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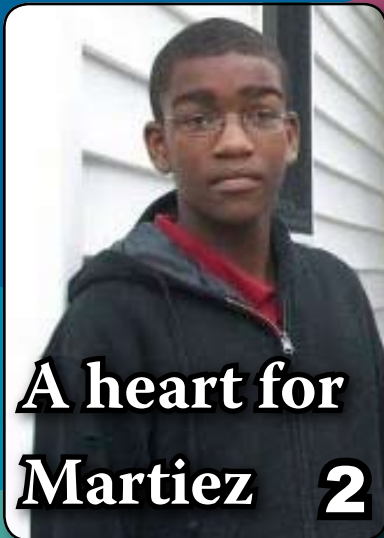


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Town joins in effort for 14-year-old Martiez’s heart *Asking a community to rally for a county youth making heart history*



Martiez Rowell-Bradshaw - a 14-year-old with a lot of heart

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

On Feb. 27th the Front Royal Town Council joined in another community effort to help a family in need by unanimously endorsing a Proclamation declaring Saturday, March 17, Martiez Rowell-Bradshaw Day.

It’s going to be a busy St. Patrick’s Day for this community, with efforts to help Martiez, a 14-year-old Warren County Middle School and former Ressie Jeffries student, as well

as the EWM K-Kids yard sale to help one of man’s best friends (see related story).

“A Variety Show for Martiez” has been organized at the Warren County Middle School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 17. We hope it is only the beginning of this community’s efforts on behalf of another of its sons in need.

Martiez’s story is a remarkable one. He became only the second youth to receive an artificial heart transplant in the nation. That surgery took place in Philadelphia and the travel and related expenses have put a financial burden on Martiez’s family. So, the public school community has spearheaded efforts to raise funds to help them with seeing Martiez through his surgery, recovery and eventual return home.

However, this is only the beginning of Martiez and his family’s journey. As explained to us by Ressie Jeffries librarian assistant Carol Vorous, “The artificial heart is only temporary until a matching donor heart becomes available. The longest it was used in an adult was approximately 17 months. Once Martiez receives a heart he will have to stay in close proximity to the Children’s Hospital for another two to three months.”

As with Pixie’s story, we felt we couldn’t do a better job of telling it than can those closest to the community effort to help him. As they did with us, we’ll let Vorous and Ressie teacher Rheannon Sorrells fill you in on Martiez’s remarkable journey – a journey that is only beginning:

“Martiez is the oldest child in his family, he just turned 14 a week or so ago. He has a brother, Leon, age 12, sisters Kameryia, a 3rd grade, Faith, 2nd grade, Trinity, kindergarten, Grace, three years old, and a brother, Zachariah, who is one,” Vorous begins. “Martiez was born with some sort of heart defect, but up until recently led a relatively normal life. Of course, he has always had physical limitations, as far as sports and such.

“His mom said he started experiencing chest pain around Christmas and they ended up at UVA Hospital. He was there for approximately three weeks. The doctors were contemplating whether or not he needed a heart transplant. That’s when everyone in the schools started to hear about his situation.

“Then his organs started to shut down, so he was flown to Philadelphia Children’s Hospital on Jan. 25th and received the artificial heart on Jan. 26th.

“Martiez is only the second pediatric patient to receive this artificial heart – in the country! The first was a seventeen year old from Texas. So, this is quite a big deal. Martiez is really a medical learning experience in progress. He had been experiencing

problems with fluid in the lungs, as well as being on dialysis since the surgery. But as of yesterday, Feb. 27, because of everything stabilizing, he has been placed on the transplant list – that’s what we’ve all been waiting to hear!”

“His mother is spending as much time as possible with him in Philadelphia while his father continues to work. The rest of the children are staying with family and friends during this time,” Sorrells told us. “The family is in need of as much financial assistance as possible during this period. Money for gas and groceries appear to be most needed. We have had a few food drives and events to raise money already. We know that this community has pulled together many times before to help families in need and we are hoping for the same outcome for this wonderful young man and his family.”

“Needless to say it has been a hardship. We just want to try and help make their burden a little lighter,” Vorous added. “We at the schools have been trying to put together some fundraisers to help the family through this difficult time. We’ve had a few bake sales, held school dances, etc.

“Some of my co-workers are holding the indoor yard sale and formal flip at Ressie Jeffries on Saturday, March 3. I am also planning a variety show on Saturday, March 17th, from 6-8 at the Warren County Middle School Auditorium.

“We have a few bands – New Day, Lyywire, and lots of singers: Charlee

Allman, Leslie Andrews, Taylor Russell, Skyline High School teacher and Wayside Theatre performer Richard Follett, Donnie Carter & Choir and lots more. Admission to the show is \$5. We will have items to raffle that night as well. We are also selling red “We love Martiez” bracelets to show our love and support.”

As one of Martiez’s supporters at Ressie told us – “Come on, Front Royal – let’s continue to see your giving spirit!”

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Community

Debra Siksay has offered to help with other groups who want to start a collection of their own. For information, contact her at dsiksay@yahoo.com, or visit www.soles4souls.org

'Soles for Souls' helps others take a step forward Siksay, Gold's Gym partner in effort to get shoes to those without



Gold's Gym Manager Casey Cope and Debbie Siksay have teamed up to get soles to souls in need.

By Carol Ballard
Warren County Report

Debra Siksay was moved by stories of children in Third World Countries who are not allowed to attend school if they don't have shoes to wear. She decided to do something about it by collecting and shipping "gently worn" shoes for Soles4Souls.

"I had seen it online and on TV and thought it was such a great program and it doesn't cost anything to donate," she said

The non-profit Soles4Souls organization was founded by

Wayne Elsey, a footwear executive. In 2004, while watching the devastation of the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia on TV, he saw a picture of a lone shoe that had washed up on the beach.

This sad and powerful image gave him the idea to create the program which has a simple concept.

"We procure shoes and get them to those in need," he states on the Soles4Souls website.

And Debra looked for a location to do her part in the humanitarian project.

Since she's a member of Gold's

Gym she asked Manager Casey Cope if she could use it as a center for shoe collection. He agreed and when he heard about the cost of shipping, he offered to pay it and said, "Don't worry about that, this is a great place to have it."

As this January-February donation period ended on Feb. 29, a total of 141 pairs of shoes were collected and counting. There is another shoe drive scheduled within the next three to six months, Siksay says.

"I think I'll do it again. People have a lot of tennis shoes they don't wear because they're not stylish enough or whatever; and other people would be able to use them to walk in the fields or to work. Everyone I've talked to about it has been very supported and excited," Debra said, and added, "In these hard times, no one's asking for their money."

Before she started on the project, Debra called the number listed on the Soles4Souls website and asked if there were any particular types of shoes needed such as walking shoes or sneakers, and was told that any kind are good.

If high heels can't be used, for example, they can be taken apart and the materials recycled. According to the website, they can also be traded or sold as part of

micro-businesses that the organization supports.

The philosophy behind this program is given in a quote from their website.

"In this way, the charity focuses on long-term development, as opposed to short-term crisis relief. It is the embodiment of the old saying, "Give a man a fish, he will eat for a day; give him a way to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime," it says.

For many, it looks like a better solution than keeping shoes sitting around in closets or going to the landfill.

"Last year alone, Americans discarded more than 300 million

pairs of shoes. When these shoes break down in our landfills, the toxic glue that holds the shoes together can leak into our water supply and atmosphere.

Soles4Souls can save your shoes from early death by cleaning them and shipping them to needy people around the world, who will treasure the gift for years to come," states the Soles4Souls website.

Debra Siksay has offered to help with other groups who want to start a collection of their own.

For information, contact her at dsiksay@yahoo.com, or visit www.soles4souls.org



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Letters

Support for school food policy

Dear Editor:

I, as a current parent of a high school student in Warren County, do not understand what the big deal is about the school board limiting access to food in the classroom. Could someone please explain to me what the controversy is?

To tell you the truth when my girls started going to school I was shocked to see all the food and drink vending machines in the hallways. When I went to school, these kinds of machines were only accessible to the teachers and school staff. When my older girls were in school, I was a single parent scraping by on a very limited income and grocery budget, and it is a fact that trying to provide a food item for school parties was very hard and a very real strain on my income.

In addition, I remember my girls coming home telling of parents sending in cakes, cupcakes, and cookies for all the class to share for their child's birthday, and I also remember their disappointment when I could not do the same.

When my youngest daughter was in elementary school, one of her

classmates was allergic to peanuts. I volunteered to help during the holiday parties, and it was stressful to make sure this child did not receive any item that had or could possibly have had peanuts in it. That is a responsibility put on teachers, staff and volunteers that is unfair, unnecessary and very dangerous.

I believe there are plenty of other ways to celebrate and reward students other than with food. It is the mission of our schools to keep our kids safe and healthy for 6 plus hours a day, and I am very pleased and thankful that they take this duty very seriously.

Paula J. Blamer
Front Royal

Rivaling the Comstock Lode?

Editor,

We have a rich diversity of childcare services here in Warren County. Now we have one less.

"I feel that government should not compete with the private sector," says the operator of Angel's Korner Daycare and Learning Center. Now that is a fresh twist. I spend a generous

amount of time and money to assure my children have a quality education. I send them to a private school and how dare the government take my tax dollars to fund a public education program that can compete with my private choice?

Why are they provided the "perks" with free access to county facilities?

Government competition in this vital area is making my selected school's job tougher (by making them strive to provide a better program than the government has to offer).

This is a "load of Comstock" contrived to aid her business without her needing to compete fairly with a needed public program.

I think it was "fool's gold" that lured our supervisors from the richness our county had to offer us with its summer program for children. - A poor choice, leaders.

Tom Adams
Front Royal

**An idea for Obama,
Use FDR's CCC model**

Editor,

In 1933, with the U.S. in a deep Depression and recession, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created many programs to put Americans back to work. He concentrated on creating jobs. In his first 100 days he created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933. In just 37 days he had his first inductee into the CCC. That organization planted three billion trees from 1933 to 1942. This revived the nation's decimated forests. Unemployed men surged forward to enroll. It was reported there was a

55 percent reduction in crime at the time. The pay wasn't much - \$430 a month. Camps were set up in all 48 states. By the end of 1935 there were 500,000 men located in 2,600 camps in all states.

