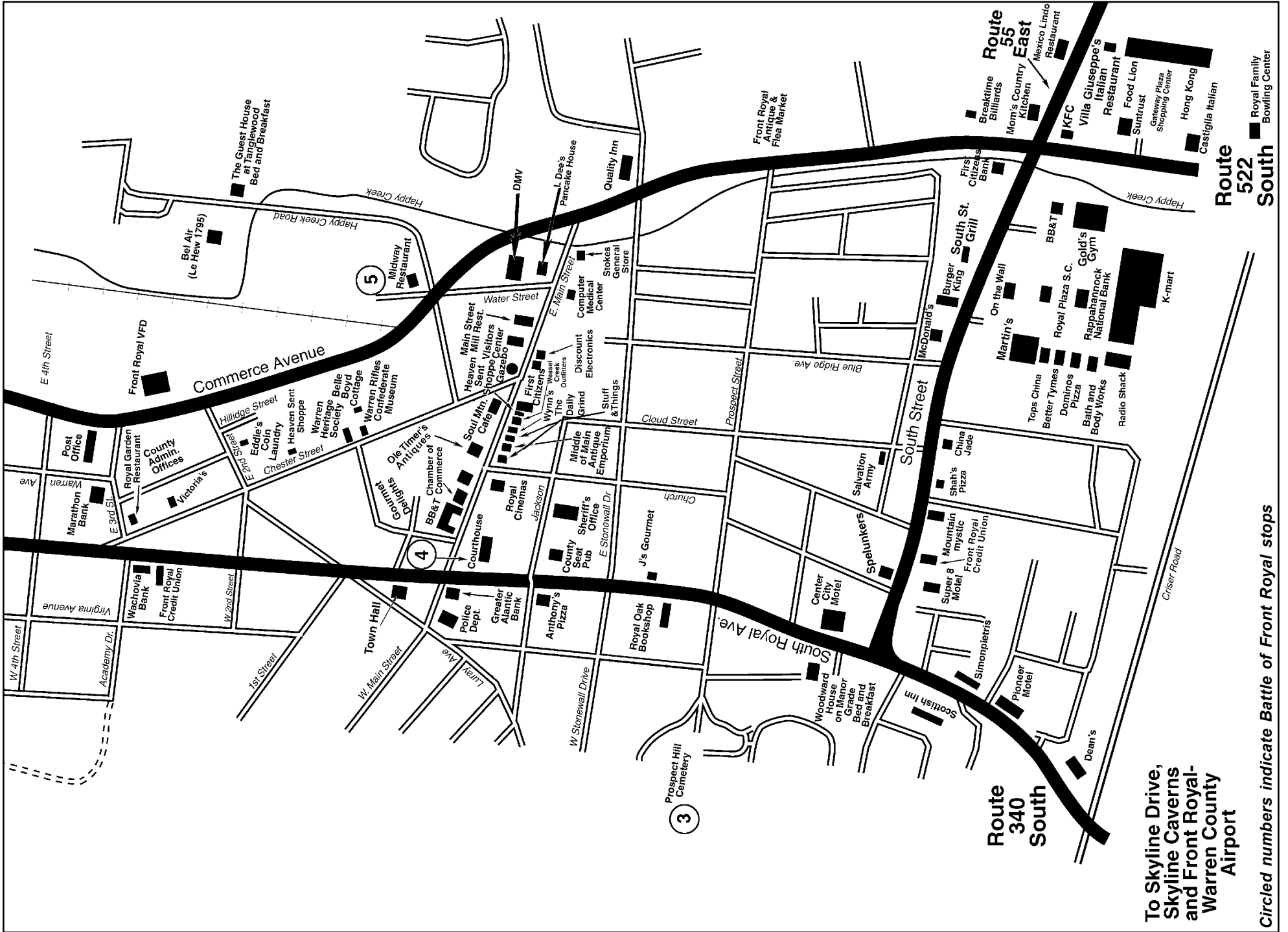
RMA Circle	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30
Subway	1:03	1:33	2:03	2:33	3:03	3:33	4:03	4:33	5:03	5:33
Warren Theater	1:07	1:37	2:07	2:37	3:07	3:37	4:07	4:37	5:07	5:37
Visitor's Center	1:08	1:38	2:08	2:38	3:08	3:38	4:08	4:38	5:08	5:38
Bowling Alley	1:14	1:44	2:14	2:44	3:14	3:44	4:14	4:44	5:14	5:44
Gateway Plaza	1:16	1:46	2:16	2:46	3:16	3:46	4:16	4:46	5:16	5:46
Royal Plaza	1:22	1:52	2:22	2:52	3:22	3:52	4:22	4:52	5:22	5:52
Warren Theater	1:26	1:56	2:26	2:56	3:26	3:56	4:26	4:56	5:26	5:56
RMA Circle	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00

Sunday service

RMA Circle	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00	6:00
Subway	1:03	2:03	3:03	4:03	5:03	
Warren Theatre	1:08	2:08	3:08	4:08	5:08	
Visitor's Center	1:10	2:10	3:10	4:10	5:10	
Bowling Alley	1:16	2:16	3:16	4:16	5:16	
Gateway Plaza	1:18	2:18	3:18	4:18	5:18	
Royal Plaza	1:22	2:22	3:22	4:22	5:22	
Target	1:40	2:40	3:40	4:40	5:40	
Samuels Library	1:53	2:53	3:53	4:53	5:53	
RMA	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00	6:00	

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Front Royal

"I'm sorry if anyone paid an assessment before – that is what tax money is for ... I'll vote against it and never change my mind." – Chris Holloway on assessments against property owners for town curb and gutter work

Council spars with staff, self and former supervisor

Cherrydale curb fees nixed, Sayre peeved, Tederick fires away



Shae Parker appears skeptical of Town Manager Michael Graham's explanation of "foreign growth" as part of a high grass ordinance.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

Before we get into all the cat fighting at the Sept. 8 Front Royal Town Council meeting, there was one moment of unanimity that led to some heartfelt tears of gratitude. Those tears were shed by Leslie Gardner after council unanimously approved a conditional use permit request allowing her House of Hope Men's Homeless Shelter to expand into a vacant church next door to its Warren Avenue location.

The shelter has had a rocky history, which peaked with some pointed criticism of its intent to relocate into a building at the intersection of Chester and 2nd Street adjacent to E. Wilson Mor-

ison Elementary School. That proposal led to some parents sounding an alarm about homeless men living in close proximity to school children and counter accusations of class profiling.

"For 32 months we have operated in Front Royal on a wish and

a prayer," Gardner told council.

"But we are an asset to your community. [Homelessness] is happening all over the country ... not just Front Royal and Warren County ... I ask you to please vote yes."

Gardner said the permit allow-

ing the shelter to expand its maximum occupancy to 20, with an additional 14 in the church would help the facility qualify for HUD "Get them off the street" grants. Gardner and one tenant-manager were emotional in thanking council after its unanimous vote

approving the rezoning. Gardner said the houses should be brought into compliance for the lodging facility use in both buildings by Dec. 6.

With the niceties out of the way, council got testy on a number of fronts.