The CCC worked on improving millions of acres of federal and state lands, as well as our parks. New roads were built - including the Sky-line Drive.

President Obama could use President Roosevelt's plan as a model. Our nation's roads and bridges need major work. Thousands of jobs would be created. Every man jack (and woman) would rush forward to pick up a shovel or pick-axe in order to get back to work.

Take some of those U.S. billions (maybe trillions) of dollars blanketing the world and spend them here at home. Envision thousands of men and women volunteering for work in the "fruited plain", and getting back to work. No, it may not be the work they were hoping for, or trained for, but it's work - a decent and fair paycheck coming in and a sense of personal pride. Back to work again ... at last.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - money flowing back into the economy - and most important, a sense of value for Americans.

Let's go America!!!

Don Richards
Front Royal

Political history

Sir:

I find laughable the right wing's latest anti-liberal tirade on these pages which can best be described as the

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stuff one might step in when meandering through a pasture occupied by a bull. How else can one describe someone who questions the patriotism of dedicated Americans whose only crime is that they want to make this a better world and who gave their lemming like support to a president who is a proven liar and a draft dodging coward?

It's the same old propaganda spewed by delusional right wingers to cover up their own inadequacies. They have it backwards. Conservatives do

not have a monopoly on courage and patriotism.

Although liberal and conservative were not categories in politics in those days, it was the original liberals, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Adams who led the fight for independence from England, while it was the conservative Tories who swore allegiance to the crown.

If it were up to the original American conservatives we would still be singing "Hail to Queen".

One must also recognize the contri-

bution of the liberal Thomas Paine, whose inspirational writings not only advocated independence, but bolstered the moral of Washington's troops in their moments of despair. His liberal manifesto, "The Rights of Man", proposed such innovations as free public education, and income security for the working class.

During the late 1930s, it was the conservatives, led by their leader Robert Taft, who sponsored the so-called "America First" movement to prevent U.S. intervention against Nazism in Europe. They initially opposed American entry in World War II during the critical years when England was alone in resisting the Nazi onslaught.

It was the father of modern American liberalism, Franklin Roosevelt, who stood by our English cousins in their time of need and led us to our most important military victory over Germany and Japan – and their varying systems of militaristic totalitarianism.

And so, my liberal friends, despite the flag waving rhetoric from right wingers, you have nothing to be ashamed of when it comes to patriotism, and love of country. Continue to speak out against false patriots like those mentioned above. Be proud to be a Liberal.

Gene Rigelon
Front Royal

Unfriendly to business

Mr. Archie Fox
Chairman, Warren County Board of Supervisors

Dear Mr. Chairman:

(Writer's note: The following is a shortened copy of the letter sent to Mr. Fox, et al, to fit the parameters of this letters section of the newspaper. We have now missed the window for

group bookings for 2012 resulting in financial loss for our company and local businesses.)

I purchased 15 Chester St., Front Royal, in April 2011 knowing that the property had many problems due to past owners' neglect. The reason for the decision to buy that particular property: location, location -- right next door to the Visitor Center! We have operated a tour company in Alexandria since 2002 and made the decision in 2011 to relocate to Front Royal. Front Royal played a crucial role in the development of our country. It was our hope to bring groups via motor coaches to the area to hear about that history – resulting in financial gain for restaurant and shop owners etc. Had I known the problems I would encounter in dealing with the County I may have changed my mind.

I am sure residents and visitors passing 15 Chester St. are wondering "what is going on?" When contacting potential contractors outside the County, as well as experts in the State offices, I have been amazed at the response: "Warren County is the worst County in the State to deal with and you should have considered Shenandoah or Frederick County."

Is that the reputation you want for the County?

Neither the Town nor the County has a paper trail on prior work performed at 15 Chester St.

Since mid-September 2011, I have been attempting to replace the rotted front porch. I was told I did not need a permit to replace the floor. When the bead board was removed, it was discovered it covered up the rotted beams and joists supporting the floor. My carpenter phoned me and stated that he had to support the columns holding up the porch roof. I instructed him to do that and stop work. Before I could get plans and apply for a permit, the County put a "Stop Work Notice" on the front door.

Since it is a historic property, I had to apply to the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) for permission to replace the porch. The carpenter did a drawing showing replacement of the porch as originally constructed. The BAR approved the plan September 13, 2011 and I was told to go to the County for a permit. I applied for the County Permit September 14, 2011.

The County stated the porch could not be replaced as originally constructed because it did not meet the Construction Code. I was told I would have to apply for a permit for a "free-standing deck" to replace the porch. At that point I asked if there were any construction rules that would cover a historic building. The response was "No." I finally got the permit in November 2011 - some of the delay caused by illness of one of the building inspectors and some caused by my lack of plans for a free-standing "deck." When I received the permit I was told to place the permit in a visible location. This I did – on the inside of the glass in the front door.

The next step was footings for the "deck." The lumber supporting the columns had to be removed, leaving the columns swinging in mid-air. Digging revealed unstable ground. I stopped work, notified the Inspection Office and hired an engineering firm to do a soil test. Test revealed footings had to be three feet deep. I telephoned the Inspection Office and was told I needed to file a modification plan with the approved plan attached.

I live in Alexandria and the original approved plan was on the inside of the glass in the locked front door of 15 Chester Street. I had a copy of the approved permit and plan in Alexandria. I made a copy of both, prepared the drawing for the modification, and, since I could not go to Front Royal because of a health issue, had my brother take the revised application to Front Royal. When he arrived he was told they could not accept a copy of the plan and permit -- it had to be the original with the red approval stamp because the inspector would look for the red stamp.

In my discussions with the State Department of Housing and Community Development, I was informed that I could have replaced the porch using the Rehabilitation Code instead of the Construction Code. The County did not make me aware of the Rehabilitation Code. Had I been informed, the porch could have gone back the way it was originally constructed and I would have avoided the expense of soil tests, the delay for new plans, and the sight of two columns swinging in mid-air at 15 Chester St. for months.

Betty J. Ward
Alexandria

Engle's Angle: Trips, Time Shares and Tabasco®

By Kevin S. Engle
Warren County Report

I heard on the news the government is cracking down on robocalls, those annoying automated phone calls we all get from telemarketers. Here are some personal favorites I'm going to miss.

The ones from hotels offering me free vacations. Come on, I may be dumb, but not that dumb. If there's no such thing as a free lunch, how can there be a free vacation? Supposedly, all we have to do is attend a four hour seminar, listen to their sales pitch and then we'll receive a complimentary hotel stay. What they don't tell you is if you don't buy their time share, or whatever it is they're selling, you can't go home. It reminds me of the last line from the Eagle's song "Hotel California",

"You can checkout any time you like, but you can never leave!"

Thanks anyway, but I'll pass on the "free" vacation.

And speaking of time shares, we keep getting calls about ours. There's just one problem. We don't own one. In fact, we never have. Although if they want to pay me for something I don't even own, maybe I should listen. Sounds like a good deal.

How about those calls from mortgage companies offering lower rates? Here's a question for you mortgage company. Can you beat 0%? Better yet, how about a mortgage where you pay me each month? I'm definitely interested in that one.

Why stop at robocalls? How about some of the junk mail I get? Can the government squash that too?

Our phone company sends us so many ads they'll probably have to raise my rates to pay for them all. Switch to their internet service, add computer repair, get their cellular service.

I'm so sick of it that I'm about ready to jump ship. But you know what will happen if I do? They'll send us even more crap trying to woo us back. "Dear former loyal customer, we truly value your business. We were heartbroken when you left us. Please come back. We'll even give you a 37¢ credit on your first bill, and then we'll double your rates."

"URGENT. TIME SENSITIVE." This is one of my favorites. Extended warranty policies for my car. "If you have less than 10 million miles on your vehicle, you may still qualify. Don't wait. This one of a kind offer expires soon." Yeah, I'll bet it does. Who are these companies? Are they even legitimate? I have my doubts. I'm fairly certain I'd never hear from them again once they have my credit card number. Thanks, but no thanks.

I truly appreciate the government looking out for my best interests. So much so that I'd like to return the favor. Here are a few suggestions I think would help them.

First of all, every member of Congress should be required to take some continuing education classes. I have three in mind. Budgeting 101, How to Get Along with your Coworkers and How to Tell the Truth. Those who pass get to keep their jobs. Those who don't go home.

And finally, every time a candidate says something nasty about the person running against them, they immediately have to suck on a lemon, then a lime and wash it down with a swig of Tabasco® sauce. That ought to make the campaigns more fun to watch.

...

With fewer phone calls to answer, and junk mail to look at, the author is contemplating a run for office. Then again, he's not a big fan of Tabasco® sauce.

kevinengle456@comcast.net



“After a visit to the vet we were given the approximate bill of \$900 per leg to fix. One leg has to be put back into socket, and one leg does not even have a socket, so one will have to be created.”

Community

E. Wilson Morrison K-Kids rally for Pixie at Petco

Rescue dog needs surgery on hind legs, yard sale on St. Pat's Day



Rescued Pixie has severe birth defect to her rear legs.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

We got a short press release about a community event scheduled for March 17 to raise money for surgery on a rescue dog. The accompanying photo of Pixie caught our eye – and heart as a lifelong dog lover. The event is an E. Wilson Morrison K-Kid's Yard Sale in the Petco Parking lot at Crooked Run Shopping Center on Rt. 522 North, beginning at 8 a.m. and running till ... on March 17 (rain date March 24). Donations for the yard sale (and Pixie) may be dropped off at Room 105 at EWM; or at Helmuth Builders at 1231 North Shenandoah Avenue. For more info call Virginia McKinnon at EWM (540) 635-1408. We inquired about more detail about Pixie and the K-Kid's story from E. Wilson Morrison

Kiwanis “K-Kids” sponsor McKinnon. We decided her telling of Pixie's story needed little from us in the way of re-writing or editing. This is what she told us:

“Pixie's story begins with a little history of myself: I am on the Board of directors at our local animal shelter. My grandson Logan had heard me talking one day about how some of the shelters in the Carolinas are in need of so much and how far we have come here with our shelter. Then on a family vacation down in Florida this past fall, Logan asked me if he could take all his change that he had saved up for the trip and adopt a dog on our way back through the Carolinas. His story touched me so (that he would even consider doing that) that I told him I would contact the right people. I got on the phone with our



EWM's Kiwanis-Kids at the Heart-gram board for Pixie. From left, Evan Martin, Zaryn Rateb (back row), Cole Shirk, Logan Jones, Shilah Shank (b), Pixie rescuer Logan Putman, Aaliyah Chunn (b), Aaron Lawson (b), Sayf Smadi, Noelle Beachy (b), Layth Smadi, Taja Showers (b), Mariah Cox, and Gabrielle Harris.

local rescue group, Shenandoah Valley Dog Rescue.