Tom Sayre resurrected his recent scathing criticism of Town Attorney Tom Robinett for what the councilman alleges was a failure to keep council abreast of the Virginia Municipal League's decision to withdraw the town as a defendant in the suit to vacate a portion of Mary's Shady Lane's current right of way and extend the road about a mile eastward. Robinett listened impassively to his public flogging.

The lawsuit by the property owner, Front Royal Limited Partnership, seeks to divert the dirt road right of way from its intersection with Happy Creek Road, to a location about a mile eastward at Shenandoah Shores Road. The proposed realignment would perhaps ironically run just north of Sayre's property and family home.

On Sept. 16, Judge Dennis L. Hupp set trial dates of April 21-22 to hear the case. Nineteen of about 180 individual residential property owners and attorney for neighboring Millennium Lotus were present to state their intent to fight the realignment. While all the residents, save one home on the 90-acre Millennium Lotus property, are county residents, the realignment only involves town property, crossing one utility line right of way.

Sayre also attempted to get a revote on imposing a 50-percent cost sharing assessment on Cher-



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Front Royal



Was Tom Robinett humming “Why can’t we be friends, why can’t we be friends” at recent council work session?

rydale Avenue property owners for curb and gutter improvements scheduled to begin the next day. The previous council voted to allow up to 50 percent assessments to property owners but by only a 3-2 majority. That vote was less than the required 2/3’s majority to impose such financial obligations.

“It is my hope and my prayer” that we can get a 4-2 vote, Sayre said.

First, newly elected Councilman Chris Holloway argued against a revote.

“As Councilman Sayre said – that was a previous council. This is a different council. I don’t think their should be an assessment on curb and gutter work on town property. I’m sorry if anyone paid an assessment before – that is what tax money is for.” Holloway pointed out that in the Cherrydale neighborhood such an assessment would be a severe burden on many homeowners. “I’ll vote against it and never change my mind,” Holloway concluded.

Town Manager Graham dis-

puted Sayre’s contention that some residents who had paid for curb and gutter improvements during the “great sidewalk sale” of 2003-2005 when the town offered reduced cost sharing rates had never gotten their improvements.

Asked to provide a name of the person he alleged contacted him about such a scenario of payment without improvements, Sayre declined, saying he did not have permission to make the person’s name public.

Vice Mayor Hrbek reiterated his stance against such assessments and suggested council authorize the town manager to allow the work to begin on schedule without assessments.

However, Sayre argued that a full council should be allowed to decide the issue. – “I think it’s a power grab. Two members are holding council hostage,” he said. Parker, who held Sayre’s hope of a potential fourth yes vote then ended the discussion.

“I wouldn’t vote for the assessment, so it’s a moot point,” Parker said.

After Sayre’s motion to bring the matter back before council failed by a 5-1 vote, Sayre and Robinett had a meeting of the minds. Responding to a question, the town attorney said, “The way I read it is the assessment is dead if you vote against bringing it to the floor tonight.”

“I agree with that assessment,” Sayre quipped.

Prior to adjourning to, of all things, a closed session, council got an earful from former county supervisor Matt Tederick. Tederick blasted council for continuing the hard line policy of refusal to reconsider or negotiate it’s inclusion of meals tax as part of the Route 522 Corridor Agreement. In his colorful and passionate style Tederick announced the formation of a “grass roots group” – “Save Our Shopping Centers” – to lobby local government to address northside chain restaurants’ complaints about inclusion of a 4-percent meals tax among the PILOT fees tied to the agreement (see related photos page 18).

September

Joyful songs we sing
Of October’s beauty,
But, between the time
Of summer’s play
And Autumn’s harvest
Lies September,
Quietly creating seeds,
Still as a meadow at dusk,
Finalizing as a bedtime prayer
Of gratitude and tears.

By: Carol Toba

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Front Royal Police Chief Ronnie Williamson has made it official - he will retire after 27 years on the police force in his hometown, the last three as chief, effective Dec. 1. Williamson has been dropping hints he might retire when he reached the age and service time that would allow it. We will explore the popular chief's perspective on his career, law enforcement and hopes for the future of the force, including the elevation of Capt Richard Furr who will take over as interim chief, as his permanent replacement from within the department, in an upcoming issue. Don't tell Ronnie's wife Crystal, but Mandy has been moping around the station house ever since she heard the news.



A wide variety of wines are available at J's Gourmet on South Royal Avenue in Front Royal. See story pg. 9.

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Community

Front Royal Kiwanis Club donates to Samuel's Public Library



The Samuel's Library Foundation Board is pleased to announce the donation of \$10,000 from the Front Royal Kiwanis Club. "The foundation Board is thrilled to have such a pace setting contribution from a service club" said Jorie Martin, Foundation President.

An emphasis of service for the Kiwanis Club is the "Young Children Priority One Program" which highlights the special needs of children from pre-natal development to age 5. In keeping with this focus the Front Royal Kiwanis Club has directed this donation to fund the Children's Reference Desk and the pre- K reading area in the new library.

The name Kiwanis comes from an old Indian word Nunc Kee which means "we share our talents" and the motto for Kiwanis is "we serve." "The library project certainly meets all that the Kiwanis Club represents" stated Mary Ellen South, Priority One Chairperson, Jorie Martin agrees" the Kiwanis is building a better community by laying the foundation not only with bricks and mortar but also starting young children on the path to success and we are very grateful for their gift".

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Saints at the ranch

Live auction bidding will include the fine array of original art, not to mention two items directly tied to the evening's Western theme. Those are a six-month-old, registered red dun stud colt quarter horse valued at \$2,500 being donated by a real live local cowboy; and a 5-day trip to the Bar Ranch in Wyoming valued at \$5,000 ... For more information ... call Fundraising Committee Chairman Debbie Llewellyn at 636-6606

'Saints at the Ranch' community clinic fundraiser

More than ever St. Luke's Community Clinic needs your help



Fundraising Committee Chairman Debbie Llewellyn, left, and St. Luke's Executive Director Joan Richardson support the coming fundraising auction - literally - displaying one of the original watercolors being offered, "September Apiaries" by Dr. Irani.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

It's always good to have an angel on your shoulder and next week, Saturday, Sept. 27th to be precise, local individuals and businesses will have the opportunity to, if not be elevated to immediate sainthood, assume the role of angels within our community at the "Saints at the Ranch" fundraiser at the Oakland Farm of Jeff and Sondra LeHew on Ashby Station Road.

Maintaining the financial viability of St. Luke's Community Clinic may be even more important this year than others. As the annual western-themed fundraiser approaches, recent statistics show the number of new patients taken at the clinic in eight months this year has already risen by 308 (to 716) over last year's to-

tal of 408 new patients. The clinic has also already seen 42 more patients (2,675) this year than in all of 2007.

"This is not surprising given the job market, not to mention the increase in the cost of health insurance," St. Luke's Executive Director Joan Richardson says. "The average annual family premium for health care coverage in 2007 was about \$12,000. Someone supporting themselves and their family through minimum wage employment only grossed \$10,712 in 2007. The clinic is a free clinic because our patients cannot afford to pay for health care. We depend a great deal on community support and fundraising. Saints at the Ranch is an important event for us. The dollars brought in through the event all go towards patient care. In 2006 it was estimated that about

6,000 Warren County residents were uninsured and had incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic is proud to serve approximately 45 percent of those individuals."

These statistics may reflect more than a local trend as an increasing number of Americans nationwide find themselves and their families without health care insurance coverage and in dire financial straits in trying to cover escalating medical and prescription drug costs out of pocket.

As an acknowledgment of not only that increased need, but also the tight economic climate in which this disturbing trend is occurring, organizers of this year's St. Luke's Community Clinic Fundraiser are lowering the cost of participating, while seeking increased donations of auction items from contributors that may help stimulate participants to come off some of that extra change jingling in their pockets.

Previously tickets have been \$150 per couple. This year tickets are an all-time bargain at \$50 per person. A Western-themed meal catered by the Apple House; and for those of you tired of going so "Western" as to be balancing your meal on your knees as you sit on hay bales, this year there will be seating at tables for your dining ease and pleasure - or you can continue to rough it on the hay bales if you like.

The price of admission will also give you the opportunity to bid, both silent and open - we can hear auctioneer Tom Eshelman tuning up those vocal chords already. Silent auction items will include flower arrangements, quilts and other donated items. Live auction bidding will include

the fine array of original art, not to mention two items directly tied to the evening's Western theme. Those are a six-month-old, registered red dun stud colt quarter horse valued at \$2,500 being donated by a real live local cowboy and a 5-day trip to the Bar Ranch in Wyoming valued at \$5,000.

Door prizes will also be given every half hour throughout the evening to a backdrop of the type of country entertainment and dancing in the light of an old-fashioned bonfire that draws people back year after year.

Drew Boies, the aforementioned local cowboy donating his colt, will perform fancy, trick roping and Donna McEathron will offer a groundwork demonstration with her horse, Nick.

Entertainment will be provided by local guitarist, singer-songwriter Danny Schneible, whose repertoire includes folk and Irish; and Kevin and Lucille Ball - no, not that red-headed one. Kevin and Lucille's band of classic and blues-based rock is called Medicine Wind.

For more information on the clinic, its work and the event, you may contact St. Luke's Executive Director Joan Richardson, 540 636-4325 ext. 221, or call Fundraising Committee Chairman Debbie Llewellyn at 636-6606 for info on participating in this great event as a donor or bidder - we know there's an old cowpoke stuck in there just waiting to get out, along with that angel wanting to help one of the most worthy of our local community operations!!!

St. Luke's Community Clinic opened its doors 13 years ago. The clinic was originally located in the basement of Marlow Heights Baptist Church, was located for a time on North Shenandoah Avenue across from Warren Memorial Hospital and is now housed at 316 North Royal Avenue, where it has been since 2004. Founding members Rev. Tom Ryan and Dr. Irani remain on the clinic board of directors. In fact, one of Dr. Irani's original watercolors, "September Apiaries," will be available for bid at auction on Sept. 27.



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Community



Dining room at Element (see related story page 9).



Elvis practices his backswing after multiple trips through the buffet line - slow down, El, that can't be good for your heart (see related story on pg 20)



"Vegas Night" co chairs Kelley Miller and Rick Novak flank Elvis in asking YOU to help sponsor this year's "\$10,000 Vegas Night raffle and party fundraiser. (see related story on pg 20)

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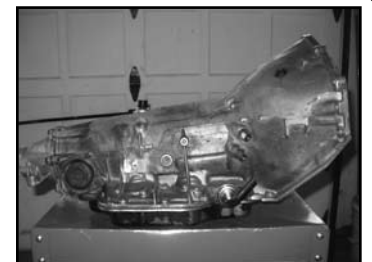
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Community



U.S. Customs dogs were unfazed by the pared back crowd, performing and mingling with open house attendees (see related story on 14)



It was just an empty stage as the planned hometown girl, Nashville country singer Laura Sullivan concert was cancelled. Since she was home, Laura planned a free concert that evening at the Warren County Fairgrounds, though late afternoon thunderstorms threatened that event as well. (see related story on 14)

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Haskins believed simply that sports at its core should be a meritocracy: the wacky concept that the best five players belonged on the court, color be damned.

Glory Road

Dave Zirin: When Bear's Die...

UTEP's coaching legend had a simple philosophy



Don Haskins

By Dave Zirin
(Reprinted by permission of the author)

The death of Don Haskins would make news throughout the sports world, even if all he ever did was coach college basketball. The grizzled coyote hunter, known as “the Bear,” enjoyed a Hall of Fame career, after all, winning 719 games at Texas El Paso including the 1966 NCAA championship, when UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso) was known as Texas Western.

But the passing of Haskins has received notice well beyond the sports page. His 1966 squad was the first all-African-American starting lineup to win the NCAA championship. On that day in

Maryland's Cole Field House, the Miners of Texas Western dominated Adolph Rupp's all-white Kentucky Wildcats. It's a game that has only grown in stature over time, the Selma bridge march of the sports world, in which the struggle for civil rights played itself out on the hardwood. Disney even turned that championship season into the 2006 film *Glory Road*, and in 2007, the entire team was enshrined in the basketball Hall of Fame.

But Don Haskins was not any kind of civil rights agitator. No one would confuse the Bear with John Lewis; he wasn't facing hoses and dogs for his troubles. Haskins believed simply that sports at its core should be a meritocracy: the wacky concept that the best five

players belonged on the court, color be damned. Hardly a radical notion, but then again neither is the desire to not sit on the back of the bus.

I spoke with Rus Bradburd, Haskins's assistant for eight years at UTEP and the author of *Paddy on the Hardwood*, who put it this way: “Haskins was an agent for social change. But he was an accidental agent, an accidental hero--not the *Glory Road* bulls--t--was a lot more interesting than the movie version.”

The real Haskins could be cantankerous, ornery and “a walking Merle Haggard song,” in the words of his biographer Dan Wetzel. In other words, neither he nor his salty vocabulary was made for Disney. He stressed de-

fense above all else, and insisted that his players function with a discipline and absence of showmanship that fit their name: the Miners.

Former team captain Steve Yellen told me, “The first day of practice, October 15, 1977, I was a cocky freshman from New York. No one told me that I wasn't supposed to talk back to Coach. I dribbled the ball between my legs and it hit my heel and went flying out of bounds. I felt the wrath of the great Haskins for the first time. ‘Take that crap back home to Chicago little man!’ I was angry and yelled back at him I'm not from Chicago, I'm from New Yawk, running back down the court. I didn't dribble between my legs again until spring of my senior year and I didn't talk back again until I graduated. We became best of friends. He was one of the great characters ever to walk the earth.”

It's a tough image for many progressives to get their heads around: a coach who cared about little more than coaching, who wanted his players to conform to a very conservative conception of what basketball should be, who thought players had to adjust to him, not the other way around. A “civil rights pioneer” who gave very little thought to civil rights; a trailblazer who never left El Paso. “Only in America” is a silly cliché, but those three words keep returning to my mind: Haskins wanted his sport to live up to the promise of the meritocracy, the promise of the level playing field. But actually it was in spite of America. Trying to put the abstract notion of equality into practice was and remains a radical concept. You don't need a PhD to grasp it, only a moral compass that values humanity over the expediency of prejudice.