“We were traveling on a Sunday home and all the shelters were not open. But as soon as we got home there came some news that a little dog in North Carolina was in urgent need of foster care. She had come into a shelter and was not going to be shown for adoption because of the condition on her back legs due to a

birth defect. We knew at once that we had to get Pixie pulled. Logan paid to have her pulled, spayed, and heartworm tested. Then an amazing group of volunteers that transport dogs from the south to the north gave Pixie the ride on a nine-leg journey all the way up to Strasburg Virginia. We were able to pick her up and nurse her way back to trust and nutritious health.

“After a visit to the vet we were given the approximate bill of \$900 per leg to fix. One leg has to be put back into socket, and one leg does not even have a socket, so one will have to be created.

“As the faculty advisor of a Kiwanis K-Kids at school the children have

adopted her for one of their projects. They began to sell Pixie grams in school for 50 cents. They have a whole bulletin board of hearts, where they have signed their names. I have a picture of the board and the children selling them on my camera chip.

“The next project is the yard sale. Petco has been so generous as to letting us set up in their parking lot on St Pat's Day. Of course we are now in need of donations and tables to use. Her first surgery is scheduled on March 20th by Dr. Mandell, who is helping give her a discount on some of her surgery.

“Pixie is 6 pounds and is a year and a half. We hope to be able to place her up for adoption after the surgeries but that remains uncertain – she has kind of stolen our hearts as well.”

Recently this community has opened its collective heart – and pockets – for great causes for people and families in need. We join EWM's K-Kids in urging you to include Pixie in your hearts, and as you are able, by donating or checking out the March 17 Yard Sale or calling Virginia McKinnon at EWM (540) 635-1408.

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Area kids pack over 36,000 meals for 'Stop Hunger Now'



A major meal packing operation is in progress

By Malcolm Barr Sr.
 Warren County Report

It took some 160 kids and 40 adults pretty much all day to do it, but on Feb. 25 at Front Royal's Leslie Fox Keyser elementary school a record 36,600 meals were packed for the international "Stop Hunger Now" program, bringing the area's three-year total to more than 100,000 meals for the hungry.

Cal Coolidge of the Rotary Club of Front Royal, this year's area chair of the Rotary event, called it "a tremendous success." He paid tribute to the school children of Warren,

Clark and Frederick Counties who turned out early and in great numbers to help package the meals.

"Last year, and the year before, it was 80 percent adults and 20 percent kids. This year, of the 200 volunteers, 80 percent were kids and I'm real proud of them. They were really amazing," Coolidge said.

The "kids" mostly were members of Rotary's Interact Clubs at middle and high schools in the three counties. Each of the area Rotary clubs contributed up to \$1,000 from their annual budgets (\$5,500). Fundraisers and individual contributions netted another \$3,648. Coolidge



The entire crew of 200 Rotarians and children from Rotary Interact Clubs from Warren, Clark and Frederick Counties which packed 36,600 meals for the hungry.

added "special kudos" for Randolph-Macon Academy Middle School children who alone raised \$1,350.

Linden Rotarians, led by Chad Hrbek, were the biggest sponsors with a cash donation of \$3,500 to purchase the non-perishable sup-

plies. It was Front Royal Rotary Club's turn to spearhead this year's effort. Coolidge, who has been active in the program from the get-go, was asked to run it.

Previous beneficiaries of the "Stop Hunger Now" program were the

Ivory Coast in Africa and the island of Haiti. An announcement of which country will be selected for this year's food packages will be announced shortly by Rotary International, Coolidge told us.



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Bucks for Brogan golf tourney

Warren County's Front Royal Golf Club will host a "Bucks for Brogan" Charity Golf Tournament on April 6. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. with a Shotgun Start beginning at 9 a.m.

The format is Captain's Choice, four-person teams (superball). Entry is \$50 per person, \$200 per team and includes breakfast, green fees, cart and prize eligibility.

Entry deadline is April 3, at 5 p.m. and there is a 12-team maximum for the event.

'Style for James' Fashions

"Style for James" is a benefit fashion show, featuring WCPS staff and teachers modeling donated clothing which will be for sale. The show is scheduled for March 23, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the WCMS auditorium. Sponsors are Ressie Jeffries and "Seams to Me", a non-profit providing clothing to women in need.

Admission is \$5 a person, 10 and under are free. Vendors will have tables set up for other shopping opportunities. And there will be a raffle for a "Lady of Style" basket, with many vendors and giveaways. Contact person for the event is Amiira Lanterman, at alanter-man@wcps.k12.va.us, or (703) 786-7650

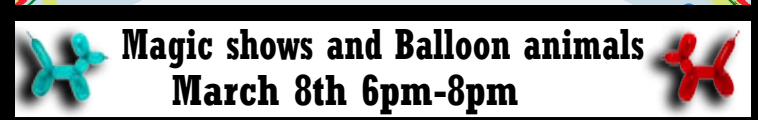
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Santa and Royal Plaza chip in

The Royal Plaza Shopping Center recently donated \$300 to Warren Co. Animal Shelter and \$377 to Saint Luke's Community Clinic. The money came from proceeds collected from "Pictures with Santa" at Christmas time at Royal Plaza. Thanks to everyone who had their photos taken and helped the cause.



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County

“We need what is best for the most people. I have seen only a few in opposition to this program. Don’t make a decision on what a just a few want.” – parks & rec advisory board member Lee Ann Lewis

Board tables decision on summer camp program

Angel’s Korner trio leads the opposition to eight-week county youth camp



Unconvinced? - From left, Chairman Archie Fox, Linda Glavis and Dan Murray ponder what they have heard about the county’s recently resurrected Summer Youth Camp. While six asked that the more affordable public program be continued to the benefit of more county children, the private sector “camp” led by an Angel’s Korner trio of opponents appeared to hold sway with a board majority.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

Paralyzed by a seeming inability to reach a measured decision based on facts, rather than the unsubstantiated opinion of a small minority of private sector operators – and perhaps driven by an emerging, conservative political ideology of increased privatization of public services – the Warren County Board of Supervisors again failed to reach a final decision on the fate of an eight-week summer camp for young school age children (aged 5-11) following a Feb. 21st public hearing.

Rather, by a 4-0 vote (Traczyk absent) the board tabled further action

with a deadline looming to include the program in a soon-to-be distributed parks & rec department summer program brochure. A board decision is likely to come at the March 6th morning meeting, three days before the county brochure is scheduled to go to the printer’s.

The failure to commit one way or the other came after the supervisors heard from 10 public speakers, with a 6-4 pro-camp split. However the total of four against continuation of the camp along similar day-long program lines as last year may need an asterisk by its side because three of the four negative opinions came from two co-owners of the Angel’s Korner Daycare, and one of those owner’s daughter, a



Lee Ann Lewis asked the board to do what was best “for the most” county children, rather than a handful of adults with a special or philosophical interest in seeing the county summer program ended.

former employee. Previously Angel’s Korner proprietor Rosemary Comstock has provided letters from three other daycare operators opposing the program. A fourth, from former LFK principal Mike Kitts, adding the opposition of Dominion Health & Fitness, was read into the record during the public hearing.

Don’t forget the kids

Four parents who were clients of the county last summer were among those urging the board to reconsider dropping the summer camp.

“My kids loved this program,” Christa Peacock said of her three boys aged 5, 7 and 8. “They are high energy kids and they loved it, it kept them going ... Most important, this county needs a place we can afford to

send our kids like programs in other counties do.”

“The parks and rec department made accommodations to work together with the private sector and the non-profits. When a decision was tabled in October and the committee was created, parks & rec did exactly what was asked,” Lee Ann Lewis, who said she was a parks & rec advisory board member, told the board.

“We need what is best for the most people. I have seen only a few in opposition to this program. Don’t make a decision on what a just a few want,” Lewis urged the board.

“I do believe the more camps we

have, the better off we are. Providing a lower-priced alternative, an affordable camp for all kids,” Tom Wilkins told the board. He added that if the enrollment focus for the county summer program went toward families that could not afford private sector daycare, he felt the opposition from that sector would fade.

Diane Stives told the board how disappointed her children, who were in the program last year, were when they heard it was being cancelled. Stives said she had never used private daycare and asked the board not to eliminate this summer option for “regular middle class parents.”

Marlene Ring asked the board to explore other surrounding municipalities’ summer camp programs, mentioning Winchester by name. She suggested that if Warren County kills its program, she would seek out enrollment opportunities in other county programs, rather than in private sector daycare.

“I ask you to reconsider – the children don’t have a voice – but don’t forget them,” Ring said.

Private vs. the public sector

Angel’s Korner owner Rosemary Comstock has led the charge to kill the program since the move to resurrect it surfaced last spring. The county operated a summer camp through parks & recreation from 1997-2002 before declining revenues and other logistical issues led to its being dropped.

As reported last issue, a 4-1 board

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“Most important, this county needs a place we can afford to send our kids like programs in other counties do.” – parent and summer camp supporter Christa Peacock

County

majority appeared to reach a consensus to kill the program, as well as the Feb. 21 public hearing following Comstock's reasserting her claim it provides an unfair competition to private sector businesses like hers during a Feb. 7th board work session.

However the board's lone remain-

ing supporter of the program, Happy Creek Republican Supervisor Tony Carter, pushed to have the public hearing. Carter took the blame for some confusion in the wording of the agenda description of the program, particularly regarding ongoing parks & rec effort with two non-profit entities operating with the public school

system.

Both parks & rec staff and Carter said there was no intent not to proceed with the alliance with the non-profits as instructed by the board on Feb. 7th should the program finally get the axe.