As Yellen wrote to me, “When I saw Coach a couple weeks ago, his health was taking a turn for the worse, but still sharp of mind till the end, he winked at me and said, ‘Been a helluva run, eh?’ There never has been one like him and there will never be one

like him again.”

[Dave Zirin is the author of “A People's History of Sports in the United States” (The New Press) Receive his column every week by emailing dave@edgeofsports.com. Contact him at edgeofsports@gmail.com.]

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Join Us In Helping Wftr-am 1450 Celebrate The Big 60

In 1948, The Front Royal/Warren County Chamber of Commerce and area businesses saw the need for a local radio station and from those discussions, WFTR was born. WFTR-AM 1450 will be celebrating 60 years of service to Front Royal and Warren County on Friday, September 19th with a free community party from 10am until 4pm at the radio station on Elm Street in Front Royal. The public is invited to attend this free event. There will be games for the kids, tours of the radio station, some free food from The Apple House and more.

Tradefest 2008 – A Huge Success

Tradefest 2008 held on September 9 & 10 at the Holiday Inn & Suites was a fantastic event! Special thanks goes to the entire staff of Blue Ridge Shadows, Holiday Inn & Suites, and Houlihan's – they all did a wonderful job! With over 70 vendors and 500+ attendees this year's Tradefest was a HUGE success!

Brown Bag Luncheon Series Continues

Gerry Maiatico, Warren County Department of Fire & Rescue Services will present "Protecting Your Business" on Wednesday, September 24th at Noon at the Chamber office. Bring your lunch and spend an hour learning how to make sure your business and employees are protected. RSVP to 635-3185 or hgrimsley@frontroyalchamber.com. Seating is limited.

Legislative Preview

Join us on Tuesday, September 23rd at Noon at the Warren County Government Center for our Legislative Preview Luncheon. Delegate Clay Athey and Senator Mark Obenshain will be on-hand to discuss their plans for the upcoming legislative sessions and to take questions from the audience. This is your opportunity to communicate your thoughts and concerns to our elected state officials. Lunch is provided. Cost to attend is \$10 for Chamber Members/\$20 for Non-Members. RSVP to 635-3185 or hgrimsley@frontroyalchamber.com. Sponsored by Allegheny Power.

Job Fair 2008

Are you looking for employees? Join us at the Blue Ridge Arts Council, 305 E. Main Street, on Wednesday, October 22 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. for Job Fair 2008, this dynamic community event brings employers and job seekers face to face. The \$125 (chamber members) or \$175 (non-members) registration fee will include a table, advertising for the event, and a light lunch. For more information or to register, call 635-3185 or email hgrimsley@frontroyalchamber.com.

Member News

Downtown Front Royal, Inc. (DFR) is pleased to announce that the fall Dancin Downtown will be held on Saturday, September 20. The event will be held in the Gazebo area from 5:00pm -10:00pm. Opening performances will begin at 5pm with the music of Tom Fitzgerald. Tom will perform until 6:30. We encourage you to bring the children for some fun activities including face painting, a sluicin' station and VIPS will be on hand offering

kids fingerprinting. Last Chance will be our featured entertainment from 7pm until 10pm. Last Chance is a new, high powered, modern radio-friendly rock band based in northern Virginia. A compilation of former 80's & 90's veteran rockers from bands such as Fanatix, Nasty Habits, Magnum Jack, Ambush, Fell Danger, Blackmail, Rampage, & Kings Ransom, they have played hundreds of large & small venues over the years, sharing the stage with many national acts. Their music list includes songs from such groups as Three Days Grace, Green Day, Velvet Revolver, Seether, Def Leppard, and Foo Fighters. For a more complete song list, you can go to their website at www.LastChanceRox.com and listen to samples of their music. The Village Commons as well as the intersection of Main and Chester Streets will be blocked to traffic beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday the 6th, to make room for beverage and food vendors, and a dance area. General admission of \$5.00 per person will be collected at several gates in the area. Children 12 and under will be admitted free. Youths 15 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you wish to drink, beer admission is \$10.00 per person and includes your general admission, an armband, a souvenir cup & 1 beer ticket. Additional beer tickets can be purchased throughout the evening for \$4.00 or 3 tickets for \$10.00. Proper ID will be required for purchase of alcoholic beverages. B.J Sager will be serving, Budweiser products including Bud Light & Bud Lime. They will also provide complementary O'Doul's, a non-alcohol beer. There will be a variety of family beverages and food for purchase, including funnel cakes, hot dogs, sodas, seafood, hamburgers and steak/cheese subs. For everyone's enjoyment and safety, pets, skates, skateboards, and bicycles, as well as coolers are not allowed in the gated area. For more information, call the DFR office at 540-631-0099 or send an email to info@downtownfrontroyal.org. You may contact Janet Michael, Dancin Downtown chairperson by calling 540-409-6703 or via email to janet@javamediaconcepts.com.

Downtown Front Royal is currently in need of volunteers to help with our upcoming concert "Dancin' Downtown" to be held this Saturday, September 20 from 5pm until 10pm. Volunteers are needed to help with admission at three separate gates as well as serving beer. We are offering 2 shifts and hope this makes it easier for you to give some time. You can sign up to work from 5pm - 8pm (please come to Main Street Daily Grind at 4:30 for orientation); or from 7:30pm until 10:30pm. Of course, if you are able to volunteer for the whole evening, we are grateful for that as well! If you are able to help, please call the office at 631-0099; or email info@downtownfrontroyal.org. You may also contact Janet Michael via phone to 540-409-6703 or email janet@javamediaconcepts.com. If your church or non-profit group is interested in setting up kids activities from 5pm - 7pm, please contact Janet Michael. Children's activities are being offered during that time frame at no cost to the organization; however we will allow you to accept donations on your own behalf. We appreciate any time that you can give and look forward to a fun-filled evening!

Warren County residents who are at least 62-years-old are being encouraged to register for a **Senior Athletic Passport from Warren County Public Schools**. The passports provide admission to regular season home athletic events at Warren County Middle School, Warren County

High School, and Skyline High School. Admission to tournaments and playoffs governed by Virginia High School League and Northern Valley Junior League rules are excluded. The athletic departments of Warren County Public Schools enjoy support from residents of all ages. We're fortunate to have support from many residents who do not have children in our schools but continue to attend our events. Those interested in receiving a Senior Passport can apply in person at the Warren County Public Schools Administration office, 210 N. Commerce Ave., Front Royal, Va. An ID including the applicant's date of birth and address is required. Applications can be requested by calling 540-635-2171 ext. 261.

National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach has selected Martha Bogle as the superintendent of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Bogle will oversee the operations at the almost 200,000 acre park—40% of which is Congressionally designated wilderness. Bogle, who has served as Deputy Superintendent at the 470-mile Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina since 2005, begins her assignment in mid-September. She follows Chas Cartwright, who left Shenandoah earlier this year to become superintendent of Glacier National Park in Montana. As superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, Bogle will be responsible for the management of 197,411 acres, approximately 250 employees, and an operating budget of over \$11 million. The park is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, includes the famous Skyline Drive, a 105-mile road that winds along the crest of the mountains through the length of the park and more than 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. For more information about Shenandoah National Park, visit www.nps.gov/shen. For more information about the National Park Service Northeast Region, visit www.nps.gov/nero.

During the week of September 22-29, **Front Royal Federal Credit Union** will be collecting used prescription eyeglasses and prescription and non-prescription sunglasses as part of a unique recycling program for Front Royal Lions and Lions Club International. The collected glasses will be cleaned and prepared for distribution in developing countries where eye care is often unaffordable and inaccessible. To donate used glasses, place them in a specially marked Lions Recycle for Sight collection boxes located at Front Royal Federal Credit Union's two branches – 230 N. Royal Ave. and 113 South St.

The Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging is holding "Dining For Dollars" fundraiser on Sundays – Saturdays, September 1st – December 31, 2008 at Glory Days Grill in Winchester or any Glory Days that you may frequent. When you dine at a Glory Days Grill on your designated nights, the restaurant will contribute 10% of your total food purchases to the SAAA. Simply ask your server for a copy of your guest check (not credit card receipt), and mail it to SAAA, 207 Mosby Lane, Front Royal, VA 22360. For more information contact Kellie at 635-7141 ext. 205.

Front Royal Police Department announces Front Royal Open House, Saturday September 20, 2008 10AM - 2PM Bing Crosby Stadium Park. Law Enforcement displays, Town Department displays, children's area, Air Care 4 Helicopter landing, child safety seat checks, free food and drinks. For more information please contact Community Relations Specialist Janice Hart at 631-2763.

The Apple House would like to invite you to a PRIME RIB BUFFET on September 26th from 5-8 p.m. for \$19.99/per person plus applicable taxes. The buffet will include Prime Rib, Shrimp, Fried Chicken, and many side dishes and desserts...so call now to make your reservation 540-636-6329 or applehousecatering@hotmail.com

The 7th Annual Northern Shenandoah Valley 2008 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk to Cure Diabetes will be held Saturday, October 25th, 2008. It will begin and end at the First Baptist Church. Registration starts at 9 a.m. For more information call Carol Dodson at 540-636-3607 or email carol.dodson@wachovia.com.

The Samuels Public Library Foundation is sponsoring a Harley Davidson/PT Cruiser Raffle. They are selling 2,000 tickets at \$100 each. The drawing will be October 31st at 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the foundation to furnish the interior of the new library. For more information contact Cheryl Harrison at 635-3153 or charison@samuelslibrary.net.

Belle Grove on November 5th thru November 7th, 2008 for exclusive insiders' visits to three National Trust Historic Sites & much more! The trip includes a visit to the Union Church of Pocantico Hills, a gourmet dinner at the acclaimed Blue Hill at Stone Barns, & tours of historic Kykuit, Lyndhurst, and The Lower East Side Tenement Museum. The trip starts and ends at Belle Grove in Middletown, the cost per person is \$595 (double room) & \$995 (single room) and includes transportation, hotel accommodations, exclusive tours, the Blue Hills gourmet Dinner, a private luncheon at Kykuit and wine & cheese reception at Lyndhurst.. Space is limited, so please contact Betsy Anderson asap at (540) 869-2028 or by email at banderson@bellegrove.org to register or for more information.

The County of Warren & Anti-Litter Council of Front Royal/Warren County and Allied Waste will be sponsoring "Warren County Fall 2008 Residential Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 25th from 8:00 a.m.—2 p.m. Open containers for bulky items, such as old furniture and appliances, will be at the VDOT Park N' Ride located on Dismal Hollow Road in Linden and the transfer Station located on Shangri-La Road (Rt. 613) in Bentonville. Oil and paint will be accepted at transfer station only. Tires accepted at transfer station only. Remember to cover and secure your loads. All vehicles must display current county/town windshield decal or county waste decal.

The Blue Ridge Arts Council announces Oasis Vineyards will conduct "Art in the Vineyard" Saturday afternoons this fall. They are seeking Artists who would like to demonstrate and sell their works for October 4 and 11 and Saturdays in the month of November. Please contact us at (540) 635.9909 or ambermitchell@embarqmail.com if you are interested. Do you have a few hours you would like to volunteer at the Arts Council? Contact us at (540)635-9909 or ambermitchell@embarqmail.com. Blue Ridge Arts Council and Front Royal Women's Resource Center present Virginia Monologues, an Invitational Exhibit featuring Art and Literature by Women Artists and Writers. Exhibit Dates: August 14- October 3, 2008.

Coffee News is offering 2 weeks additional advertising FREE in Coffee news with every 13 week block purchase to Chamber members. For more information contact 540-683-8393.

Welcome Our New Members

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Town Of Front Royal

Monday, September 22nd, 7 p.m. at the Warren County Government Center

Upcoming Events

September 19: 60th Anniversary Celebration – Royal Broadcasting
September 20: Front Royal Police Department Open House
September 20: Dancin Downtown
September 23: Legislative Preview, 11:30 p.m. at Warren County Government Center
September 24: Brown Bag Luncheon Series, Noon at Chamber
September 25: Ribbon Cutting, WCCDV Art Show, 1 p.m. at Second Chance
September 25: EDA Technology Consortium, 7 p.m. at EDA

www.frontroyalchamber.com

MansEyeView@gmail.com

Bo Kane

Man's Eye View

By Bo Kane
Warren County Report

"Deadbolts are hard to pick, but if it's just a door handle that's locked, I can get inside in 3 seconds." - Convicted burglar in Grand Junction, Colorado

Mr. Kane:

I read about your speech to a middle school concerning manners, and while it's something I've tried to stress at home, my kids attend (a school) where I don't think it's ever mentioned. And believe me, it's needed. So many of my daughter's friends, male and female, haven't the foggiest notion of what it means to be polite and considerate. I don't think they're bad kids, I just think they've never been taught. If you could mention again in your column that it's not only something you try to tell your own kids, but that it's actually taught in school, maybe some school administrators would work it into their curriculum.

- Traci G.

Traci:

As an outsider looking in, I'm much like you: I can't see why

a class couldn't be devoted to an expanded version of the subject. There's probably qualifications and budgets to consider, along with federal regulations (I've never met a teacher who has anything good to say about "No Child Left Behind", but that's a whole other subject).

But if I could be the all-powerful wizard for a day and wave my magic wand, I'd like every public school to have a full semester class entitled "Morals, Manners and Ethics". It would work on opening the mind of the student to better consideration, refining and reminding them of the basic concepts of right and wrong, and a more accepting outlook. This last point is becoming more important, and my hometown is a perfect example. 35 years ago the school was as white as my ruffled prom shirt. Now, it is a virtual melting pot, and the students seem to get along and appreciate each other's differences. Again, outsider looking in.

I'm sure there are reasons why every school cannot devote a unit to manners; I'd like to hear from teachers and administrators about it.