Newly-elected North River Republican Supervisor Dan Murray, who is

playing catch up on the diverse opinions being forwarded from all sides since taking office in January, made the motion to table a decision, citing the amount of information presented. Carter seconded the motion to table a final decision to March 6, with the qualification the parks & rec staff could continue to plan cooperation

with the two non-profits, the Youth Enrichment Program at WCMS and the WC School Age Care Program, per the Feb. 7th board directive, regardless of how the final vote goes. Carter also suggested a vote should come with the full board present. While Traczyk appears to have left the county "camp", last year he was

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Sarah Palin fan Rosemary Comstock led a trio of Angel's Korner principals, including co-owner Joanne Hensley and former employee and daughter Leanna Comstock, speaking against the parks & rec-developed summer camp.

Carter's major ally in pushing the 2011 program through.

A Palin perspective

Comstock sought this reporter out prior to the meeting to thank us for the observation her Feb. 7th "moth-

er bear for the daycares" comment raised the specter of former Republican Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who liked to use the term "momma bear" on the campaign stump.

"Thank you. If she hadn't dropped out [of the presidential race] I probably would have voted for her," Com-

stock said of Palin "Big surprise," we thought. On Feb. 21st Palin, err Comstock, continued to assert that rather than oppose the program, she favored a year-round county program that the private sector could feed into so that more county children could be reached.

However in post-public hearing comments, Carter said that while he agreed the county should not directly compete with private sector business, neither did he believe public funds should be used to subsidize private sector business.

A parks & rec perspective

"It's like Tony [Carter] said, it's never ending. No matter what we

laid on the table ... it still wasn't good enough," Parks & Rec Summer Camp Program Director Robin Richardson told us following the Feb. 7 work session. "And then it was basically she wants us to provide programming for them, but then turn around and says it's for the entire community. It was just going around in circles and it's been that way for the last two months."

Financial survival?

In arguing against implementation of the program last spring Comstock pointed to the temporary loss of clients over the life of the eight-week county program due to families' ability to save as much as \$40 per child per week. Included in the parks &

rec report provided to the supervisors last October, private providers reported the temporary loss of from one to six clients over the duration of the eight-week county youth camp.

But according to Richardson, it is not only daycare clients looking to save a buck through the summer in tough economic times that will be impacted by the loss of the program. "There were a lot of people in our program that had the payment plans and were doing what they could to scrape by ... so they definitely can't afford daycare."

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"I didn't know what was going on." – Tom Sayre on his failure to respond to a call for a voice vote on tax cut proposed by Shae Parker (given a second chance to figure it out when a roll call vote was called, Sayre, along with Holloway, Lauder and Tharpe, voted against the small tax cut)

Town

Council rejects Parker 'token' tax reduction Conkey calls it a political day – cites personal, business interests



At center, Hollis Tharpe may be contemplating a potential role as referee as Tom Conkey, right, and Tom Sayre presented differing perspectives on government, politics and pertinent Reagan quotes.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

At recent Front Royal Town Council work sessions and meetings, Shae Parker has challenged his colleagues to get creative in seeking ways to reduce the tax burden on citizens continuing to struggle through a national economic downturn.

The councilman thought he had found his own creative solution – a small reduction in the personal property tax rate he believed was enabled by the reduced town obligation on financing Samuel's Public Library. The county seems poised to assume full municipal funding of the library as an ac-

commodation to the town for lost 522 North Corridor revenue. The town should realize a \$45,000 saving in the next budget cycle from that change; Parker asked that \$32,000 of that amount be dedicated to his suggested tax cut.

And while Parker admitted his suggested 4-cent cut to the personal property tax (to 60 cents from 64 cents per \$100 of assessed value) revenue generated largely by personal automobiles wasn't exactly a life-altering savings – our count was an approximate \$2-plus per person savings if you divide the estimated revenue saving of \$32,000 by the town population of around 15,000 – he indicated it's the thought that

counts.

"The citizens made the investment in the corridor; that's where this conversation on the county taking over funding of the library came from, and I think the citizens should get their return on their investment ... and also give them a break in their wallets," Parker said. He added that his proposed \$32,000 cut to a \$35 million budget was "a drop in the bucket" for the town.

Conkey initially said uncertainties in the coming budget made him reluctant to make such a cut. However, when the vote on Parker's amendment to include the personal property tax cut, he was the lone councilman to vote with Parker.

"I can't see around the corner, I'm not sure what's around that corner, so until we get around that corner I want to keep that money in my wallet," Carson Lauder said

of the town's "wallet".

"I think it's a good idea but I can't support it at this moment," Tom Sayre said.

"I would love to see us reduce this, but if I'm fortunate enough to be here next year I don't want somebody coming along saying 'we've got to raise it' ... I think now is not the right time to do this. I'm against raising taxes; if we could lower this and feel comfortable about doing it I'd feel



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more than happy to vote for it but I can't vote for this ..." Vice-Mayor Chris Holloway added.

Prior to the vote on his amendment, Parker said while it was apparent he did not have support he would not withdraw his motion – "I'm going to make you guys vote it down," he told his colleagues.

When Mayor Darr called for a voice vote, Conkey joined Parker in voting yes. When the mayor called for those against, there was total silence. Our impression was that Parker's amended motion passed 2-0 with 4 abstentions. In fact, Conkey verbalized that opinion – "There were only ayes, so it looks like it passed," Conkey said.

But not so fast, sports fans. Council Clerk Jennifer Berry requested a roll call to clarify who had done what and the mayor obliged.

"I didn't know what was going on," Sayre offered in a rare moment of clarity prior to the roll call.

Given a second chance to vote, the amendment was defeated 4-2, again with only Conkey joining Parker. – "Shae made a compelling argument," Conkey said in prefacing his second vote in support of the tax cut.

Conkey bids adieu

But alas, any potential political mileage Conkey may have gotten

from the public for joining Parker in seeking even a token tax cut, went for naught.

Earlier Conkey officially announced he would not seek reelection to a second term.

He cited a potential move out of town that might result from a new business opportunity.

"I absolutely love the town and the people here and I want to express my eternal gratitude to those who have supported me over the last few years. I think we have done a lot of good for the community. But I have been

constantly frustrated by the small group of people who seem more interested in protecting their power base than in doing what's right and best for the people of this community," Conkey said in a prepared statement.

Conkey concluded his remarks by anticipating more negative campaigning this spring and quoting late President Ronald Reagan with a dismissive – "There they go again" – regarding such tactics.

Not to be out-Reagan-ed, Sayre felt compelled to reply, stating,

"Mr. Mayor, another Reagan quote is 'Government is not the solution, it is the problem.'"

That totally out of context comment led at least one observer present to wonder why the speaker is so enamored of holding public office in Front Royal – perhaps to help facilitate the destruction of functional government in his

adopted home town?

We later asked Conkey if he cared to elaborate on that source of constant frustration he referenced. As deadline approached he was pondering how deep he wanted to go into his perception of personal political agendas and motivations ... tick, tick, tick ...

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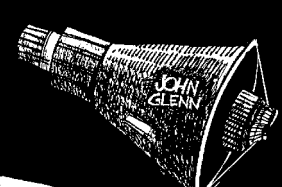
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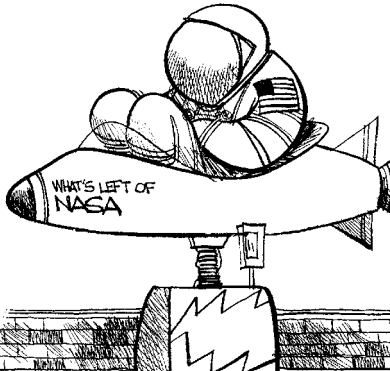


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By Samantha Mazzotta

Fruit Fly Swarm Infests Kitchen

Q. How can I get rid of pesky fruit flies? They're all over my kitchen. — *Stephen F., Warwick, R.I.*

A. Fruit flies, as their name indicates, love hanging out around fruit, or any sort of sweetish, sugary item. They're much more common in the summer months, but it's not unusual to see them in early spring, particularly in the kitchen, if the conditions are right. A warm environment combined with a bowl of over-ripe bananas often is all it takes for a few fruit flies to set up housekeeping, and in a few days, it will seem like they're everywhere.

The fastest way to get rid of fruit flies is to hunt down and get rid of items in which they live and breed: namely, overripe, fermented or spoiled fruits, vegetables or other food. They also can thrive in drains, empty containers, mops, piles of damp rags or clothing — anywhere that liquid or food has been allowed to sit and get stagnant. They can even get into your refrigerator.

Throw out old food and clean the kitchen or other infested areas. Look behind appliances, including the stove and refrigerator, for dropped food or spilled juices. Check and clean all cabinets, especially those in which food is stored (canned or fresh), in case any food has fallen out of sight and spoiled.

Treat drains, including unused or infrequently used drains, by pouring a cup of white vinegar down each and letting it sit for several minutes before

rinsing with hot water.

If a thorough cleaning doesn't end the problem, talk with a pest control professional about locating other sources of the infestation and treating with a pesticide.

To prevent future infestations or minimize the impact of one (since fruit flies can be brought into the house with fruit and veggies from

home tip

Make a simple fruit fly trap by pouring an ounce or two of apple cider or putting a slice of banana into a glass jar, then rolling a piece of paper into a funnel shape and sticking the narrow end of the funnel into the jar. Fruit flies will be attracted down the funnel to the cider, but can't get out.

the store), clean the kitchen and other areas where food is eaten or stored once a week, and reduce the amount of clutter in those areas so the bugs have fewer places to settle in. Treat drains with vinegar once a month, or more frequently if needed. Store garbage in tightly sealed containers and away from entry points like windows or doors. Make sure window screens don't have holes or small tears that would allow pests through.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Town

Hrbek, Ratigan announce, outline campaigns

Mandy goes St. Paddy's and 'Gitmo' for political snakes in the grass



Bret Hrbek is ready to jump from a relaxed personal and professional life style, back into the less-relaxed River City political trenches.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

It was a busy two weeks on the stump collecting signatures to qualify for the May Front Royal Town Elections – two candidates – Bret Hrbek (council) and Tim Ratigan (mayor) officially announced after turning in their

petitions to Warren County Registrar Carol Tobin and her staff. One other, Daryl Funk, mentioned within several contexts in our last issue, is reported to be circulating petitions for both a council and mayoral run. His press conference on the Warren County Courthouse lawn is scheduled for this coming week. We also ran into Ron Har-



Tim Ratigan and wife Pam as candidate Ratigan prepares to meet the press after turning petitions for mayoral run in.

vey, sly devil, getting his council petitions notarized at town hall.