The Round Up

I received a letter from a wom-

an in my hometown who is trying to start a Neighborhood Crime Watch. It's been difficult to get neighbors to help (I guess it seems like a chore ... until you become a victim) and she's petitioning General Mills/Hamburger Helper for a grant.

I'm a big believer in Neighborhood Watch. When I was a news anchor in Colorado, I reported a rash of burglaries one summer; lots of meth-heads needing cash, and people's homes were being invaded. So I decided to do a three-part series, with a former burglar as the centerpiece. Speaking from shadows he told our audience what he looks for before he breaks into a home ("easy access") and also said that if he saw a Neighborhood Watch Program in effect, he went to another block and scoped out the houses there. "No one wants to get caught. We want to get in and get out."

Most of us know how it feels to have something stolen from us or be violated in any way, so kudos to General Mills for helping folks put these programs together, and good luck getting the neighbors on board.

Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right. Isaac Asimov

Dear Mr. Kane:

[Regarding the column on a class in Ethics and Manners]. As a middle school teacher I can tell you that there just isn't time for a semester devoted to teaching morals and manners. The larger issue here is that this is a job for parents. Children learn by example and parents spend much more time with them than any teacher does. Teachers try to set a good example too and point out problem behavior when appropriate but parents have to start becoming responsible for raising their own children.

- Yours truly, Susan C

Susan:

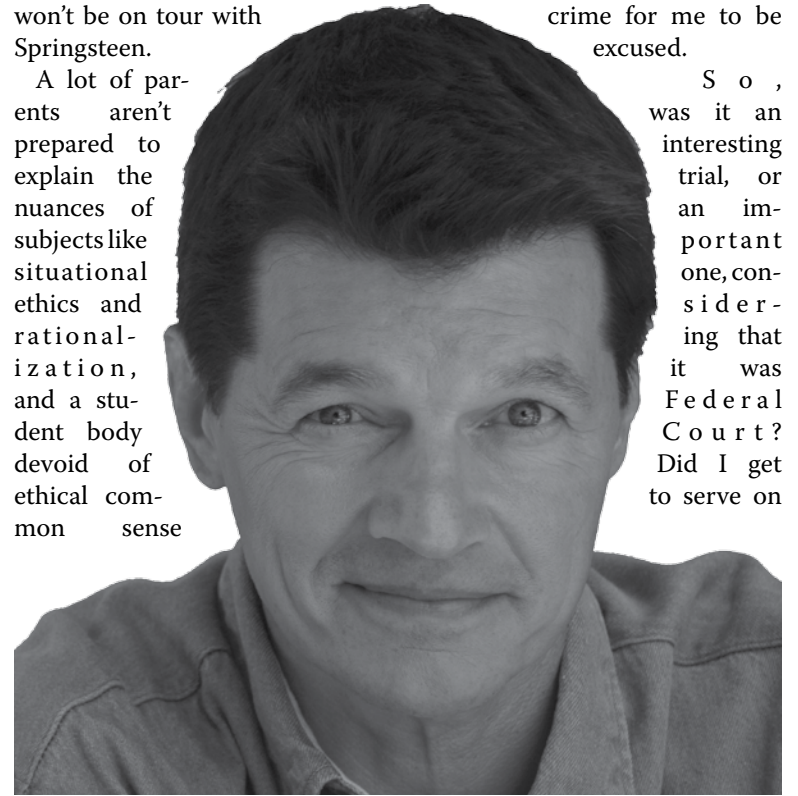
Morals SHOULD be taught at home, just as teachers should be paid more than third-string infielders in Triple-A, and I should be young, wealthy, and playing rhythm guitar in the E Street Band. But more often than not...they aren't, you aren't, and I

won't be on tour with Springsteen.

A lot of parents aren't prepared to explain the nuances of subjects like situational ethics and rationalization, and a student body devoid of ethical common sense

crime for me to be excused.

So, was it an interesting trial, or an important one, considering that it was Federal Court? Did I get to serve on



makes it pretty rough on the teachers, administrators, and probably the janitors.

So, is there time to have a class? Maybe not. Should it be done? Yes. Let's find a way, because we all know that it's just as important in our life and career as most other subjects. And because we all know how easily and often our "good kids" are influenced by those "bad kids".

Susan, I don't mean to minimize what you say; teachers are one of my favorite groups of people. I'd say 9 out of 10 deserve our utmost respect (there's always one). And I wish parents did more, but call me crazy for thinking that as the recession tightens its bony fingers around our financial throats, more parents will be taking second jobs or working overtime. And that means even less time for lessons on moral turpitude.

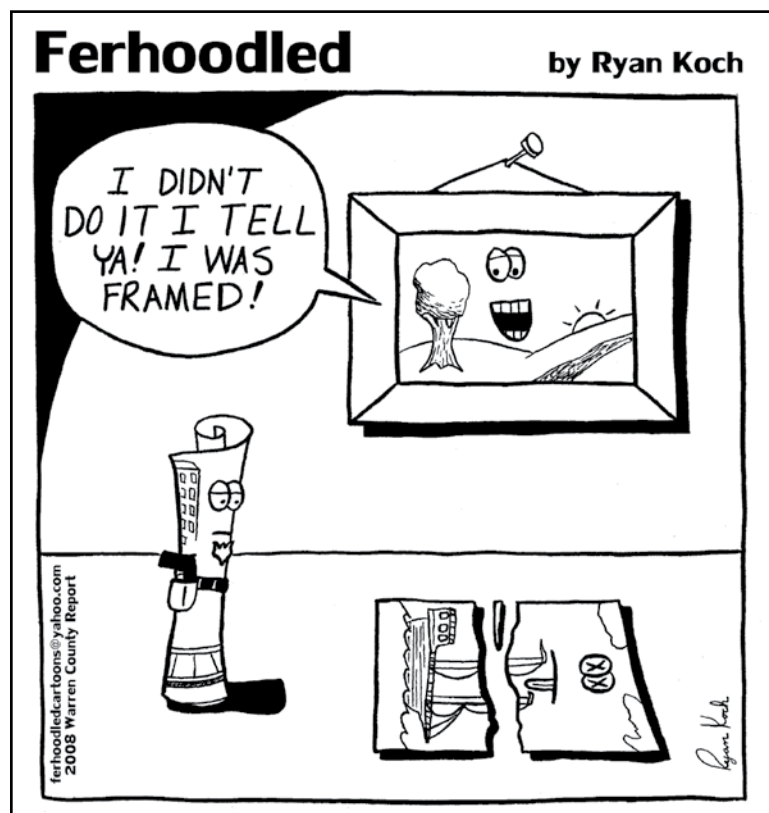
The Round Up

Juror #1. That was me. I just spent the last week in U.S. District Court, listening to opening arguments, watching a parade of eyewitnesses and "experts" tell the whole truth with opposite conclusions. I wasn't excused because no corporation was paying for my time, and the fact that I would lose a lot of money while I served was met with the judge's reply "That's fine". In fact, I would have had to have been bleeding from my carotid artery or have been convicted of the exact same

a huge embezzlement case or decide the fate of an accused terrorist?

No, Juror #1 was listening to a couple of scam artists trying to relieve a hotel of several hundred thousand dollars for ... stubbing their toe on a room service tray left in the hall. Stubbing their toe! And who ate the (complimentary) food off of the menacing tray that reached up and tripped them? Yup. Justice wasn't blind, just rolling its eyes.

Bo Kane is a former newscaster in Charlottesville and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. You can reach him at MansEyeView@gmail.com



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Activities and events

Please e-mail brief calendar notices in this format to:
layout@warrencountyreport.com

3rd Thursday Art Walk September 18: 5pm - 8pm

You are invited to the 3rd Thursday Art Walk held in Downtown Front Royal. This is your time to enjoy Historic Main Street, enjoy & collect art! Meet at E. Main St. in Front Royal. More info (540) 635-5788

Raymond R. "Andy" Guest, Jr. / Shenandoah River State Park September 18: 4:30pm

Haunted Forest Meeting: volunteers are needed for the following positions: actors and actresses in the forest, directing traffic, greeting and directing crowds, decorating, prop setup, storytelling, and s'mores station. Meeting will be held at Massanutten Shelter. Anyone who would like to participate but is unable to make the meetings or for more information on volunteer benefits please call 540-636-4630 or e-mail sabrina.wells@dcr.virginia.gov

WFTR Event September 19: 10am-4pm

You are invited to WFTR's 60th Anniversary celebration catered lawn party and Open House. You will enjoy children's activities, moon bounce, face painting, sand art, live radio broadcast with music and tabled exhibits. More info (540) 635-5788

Raymond R. "Andy" Guest, Jr. / Shenandoah River State Park September 19: 6:30pm

Echoes in the Night. Join us at Shelter 1 to learn about some of the bats in our area. Then we will check out the local bat hangout for a chance to see some waking up for the night. We will be playing games and creating crafts. Program is free of charge. There will be a \$2 fee on some of the crafts. Owl Prowl (8 p.m.) Ever feel like there are eyes following you? Find out what really lurks in the woods at night. Swoop by to learn all about nocturnal living and even try calling in an owl; you never know whoooo will drop in to

visit. Meet in campground parking lot. More info 636-4630

"Androcles and the Lion" September 20: 1:30pm and 4:30pm

Five Rings Very Little Theatre is pleased to announce the first production of its five play Children's Theatre Series. Performances will be matinees at 1:30 and 4:30 pm. Tickets are available in advance at the Visitors Centre by the Gazebo or at Five Rings Arts & Education Centre, 620 Virginia Avenue. For more information, call 540-636-2787.

Town Open House September 20: 10am-2pm

The Town of Front Royal is hosting an Open House at Bing Crosby Stadium. Its a day filled with food, games, rides, special activities and much more!! More info (540) 631-2763

Manga Meet Up September 20: 12pm-1pm

Come to Samuel's Public Library to discuss manga favorites, showcase collectibles and meet others with your interests. Ages 11 and up. More info (540) 635-3153

Apple Dumpling Daycare & Learning Center September 20: 12pm-3pm

OPEN HOUSE 348 South Commerce Ave. Front Royal. More info 540-635-5695

Rock in the Park - Benefit Skatepark Bash September 20: 5pm-10pm

Come support the new Warren County Skatepark. Featuring: Kendalburke, Kill the Car, Selubria, This Time Never, My Personal Bravery, Hasten My Demise. Pizza and Drinks sold by Papa John's - so come hungry! At the Raymond E. Santmyers Youth Center, 200 East 8th Street, Front Royal, VA Info: 703-568-3770 \$5.00 Admission Fee. *All proceeds go to the Skate Park!*

Dancin' Downtown September 20: 5pm-10pm

Enjoy dancing in the streets tonight! Tom Fitzgerald, an acoustic performer will play from 5:00pm - 6:00pm; "8 Lives Spent" will perform from 6:00pm - 7:00pm and "Last Chance" will perform from 7:00pm - 10:00pm. There will be food/drink for sale. ID is required for the purchase of alcohol. More info (540) 635-5788

Royal Plaza Shopping Center: Summer concert series September 20: 6:30pm-8pm

Enjoy an evening of musical entertainment in the grassy area in front of Daily Grind and behind Blockbuster. Music is suitable for all ages. Bring a lawn chair, blanket, picnic, etc. and enjoy the outdoors. No alcoholic beverages or pets allowed. Tonight Glass Onion will play Beatles/oldies music for your enjoyment.

Raymond R. "Andy" Guest, Jr. / Shenandoah River State Park September 21: 6:30pm

Leave Your Mark: Geocaching 101 {When nature meets technology!} (11 am) Do you like to treasure hunt? Meet at Cullers Overlook to find out about the hottest new sport this decade. Find out how to use a GPS and the basic rules for Geocaching. Then try finding some hidden caches. A GPS will be provided for you. Scavenger Hunt (1:30 p.m.) Meet at Paw Paw Trail to find out why animals have different colors and patterns. Do you like to play hide and seek? We will be going on a small scavenger hunt. You will be surprised by what you find. Snakes, Turtles, and Skulls, Oh My! (3-4 p.m.) Stop by between Shelter 1 and 2 (look for the red tent) to learn how to identify various skulls and meet and greet some of the animals living within the park including our resident corn snake. More info 636-4630

Mosby Monument Memorial Commemoration September 23: 10am-11am

You are invited to participate in the Mosby Monument Memorial Commemoration in Prospect Hill Cemetary this morning. A reception will be held at the Warren Rifles Museum afterwards. More info (540) 635-2588

It's Toddler Story Time! September 24 & 25: 10am-11am

At Samuel's Public Library. More info (540) 635-3153

It's Preschool Story Time! September 24 & 25: 11am-12pm

At Samuel's Public Library. More info (540) 635-3153

"Androcles and the Lion" September 27: 1:30pm and 4:30pm

Five Rings Very Little Theatre is pleased to announce the first production of its five play Children's Theatre Series. Performances will be matinees at 1:30 and 4:30 pm. Tickets are available in advance at the Visitors Centre by the Gazebo or at Five Rings Arts & Education Centre, 620 Virginia Avenue. For more information, call 540-636-2787.

Books and Barks September 27: 10am-11am

Relax and read with the Books and Barks therapy dogs at Samuel's Public Library. More info (540) 635-3153

Old Fashioned Hoe Down September 27: 6:30pm-10pm

You are invited to the annual Saints at the Ranch Old Fashioned Hoe Down to benefit the Saint Luke Community Clinic at Lehew's "Ranch" located on Ashby Station Road in Front Royal. More information on tickets (540)636-4325.