Hrbek launches council run

On Feb. 21st, former Front Royal Councilman and Vice-Mayor Hrbek issued a press release citing his past initiatives as a councilman, and stating he has a positive

vision for the community's future he feels has been somewhat lacking over the past two years.

"Hrbek has a history working with businesses and investors from around the country to bring economic development to the town including Energy Answers and Standard Energy ... During his previous tenure Hrbek was a leader in developing the relationship with AMP-Ohio which has

resulted in Front Royal's electric utility rates being the second lowest in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Hrbek stated in his press release. "Now that we have reduced rates it is time to focus on the development of our town businesses. We need a vision for the future of our community that I believe is currently lacking on the town council. I have a positive vision for our future. We need to be focused on jobs and economic revitalization. We need to take a cue from Congressman Wolf and figure out how Front Royal can be a hub for science, math and engineering opportunities."

Among past achievement on council, Hrbek stated he, "was a lead voice to end the county BPOL tax on town businesses, adding a Moment of Silence to the town's meeting agenda and the Front Royal's effort to remove Virginia's abuser driver statute from the town code. He has also been a leading voice in fiscal discipline, promoting economic development and the town's plan for future growth.

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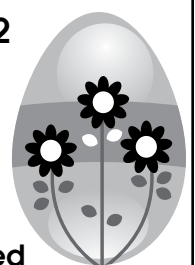
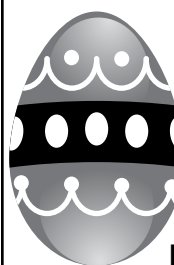
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Model corporate citizen Mandy reminds us Irish girls like flowers too – especially on St. Paddy's Day (hint, hint).

town policy in regards to the 522 corridor, our energy policy and economic development. I thank the people of Front Royal for their confidence and ask for their continued support and vote in May," said Hrbek.

Ratigan's mayoral campaign

Ratigan held a press conference in front of the WCGC after turning his initial petitions in; he says he plans to add to those numbers in the coming week.

Ratigan outlined a mayoral campaign he said will emphasize bringing the town's renters, of which he is one, into the process of choosing who leads the town in which they live. Ratigan said he would spearhead efforts to see all the town's renters are treated fairly.

"There are many good landlords – we have one – but there a few bad eggs. Maybe we could encourage a landlord's association that would police themselves," Ratigan said of ways to increase accountability and action on renter com-

plaints about maintaining basic standards in their living place.

Ratigan added he would emphasize cooperation with the private sector – and the county – rather than an adversarial environment, to create a positive and friendly environment for business owners. Hopefully that environment will bring the kinds of manufacturing jobs that provide benefits for employees and pay more than a minimum wage.

"Were it is possible we should view codes as suggestions rather than specific directions that hinder businesses," Ratigan said. "We should all try to be on the same page."

Ratigan also said "I would like to be known as the tourism mayor of Front Royal."

The candidate, who was a strong supporter of moving town elections to November as a means of encouraging increased voter turnout, also said he hoped further negotiations could prevent a hostile town annexation move on county land in the 522 North Cor-

ridor – "but town citizens have given a lot," Ratigan said in noting slow movement on compensating the town for lost corridor fee revenues from the restaurant PILOT fee lawsuit of 2009.

The corporate council-person

And then of course, there is Mandy. Our retired FRPD traffic enforcement mannequin officially announced her intention to incorporate and run for council as a "corporate person" in our last edition. We visited with Mandy, who is back at her original profession as a floral shop model in the window of Fussell Florists at the intersection of 2nd Street and Commerce Ave. Perhaps ironically as Mandy "goes green" in preparation for St. Patrick's Day, she is on the job only a stone's throw the Warren County Government Center where she hopes to sit as the first elected municipal "corporate council-person".

As for her platform, Mandy issued the following statement through campaign staff:

"I am smarter and more eloquent – not to mention better looking – than the other candi-dates; I want to break up the 'good ole boy' network by introducing a 'good ole, corporate gal' into the local political equation. And I favor indefinite detention without charges of those suspected of attempting to undermine our independent media, our democratic processes, or blur the line between legal and illegal, moral and immoral political behavior right here in River City.

"Timmy R may want to be Front Royal's 'tourism mayor' and Timmy D may want to keep stinky, rotten behavior and partisan backstabbing out of town politics,"

Mandy added, "but me, I want to be known as the 'corporate hammer' of council, who like St. Patrick, drove the snakes, not out of Ireland, but out of Front Royal politics."

That's our girl – and very attractive in green, if we do say so.

To Super-PAC or not ...

We broached the notion of creating a Super-PAC to collect anonymous and unlimited campaign funds, including the necessary money for her to become a corporation. However, Mandy deferred, saying she wanted complete transparency in her campaign and among those who support her. Her first campaign move is gathering the funds to cover the expense of incorporation and the printing of several campaign banners &/or signs.

She received a promise of \$75 toward her incorporation fee from local businessman and recently unsuccessful North River Supervisor candidate Victor "Tory" Failmezger.

"I think she'd probably do a lot better than several who are already

there or who have been out getting signatures," Failmezger told us at the Feb.24 Yappy Hour gathering at VINO e Formaggio.

No, Failmezger told us, his financial commitment to Mandy's corporate candidacy neither reflected any change of political or economic perspective, nor any bitterness over his recent failed political run.

"But you can go ahead and say I'm just a bitter 'elitist,'" Failmezger joked about a personal characterization thrown his way by Republican activist Matt Tederick during the November county campaign. "And I promise, I'll make good on my financial commitment," he added with a sideways slap at his most vocal political critic.

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Town

Jail recycled water request doesn't wash *Town flushes regional jail H2O for laundry idea*

By Dan McDermott
Warren County Report

Members of Front Royal Town Council reached a consensus at a work session Feb. 21 to not consider a request from the upcoming RSW Regional Jail to use recycled rainwater for laundry and then return the used water to the town's municipal wastewater treatment plant.

Councilmen Chris Holloway and Thomas Sayre were the only members to support the plan which Moseley Architects representative Tony Bell said would save the jail \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year and help the site achieve a "silver" rating when they pursue a LEED certification with the US Green Building Council.

Town Council members who opposed the plan expressed a desire to prevent any non town-supplied water from being returned to the treatment system. Most vocal on the issue was Councilman Tom Conkey. "My issues are by adding foreign water it is difficult or impossible to size the wastewater treatment plant. The ordinance does not address the real issue which is that as soon as we open this door there will be a line at our door from business and industry that will want to introduce foreign water into our system. All this to save the county \$6,000 a year. I know there will be a line at the door. This is a Pandora's box that you are asking us to open to get silver certification and save \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year and it just doesn't add up," Conkey said.

Warren County Sheriff and regional jail building committee chairman Daniel McEathron suggested that the town could allow the rainwater use exclusively by the jail since it was a public facility rather than a private business. "The effort has been to conserve the money of the taxpayers to make sure it is run as efficiently and as environmentally friendly as possible. I appreciate what you are saying but this is a public building not a house," McEathron reasoned.

Front Royal Town Attorney Douglas Napier was asked if the town could allow the use for the jail only but indicated he hadn't pursued the legality of that approach. "I have the county version and two different town proposals but I have been told to put it on hold," he said.

Architect Bell's suggestion that not achieving the silver LEED certification would be tantamount to going through high school or college without taking the final exams did not ultimately persuade a majority of council members that the rating offered few tangible benefits beyond bragging rights and a plaque on the wall.

After a testy exchange between Bell and Conkey about which one was "missing the point," Bell offered a final plea that council members should "do it for our kids."

Ultimately, Conkey's "Pandora's Box" argument won over a council still smarting from the loss of a lawsuit brought by businesses in the same north corridor that the new jail

will occupy.

Several days later Bell told the Regional Jail Commission of the town decision, observing that with existing codes preventing outside water being introduced into the town wastewater system it was not a totally surprising decision. The commission then voted to include the cistern design in the jail with two possible connections - one to the town system should capacity or political circumstances change, the other toward a potential on-site wastewater treatment facility that would bypass the town's system.

Flea Markets

As Front Royal proceeds to rework its flea market licensing to move from a town-vendor approach to a town-market relationship, Mayor Tim Darr expressed a concern that some merchants were selling new products

and competing unfairly with established brick-and-mortar businesses. "Most are flea vendors but some sell new products and hurt our existing businesses in town and compete with our garden centers that have to pay big money. The purpose was to sell used wares. How do we solve that problem?" Darr rhetorically asked.

While stressing that he wasn't trying to "shut down the flea market," Darr asked if the market could be fined if vendors were selling new products. "Why buy a store? Just pay \$15 to the market instead. You are hurting every business in town doing that," he said.

Councilman Shae Parker said the town should apply the same rules to the farmers market and perhaps tier the cost to the number of tables in case a smaller flea market wants to open.

Other business

Council also discussed Saturday bill payment options for citizens, and a move to switch Samuel's Public Library employees from the town's health care plan to the county's since it is anticipated the county will assume full municipal funding of the library.

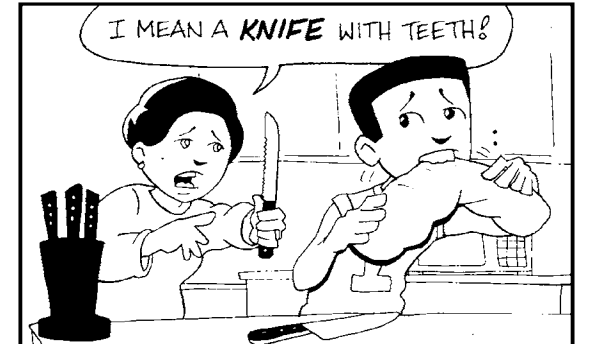
Not surprisingly, council members expressed concern over the possibility that the state may pass municipal election costs to localities and members appeared supportive of a move to resolve that they would oppose cuts in state funding for maintenance of local roads.

Sadly, reporters and spectators were denied the always entertaining annual deer culling presentation by Front Royal Police Lt. Clint Keller who couldn't attend the meeting.

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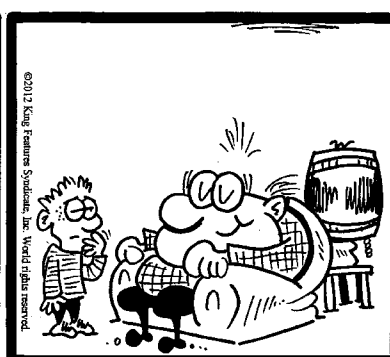
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Joe reflects on his Steakhouse's 5 months in Front Royal

As spring approaches, plans to expand service to outside deck develop



Joe's Steakhouse today ...

By Carol Ballard
 Warren County Report

After only five months in business, Joe's Steakhouse, located at the corner of Criser Rd. and South Royal Ave. in Front Royal has won an industry award, accolades from experienced restaurant business patrons and cheers from local diners who are thrilled that the historic building is renovated and re-opened.

Located at 708 South Royal Ave. the building was home in the 1940s to Skyline Terrace Restaurant and more recently Dean's Steakhouse.

"Business has been phenomenal, so much better than we could have expected," said Joe Wobbe, who is co-owner of the restaurant with H. B. Sager.

Joe said that he has heard a lot of comments from local people about all the good memories they



... and the Skyline Restaurant as it looked on a postcard, circa 1950s judging from the cars.

associate with the place and they particularly like the restorations that have been made to the interior.

"We took it back to its original bare bones, and exposed the brick in the bar and the gorgeous hardwood floor," he said.

Over the years people have met there for business meetings, to celebrate proms and wedding rehearsal dinners, had parties, and

just came to enjoy themselves.

"A couple of people cried," he said of customers revisiting the site of old memories.

They've also increased outside seating to accommodate 100 diners. If the weather is good, the terrace will be open in mid-April. An outside grill and coolers for drinks are in the works.

The promise of outside terrace dining has won them praises

from the prestigious Virginia Living Magazine.

Joe said he has just been notified that the May, 2012 issue will present the "Best Outdoor Dining in the Northeast Region" award to Joe's Steakhouse in Front Royal.

Joe is also very happy with the 40 people employed at his restaurant. "They are good quality folks, wonderful people," he said.

Joe went on to explain that when he was planning to open the restaurant, he heard rumbles of negativity from a few individuals who said hiring in Front Royal would be "difficult," but recently, praise from an out-of-town senior vice-president of a major restaurant chain confirmed Joe's own evaluation of his people.

"He called me over to his table and said to me, 'Your staff is a well-oiled machine. It's nice when customers walk by, the waiters move,'" said Joe.

"They take a team approach." This kind of praise from someone experienced in the business means a lot.

And Joe's love of steak has its

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Business



“Today, We Eat Steak” - Joe’s story greets diners in the main entrance foyer

origins in a story he told about growing up as youngest in a family with nine children in Newport, New Hampshire.

During the seventies, in an

economy similar to the current one, there were not many steak dinners at his house. Mostly they ate pasta, but one day his Dad told everyone to go with him to the lo-



The bar area

cal grocery store where they each chose a steak. Then his Dad had them march back to their house in a line, holding the steaks above their heads.

From this story comes a saying he likes - which is, “Who knows what might happen tomorrow, today we eat steak!”

Joe and his family have lived in Woodstock for the last 12 years. “They are nice people and I like living with them,” he says.

As for the food served in Front Royal, “Good-tasting food is a basis for serving fresh – never fro-

zen – beef and seafood at Joe’s.” His motto is “Great steak, great seafood, great price,” he said.

For people with non-meat-eating tastes and diets, there are vegetarian and gluten-free alternative meals.

Upcoming events scheduled for Joe’s Steakhouse include: a four-course beer tasting dinner on March 15 from 6 to 8 p.m.; a wine tasting dinner slated for the end of March; and a popular mystery dinner, “Shootout at the Deadwood Saloon”, to be presented sometime at the end of April or

early May. Some of the proceeds from this dinner go to local charities, he said.

Joe’s Steakhouse is co-owned by Joe Wobbe and H. B. Sager, Mark Speidel is the general manager, and Terrence Lyon is the executive chef.

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March 19-23: Open house/tours given daily—check out all we offer

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Browntown's Glen Manor takes a 'Best in Show'

Jeff White's vineyard produces a first place dry red wine in Governor's Cup



Jeff White of Browntown's Glen Manor Vineyards and his grape vines down a rolling hill in southern Warren County.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

On Feb. 27th we were tipped off by local Peter Wilson that Browntown's Glen Manor Vineyards had won first place in the 2012 Governor's Cup Competition for Virginia wines.

Quite an achievement to get best in show in his first entry in such a prestigious statewide competition for local vineyard operator Jeff White, we thought. The last time we saw Jeff, several years back, he was battling county officials over zoning regulations requiring him

to pave over a gravel parking lot at his vineyard. White reasoned that the mandated paving work was both environmentally counterproductive to an Agricultural usage such as his, and unnecessary to accommodate the amount of traffic his business generates. And amazingly enough, Jeff told us, cooler heads prevailed and the codes were revisited.

But that's water – or perhaps wine – under the bridge.

As reported by the Virginia Business website, a 2009 "Hodder Hill Meritage" from Glen Manor Vineyards took the prestigious Gover-

nor's Cup award. White told us his winning wine is a dry, red ... umm ...

"Glen Manor's Meritage and the other 11 wines that make up the Governor's Cup Case will make a fine addition to wine cellars everywhere, further enhancing the growing reputation of Virginia wines," Gov. Bob McDonnell said in a statement on the competition results.

Glen Manor's "Meritage" is the first wine to win under more stringent rules implemented by McDonnell. In previous years, the Governor's Cup was divided into two categories: red and white wines. This year, all wines competed against each other.

More than 400 entries were reviewed by judges in mid-January. The top 12 wines were selected to make up the 2012 Governor's Cup Case. Those 12 wines were scored against one another by another judging panel in late January. Any wine made from 100 percent Virginia fruit was eligible for the competition.

Virginia Business reported that

"The Hodder Hill Meritage is a blend of 63 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot, 6-percent Cabernet Franc and 6-percent Petit Verdot. The winemaker and winery owner, Jeff White, is a fourth generation farmer who established Glen Manor Vineyards in 2005. His estate has grown grapes since the mid-1990s."

White told us this was his vineyard's first entry in the competition.

As a fourth generation farmer with a vineyard so honored in its seventh year of existence, what does such professional recognition mean to him? We asked.

"I'm extremely proud to be farming this land that my great grandparents purchased in 1901. Everyone has contributed, from my father doing the bookkeeping, my mother picking paint colors, my wife managing our tasting room to my nephew working the vineyards during summer," he said.

Does he anticipate a run on his products now and how will that impact his business and his mood?

"Yes, and this will most probably be sold out by mid April," Jeff said of his current wine stock. Yes, it will produce strain and a smile. We are giving our most loyal customers priority in purchasing this wine," he added.

According to the vineyard website, Glen Manor wines are available at over 60 locations statewide, and in Washington D.C. Locally they are available at Element, Apartment 2G and The Wine Shop at J's Gourmet and the Wine & Duck in Front Royal, The Apple House in Linden, The Ashby Inn in Paris, L'Auberge Provencale in Boyce and The Inn at Little Washington, among others.



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Main Street Book Company going through some changes *Moves across E. Main Street, changes name to 'The Good Life'*



Jonathan Yulish standing at the junction of his new book store named The Good Life, and the Daily Grind

By Carol Ballard
 Warren County Report

Main Street Book Company changed its name to The Good Life and moved across the street to the newly-renovated building at 213 E. Main St. on Feb.25. A Grand Opening is scheduled for March 17
 Jonathan (Jon) Yulish's renovated the recently vacated storefront next to The Daily Grind for his book business. Hopefully the new name of his book store signals prosperity for all businesses and visitors to the down-

town area.
 "Daily Grind's Herb Melrath and I expect there to be a nice synergy between the books and coffee shop," Jon said.
 In fact, there are connecting French doors between the two shops and it's not too much of a stretch to imagine browsing in the book shop and then sitting down next door with a good cup of coffee.
 Jon explained that when the opportunity came up to move nearer the coffee shop, he took it even though business was fine where he was. One



Daily Grind owner Herb Malreath helps bridge the gap between caffeine and literature as Jon Yulish holds court in book store's "living room".

of the reasons is that when people stroll up Main Street from the Visitor's Center and visit the Daily Grind, there's a lot more foot traffic-and that makes it even better for business.
 "My feeling after two years (in April) here is that I believe in the Front Royal downtown and that's why I'm staying," Jon said, adding, "I'm just doing something different while I'm still staying here."
 Many features of the book store will remain, but some will change.

The cozy children's book and reading section has survived the move and is enriched by having readers come in for story times.
 Jon said he noticed children and parents sitting outside of the dance studio down the hall in back of the bookshop waiting for their session to begin. It made him think it would be a nice opportunity for the kids to come and listen to stories and join in doing crafts with artists in the late afternoon during the week.
 Other plans include bringing in entertainment, acoustic music, poetry readings and book signings.
 In fact, on Saturday, March 3, the first big event/book signing will feature Congressman Frank R. Wolf, our representative for Virginia's 10th congressional district.
 He'll be signing his new book, "Prisoner of Conscience: One Man's Crusade for Global Human and Religious Rights" from 1 to 3 p.m.
 Jon expects to continue to carry art

work by local artists and he'd like to get even more paintings. Book clubs are still welcome to use the store as a resource for a free meeting place, and they will get 20 percent off the price of the book they are currently reading.
 In addition to the comprehensive selection of books, there is a bigger line of souvenirs and gift items like cooking and kitchen accessories and Arston olive oil and vinegar. Office supplies and convenience items like aspirin, candy bars and all-occasion greeting cards are also on hand.
 A few of the same products and services offered are: magazines; new and gently read books; special book orders available; ten percent off hard back or paperback best sellers; and the newsletter for customers, friends and associates..

Jon still believes in his choice of business and stated, "People are unusually positive about how nice it is to have an independent book store downtown. Front Royal has a lot of potential with new businesses coming in. I want to contribute to the growth of the downtown area in general. There's certainly room for lots more."
 For information, call (540) 631-7223.
 Until further notice, visit www.MainStreetBookCompany.com, or Face-book.com/MainStreetBookCompany
 Hours are: Mon.-Sat.10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Ginny Leser's Passages Travel and Cruises, presently sharing space with Main Street Books, has also moved to the new location.
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Town

Locals form business alliance

By Dan McDermott
Warren County Report

Five Warren County businesses and individuals have formed a Front Royal chapter of the American Independent Business Alliance, a network of over 80 other local affiliates that helps communities market smaller independent businesses and level the playing field with big-box and other national retailers and the buying power, brand recognition and marketing muscle they wield.