PNC Legacy Trail Ride September 27 - October 4

Thousands of bicyclists and hikers will participate in The PNC Legacy Trail Ride, celebrating the Pittsburgh region's 250th birthday and the linking of the Great Allegheny Passage to the C & O Canal Towpath, a 335-mile hiking and biking path that retraces Colonel George Washington's trailblazing journey from Virginia to the forks of the Ohio. For more info and to register visit www.bike250.org

Main Street Melodies/ Octoberfest October 1: 3pm-9pm

Enjoy the sounds of DJ Mike at the Gazebo located in Downtown Front Royal: featuring a touch of Europe with a German Festhaus and family friendly non-alcoholic Biergarten with Polkas and yodeling and other surprises, goodies, etc. More info (540) 635-5788

12th Annual Autumn Conservation Festival October 4 & 5: 10am - 3pm

Smithsonian's National Zoo Conservation and Research Center 1500 Remount Road, Front Royal. Talk one-on-one with world-famous scientists and explore the tools and technology used to understand animals and their habitats and get a sneak peak at a few of CRC's endangered animals. The family friendly festival also features kid-friendly activities and live music. Lunch and beverages available for purchase. Get information and your pass online at www.fonz.org/acf.htm or at the Front Royal Visitor's Center at 414 East Main Street. A \$30 car pass admits up to six visitors. For ticket information (540)635-6540

Notices

North Warren Volunteer Fire and Rescue - Company 10 hosts an all you can eat breakfast the third Saturday of the month (next one June 21) from 7 AM to 11 AM at the Fire hall on the corner of Rockland Road and RT 522. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy, biscuits, baked apples, coffee and juice. \$6.00 adults, \$4.00 children under 12. Proceeds benefit the fire company.

Shenandoah Farms Volunteer Fire Dept • Bingo at 7pm Every Monday • 6363 Howellsville Rd • 540-837-4190
 2x \$500 Jackpot awarded • All U Can eat breakfast • third Sunday of the Month • 8:00am - 12:00pm • featuring homemade sausage gravy, omelets made to order, pancakes, bacon, sausage, cereal, toast, hashbrowns, juice, coffee, etc.

Place your classified ad in the most widely-read newspaper in Warren County by calling (540) 636-1014.

Classifieds

WANTED	PETS FOR SALE	COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE	FIREARMS TRAINING CLASS	SERVICES AVAILABLE	SERVICES AVAILABLE	WORK AT HOME	BOOKS
Crafters for FALL FESTIVAL September 27, 9am-3pm \$10.00 rent per table. ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH Call 540-635-8312 or 540-635-6428 for more information.	Puppies for Sale. CHIHUAHUA, PUGS, BEAGLES, MINIATURE SCHNAUZER, MINIATURE PINSCHERS, MINIATUREPOODLES. Health guarantee, registered, de-wormed. CASH. 540-778-3314, 540-631-7652.	OFFICE for Sale , Lease, Rent-to-Own. EXISTING COMMERCIAL. Flexible Lease Options Available. GREAT LOCATION - on E. 6th S++++treet. Rear Parking Lot. Handicap Accessible. 540-533-0715	Saturday, October 18, 2008. VA Concealed Handgun Permit. Grey Wolf Academy, Front Royal, VA. Info: (540) 635-7816	APC STORAGE CONTRACTOR YARDS Large or Small Equipment - Materials RV - Trailer - Boat WARREN COUNTY 540-974-3537	JOHN'S SMALL LANDSCAPING SERVICE No job too small ! If you can't do it, I CAN ! Weed pulling, grass mowed, flower planting, veg. garden planted, etc. 540-683-1093	TOYS, TOYS, TOYS. Earn free toys. Amy Yowell, Discovery Toys Educational Consultant. 540-689-0125. www.busybabies.net GROW YOUR BUSINESS! Warren County Report is the most widely-read newspaper in Front Royal and Warren County. We also have the lowest ad rates. Support Warren County's only locally-owned newspaper, grow your business and save money at the same time. 636-1014.	Weird Virginia Royal Oak Bookshop 540-635-7070 207 S. Royal Ave. www.royaloakbookshop.com
PERSONALS Seeking long lost cousin, JANET MARIE DAVIS. Please call Jeannie Davis at 304-897-5860. SWM SEEKS female for mate or friendship. 540-868-2098.	SPECIAL NOTICES St. Jude. Thank you for prayers answered. No Brainer Promote your business to more people for less money. Call 540-636-1014.	SERVICES AVAILABLE JOHN'S SMALL LANDSCAPING SERVICE No job too small ! If you can't do it, I CAN ! Weed pulling, grass mowed, flower planting, veg. garden planted, etc. 540-683-1093	CLOTHING PAGEANT DRESSES FOR SALE. CALL 540-667-2927. Promote your business for less money. Call 540-636-1014.	PLUMBING. Repairs and services. Reasonable rates. Free estimates. Over 30 years experience. 540-683-6103.			No Brainer Promote your business to more people for less money. Call 540-636-1014.

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Follow Along ... If You Can

By Kevin S. Engle
Warren County Report

Do you know someone who can complicate just about anything? Someone who likes to mess with your mind without even trying? My sister-in-law is the best. When it comes to communication, she's the Mistress of Mayhem, the Queen of Confusion. She recently sent an e-mail that went something like this.

"If you need to reach me at work, call (555) 867-4152, but only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9 and 9:23AM, and only if the month has 31 days. On Tuesday and Thursday, between 2 and 2:05PM, call (555) 868-3789, but only if there's been a lunar eclipse within the past week. If you need to get me right away, call the front office on (555) 867-3000. No one actually sits at that desk, but maybe someone will hear it and track me down. If you still haven't gotten me, send me an e-mail. I check my messages every other Sunday. If my computer isn't broken, I'll get back to you right away."

Did you follow that? What my sister-in-law needs to do is sit down and draw up a detailed chart, similar to those mileage listings in an atlas that show the distance between major cities. Ok, if it's Tuesday, the month has 30 days, and there's no rain in the forecast, I call this number. But if it's snowing, call this one. You get the idea.

Another of her specialties is telling you something, but leaving out important chunks of background information. For instance,

"Maya's doing great after surgery. She should be going home soon."
"That's good to hear, but I didn't even know she was in the hospital."
"Yeah, she had her heart transplant."
"She what?"
"Yup, she got a new ticker."
"You're kidding right?"
"Remember she and Wes took an Amazon cruise on their honeymoon?"
"Yeah?"
"The doctors think she got bit by a mosquito carrying some rare disease that attacked her heart. I told you all about it."
Now I don't have the best memory in the world, but I'm fairly certain that conversation would've stuck in my brain.
"Anyway, she's doing fine. And she'll get both casts off in a few weeks too."
"Casts?"
"From the broken legs."
"Broken legs?"
"From the plane crash."
"Plane crash?"

You're just never quite sure where the conversation is headed. Maybe it's an in-law thing. My mother-in-law, no relation to the Queen of Confusion, will tell you these long convoluted stories about distant relatives and other people she thinks you've known forever. When you tell her you have no clue who she's talking about, she just keeps on going without missing a beat.

I have another sister-in-law who can burp louder than anyone I've ever heard, but that's another story.

If you'd like to discuss this article with the author, or anything else that's on your mind, and it's the first or third week of the month, you can find him at McDonalds on Monday, Subway on Tuesday, Burger King on Wednesday, Quiznos on Thursday and Pizza Hut on Friday. For the second and fourth weeks, oh forget it.

Engle's Angle



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