Longtime downtown advocate Craig Laird, owner of Royal Oak Computers, said after years of working with a handful of Main Street colleagues he was excited to find a national support group that mirrored his own vision of a more vibrant local home-grown business community.

"For the past two-and-a-half

money to form the local affiliate but opened up a wealth of start-up materials for us," Laird said in a Feb. 29 interview.

Strength in numbers

Recognizing the challenges that small local businesses face when competing with larger chains with hundreds or perhaps thousands of other outlets, the Independent Business Alliances focus on four areas that are more easily done by groups than by one or two activists: 1/ public education of the impact a dollar spent at a local store has compared to the same dollar going to an out-of-state or international chain, 2/ cooperative buying, 3/ training and marketing and 4/ advocating for their fellow local businesses.

According to Laird, the efforts of groups like the Front Royal IBA benefit not only member

and print-oriented design firm, George McIntyre of the tourist mecca The Apple House, former Front Royal Tourism Director Jennifer Keck, and local realtor Andi Robinson.

The group plans to file for

501(c)(6) status, an IRS designation for not-for-profit business leagues ranging from real estate boards and chambers of commerce to, interestingly, professional football leagues.

For more information on the

Front Royal Independent Business Alliance, contact Craig Laird at 540-635-7064 or Andi Robinson at andiarobinson@mris.com

The FRIBA has also setup a Facebook page accessible at FrontRoyalIBA.org

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State

“This bill says that women who have migraine headaches cannot take birth control pills ... This is a law that was written by people that don’t understand health care, medical care and the medical consequences of it.” – health care provider Eileen Davis

More than 1,000 protest ‘Personhood,’ ultrasound bills

Largest public demonstration at state capital in quarter century



Capital demonstrators tell legislature - “Besides a womb, I have a brain - let me use it”

By Zack Budryk
Capital News Service

RICHMOND – More than 1,000 people turned out at the Capitol late last month to silently protest a wave of legislation that they claim undermines women’s reproductive rights.

The demonstration focused largely on two measures: House Bill 1, which would give the legal status of a human being to a fertilized egg, and HB 462, which would require a trans-vaginal ultrasound before undergoing an abortion. Both bills had passed the House of Delegates and were being considered by the Senate Education and Health Committee.

“We want the state legislators to know that we are angry, and we

will not stand idly by as our rights to privacy and access to health care are eroded; we will not be told we do not know what is best for us, or that access to care should be limited to those who can pay,” said Sarah Okolita, who helped organize the event.

“We will not have medically unnecessary procedures forced upon us. We will not give up our right to

plan our families,” said Okolita, a graduate student in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. “These are distractions. Virginia needs economic growth and recovery, not repressive, regressive and dangerous control over our bodies.”

Another organizer, Jordan Romeo, a global studies and international social justice major at VCU, said he hoped the rally would send a message to the General Assembly.

“We have been telling people to contact their legislators, to call their legislators, to write e-mails, to be a presence at the Capitol as much as possible,” Romeo said.

Eileen Davis, a health care provider, said that the wording of HB 1 had potentially dangerous ramifications.

A pregnant, legislative pause

“The law of unintended consequences is all over this bill,” Davis said. “Women who have to take birth control or have a barrier method such as an IUD because they’re on cancer treatment, according to this bill, would be breaking the law.

“This bill says that women who have migraine headaches cannot take birth control pills ... This is a law that was written by people that don’t understand health care, medical care and the medical consequences of it.”

Delegate Bob Marshall, R-Manassas, the sponsor of HB 1, has disputed such comments as fear-mongering. The bill states that “Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as affecting lawful assisted conception.” (WCR managing editor’s note: Typically, Marshall’s comment ignored the issue at hand – limits on medical treatment and restrictions on pre-conception birth control.)

If the bill had passed, Virginia would have become the first state in the nation to approve “personhood” at conception.

The demonstration against passage began at 11 a.m. as participants silently lined the walkways on the Capitol grounds and linked arms.

Around 12:30 p.m., the protesters dispersed before reassembling at the Bell Tower for a rally. The rally’s featured speakers included various legislators, as well as activists such as Ramey Connelly of the Richmond Reproductive Freedom Proj-

ect and Victoria Bragunier of the Richmond chapter of the National Organization for Women.

“Virginia is better than this,” Delegate Alfonso Lopez, D-Arlington, told the crowd. “We represent something better. We have for 400 years. Let’s not go backwards. This is not what Virginia is.”

Participants and organizers said they were pleased with the turnout for the demonstration, particularly after Sunday’s snow.

“We were talking with the Capitol Police here,” said Vicki Yeroian, president of VCU Young Democrats and an advocate intern with Planned Parenthood. “And one of them was kind enough to let us know that in the 27 years that they’ve been working here, they have never seen a demonstration as big as the one that we’ve had today.”

Romeo said the size of the crowd reflected how strongly people feel about the issues.

“I think the turnout has been really wonderful,” he said. “I think the fact that the legislation is so absurd and so ridiculous [means] people are angry, which I think is a really good power to make people get involved.”

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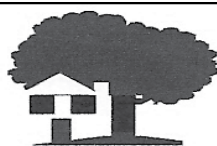
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"I applaud Republicans in the Senate for seeing the light on why this overreaching bill was wrong for Virginia. I hope that my Republican colleagues in the House - who passed this bill just last week - will come to agree in future sessions." - Rep. David Toscano, D-Charlottesville

State

Senate shelves Marshall's 'Personhood' bill

Facing national scrutiny, Virginia Senate backs off embryo rights

By Claire Porter
Capital News Service

RICHMOND - The General Assembly has decided to postpone until next year consideration of a bill that would grant personhood rights to a human embryo from the moment of conception.

The Senate last week sent the measure, House Bill 1, back to a committee after Democrats and some Republicans said it could have unforeseen consequences.

Democratic officials and abortion rights groups saw the move as a victory.

"I applaud Republicans in the Senate for seeing the light on why

this overreaching bill was wrong for Virginia," said House Democratic Leader David Toscano of Charlottesville. "I hope that my Republican colleagues in the House - who passed this bill just last week - will come to agree in future sessions."

Change of direction

HB 1, proposed by Delegate Bob Marshall, R-Manassas, had passed the House on a 66-32 vote on Feb. 14. The measure stated that "unborn children at every stage of development enjoy all the rights, privileges, and immunities available to other per-

sons, citizens, and residents of the Commonwealth, subject only to the laws and constitutions of Virginia and the United States, precedents of the United States Supreme Court, and provisions to the contrary in the statutes of the Commonwealth."

On Thursday morning, Feb. 23, the Senate Committee on Education and Health voted 8-7 to approve the legislation. All of the Republicans on the panel voted for it; all of the Democrats voted

against.

Hours later, the full Senate took up the bill. That's when Sen. Dick Saslaw, D-Fairfax, proposed sending HB 1 back to the committee, putting it on hold for at least a year.

Unexpectedly, Senate Republican Majority leader Thomas Norment of Williamsburg agreed, saying that the bill's complexities required further study. The motion to return the legislation to the committee passed by a vote

of 24-14.

Eighteen Democratic senators and six Republicans voted for the motion to shelve HB 1, fourteen Republicans voted against it. Two Democrats did not vote.

Church & state

The bill was modeled after a 1986 Missouri law that has survived court challenges, said Rita Dunaway, an attorney for the

Continued pg. 34

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Senate narrowly approves Mandatory Ultrasound Bill

By Michael Bodine
 Capital News Service

RICHMOND – The Virginia Senate on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, passed a bill that will require any woman seeking an abortion to undergo a mandatory ultrasound examination.

House Bill 462 has been the focus of extensive debate during this year's General Assembly. It even fell victim to national ridicule last week before being amended on the recommendation of Gov. Bob McDonnell.

Rather than require a transvaginal ultrasound to determine gestational age, the Republican governor asked legislators to mandate only a transabdominal procedure.

After these amendments, HB 462, which was sponsored by Delegate Kathy Byron, R-Lynchburg, passed the Senate on Tuesday on a 21-19 vote. It will be sent with its revisions back to the House for another vote before McDonnell signs it into law.

The Senate vote was highly partisan, though the bill did gain support from two Democratic senators: Phil Puckett of Tazewell and Charles Colgan of Manassas. One Republican, Sen. John Watkins of Midlothian, voted against the measure.

Despite the alterations, support-

ers of the bill, such as the Virginia Society for Human Life, are pleased with the Senate's vote.

"Virginia Society for Human Life is grateful that the Senate supported the right of women to have access to this critical and relevant medical information about their own bodies and their unborn children before they make the irreversible decision for an abortion," said Olivia Gans, the group's president.

Not our choice

The Virginia Democratic Party voiced its concern over the passage of HB 462 in a press release on Feb. 28.

"Over the last few weeks, Republicans in the General Assem-

bly have made Virginia a national joke, and today Senate Republicans delivered the punch line," said Brian Moran, who chairs the state party. "No matter what Bob McDonnell and his cadre of fringe ex-tremists think, the General Assembly has no business mandating a procedure on a woman, invasive or not."

Delegate Jennifer McClellan, D-Richmond, called the bill insulting to women and physicians.

"Virginia will now mandate an unnecessary and costly medical procedure for the first time in history that serves no purpose but to intimidate women and insert government into the most private of personal medical decisions," McClellan said. "It is a sad day for women's health in Virginia."

Despite such concerns from opponents, VSHL's Gans was unapologetic about the original wording of the ultrasound bills and their requirement of a transvaginal ultrasound, referred to by some critics as "state-sponsored rape."

"The abortion procedure itself, which employs curette knives, vacuum suction machines, and

deadly drug cocktails designed solely to end her child's life, and may also harm the mother, is far more invasive than any type of ultrasound technique to be used before an abortion," she said.

Jill Holtzman Vogel, R-Winchester, who sponsored one of the more intrusive, original bills, joined Mark Obenshain, R-Harrisonburg, in voting for HB 462.


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State

Divided senate OKs help for private schools

Lt. Governor Bolling pushes controversial corporate tax break through



Gov. Bob McDonnell salutes millions in corporate tax breaks for private, religious school donations.

By Zack Budryk
Capital News Service

RICHMOND – In yet another bill that divided Republicans and Democrats down the aisle, on Feb. 17th the Virginia Senate passed legislation to provide tax credits for individuals and businesses that fund scholarships for low and middle-income students to attend parochial and private schools.

Senate Bill 131, sponsored by Sen. William Stanley, R-Moneta, would provide a 65 percent tax credit for individuals and corporations that donate money for such scholarships. The state would cap the total tax credits at \$25 million per year. Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-26th, sponsored a bill capping the tax credits at \$50 million.

SB 131 was debated on the Senate floor for nearly an hour. Then all 20 Republican senators voted for it; all 20 Democrats voted against it. The bill passed when Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, a Republican, cast the tie-breaking vote.

Proponents of such “school choice” legislation assert that it would give students access to a quality of education that their families otherwise could not afford.

‘Low’ income help?

Under the bill, scholarships supported by tax credits must go “only to students whose family’s annual household income is not in excess of 300 percent of the current poverty guidelines or eligible students with a disability.”

That means a student from a family of four with an annual income of \$69,150 would qualify for a scholar-

ship. (Under the federal government’s 2012 guidelines, the poverty level for such a family is \$23,050.)

ship. (Under the federal government’s 2012 guidelines, the poverty level for such a family is \$23,050.)

The tax credit program would fund about 7,300 private-school scholarships, according to an analysis of SB 131. The bill would establish “Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits.” These credits would go to taxpayers “making monetary dona-

State funding of religion?

Senate Democrats condemned the bill, saying it amounted to taxpayer subsidies for religious schools and a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

Sen. J. Chapman Petersen, D-Fairfax, argued that the bill would violate the Virginia Constitution, which forbids “any appropriation of public funds, personal property, or real estate to any church or sectarian society.”

“The purpose behind that [article] in our 1971 constitution is quite clear: We don’t appropriate to private entities; we give the money to public entities,” Petersen said. “That’s why we’re a public body.”

Sen. Janet Howell, D-Reston, said SB 131 would undermine the public school system.

“I think if you were to look at any history of this county ... the reason why people have been lifted out of poverty is the public school system,” Howell said. She said the bill is part

of an effort by Republicans to sap resources from public education.

“Right now it’s a trickle of blood,” Howell said. “But if we keep this up, this will be a hemorrhaging of blood from our public schools.”

Sen. Creigh Deeds, D-Charlottesville, expressed similar sentiments.

“Our public education system has issues; it needs more funding. But what we don’t need to do is run away from it,” Deeds said. “That’s what this bill does.”

Republican social agenda

Gov. Bob McDonnell has long been a proponent of such legislation. The Republican governor, who headlined a rally for “school choice” earlier in the month, praised the vote.

“Virginia students deserve a world-class education regardless of their ZIP code and socio-economic status. Public and private-sector entities must come together to provide every possible opportunity for students to

get the education they need to fill the good jobs available in the 21st century,” McDonnell said in a statement following the vote.

SB 131 is the latest in a series of bills this session concerning hot-button issues for social conservatives; others include abortion, voter identification and drug testing for welfare recipients. This was the 10th tie-breaker Bolling has cast.

On Tuesday, the House passed its own bill providing tax credits for private-school scholarships. The 64-35 vote also was along party lines.

House Bill 321, sponsored by Delegate Jimmie Massie, R-Richmond, would support scholarships for students eligible for the free and reduced-price lunch program. (A family of four qualifies for that program if its annual income is below \$41,348.)

Under the House legislation, corporations would receive a tax credit equal to 70 percent of their donations to the scholarships.

drop, and move on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You also find workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to share the credit for that project you’re working on. But there’ll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don’t leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be what you’ve been waiting for.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Allowing your artistic nature full expression will help restore your spirits and will put you in the mood to take on that new career challenge. A Libra creates excitement.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at week’s end. Your aspects favor new friendships as well as the strengthening of old relationships.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep an open mind about a suggestion you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off, as you come to learn more about the potential benefits opening up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) By acting as a voice of reason, you can avoid adding to an already turbulent situation. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words ultimately will be heard and heeded.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The possibility of a new acquisition always makes those Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances can often be deceiving.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) No matter how much you might feel that you’re in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the matter

High Seas Misadventures

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Swank cruise ship loses engine, survives storm

Front Royal group – including your intrepid reporter – arrives home safely



Enchantment of the Seas - photo Malcolm Barr Sr.

By Malcolm Barr Sr.
Warren County Report

(Note: As we went to press, yet another dramatic story was evolving in the Indian Ocean where a cruise ship with more than 1,000 passengers had been drifting without power, and was taken in tow by a merchant vessel which was heading with it to the Seychelle Islands. Thankfully, at least ini-

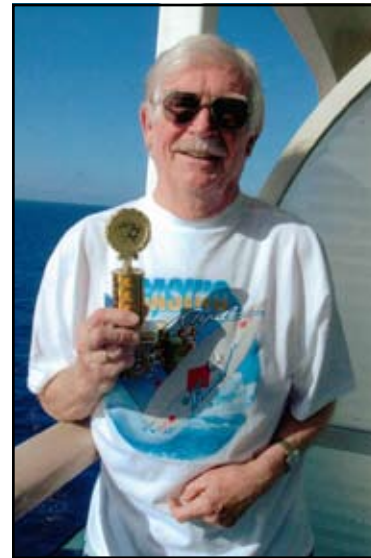
tially though pirates were a worry, neither that nor the incident described below were as serious or deadly as the cruise ship disaster off the Italian coast.)

The 81,000-ton cruise ship “Enchantment of the Seas”, leaving Baltimore Harbor a day late (Feb. 19) after emergency crews attempted to fix one of its two port propulsion motors, lost power

while negotiating the Chesapeake Bay, but continued a 10-day sail around the Bahamas with more than 2,700 passengers and crew.

A group of six friends from Front Royal were aboard the Royal Caribbean International ship which arrived safely back in Baltimore February 27.

Meanwhile, ship’s captain Gus Andersson cancelled half the scheduled ports of call, but as-



Writer Malcolm Barr, Sr., with Blackjack Tournament Winner’s trophy

sured passengers that “the lack of full power does not impact the safety of the ship.” The huge liner ran into a storm involving 18-foot seas two nights out but neither the ship nor the passengers seemed adversely affected.

For many of the passengers, the “elephant in the room” appeared to be knowledge of the recent grounding and loss of lives in an accident involving Carnival Line’s “Costa Concordia” in Italy recently. This diminished as the “Enchantment” cruised forward on calmer seas at a relatively slow 12-15 knots, compared to

its regular cruising speed of 22 knots and top speed of 24. Also, before the late departure from Baltimore, according to the company, the U.S. Coast Guard had been called in to inspect repairs to the ship that continued overnight Feb. 18 and well into Sunday morning, the following day.

With shore stops at Key West, Florida and CocoCay, Bahamas cancelled, and an initial announcement that \$150 would be credited to each passenger’s on-board account (\$300 a couple), passengers were somewhat assuaged. A day later, on Feb. 20, Andersson sent out a written note and a broadcast address in which he said “we (the company) have decided that we will provide all of our guests with a full refund of the cruise fare paid.”

Apologizing for “these unexpected developments and their impact on our ... itinerary and your vacation,” Andersson continued: “The mechanical issue we are experiencing is both challenging and unpredictable ... and the reality is that we cannot be sure we will not be faced with additional related issues over the balance of the cruise.”

Ports of call were amended to include only Port Canaveral to pick up additional provisions – instead of arriving there Monday,

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High Seas Misadventures



Carol Barr (left) and Susan O'Kelly flank "Enchantment" captain Gus Andersson

we dropped anchor Wednesday – and Nassau in the Bahamas. While anchored at Port Canaveral, an unconfirmed number of passengers left the ship and returned home by other means.

The few hours we had ashore in Florida, the intrepid Front Royal group comprising Mary and Bill Powers of Rockland; Don Richards of Blue Mountain; Susan O'Kelly of Rockland; Carol Barr; and, of course, me, visited former Front Royal residents Barbara and Charles Mars who ran the Dellbrook Manor B&B on Duck

Street for several years before settling near Titusville, FL. There, across the water from the launch site, Charlie has developed a small but interesting museum dedicated to America's space explorations. He worked for NASA for more than 30 years and takes obvious pride in his and NASA's accomplishments.

Hours of arrival (3 p.m. Feb. 23) and departure (11 a.m. Feb. 24) provided little time to do much ashore in Nassau, although Bill Powers-the more intrepid of us took the opportunity to tour part



Charlie Mars, formerly of Front Royal, points out features of Cape Canaveral Astronauts' Memorial Park to intrepid voyagers (from left) Mary and Bill Powers, Susan O'Kelly, Don Richards, and Carol Barr, while the liner took on extra supplies in Florida .

of the island on a motor scooter. By this time, during which prior to Canaveral the ship's kitchen had virtually run out of butter, and presumably were low on many other food items, we knew we were faced with three more straight days at sea. Excellent meals and Broadway-class evening entertainment helped us along. The ship's captain and one of his executive officers were applauded at a scheduled Q and

white home of the past 10 days, we glanced down and spotted what appeared to be a scow-type vessel parking alongside, presumably with the necessary items to fix the failed propeller. We hope so. The ship was due to sail on a 12-day cruise of the Bahamas with another throng of winter vacationers aboard within hours of our leaving for our homes in the Valley.



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Sixth-grade girls still must get HPV Vaccine

Senate backs off bill stopping cancer-preventive inoculations

By Alex Wiggins
 & Pia Talwar
 Capital News Service

RICHMOND – The Virginia Senate has rejected a House-approved bill to repeal a law requiring girls to get a dose of the human papillomavirus vaccine before entering sixth grade.

The Senate voted 22-17 to send House Bill 1112 back to the Senate Education and Health Committee, effectively killing it for this legislative session.

The bill's sponsor, Delegate Kathy Byron, R-Lynchburg, has said that the General Assembly acted hastily in 2007 in passing the law mandating the HPV vaccine. She says that the vaccine has not been adequately tested and that parents should decide whether their children should get the vaccine.

About half of sexually active people will get HPV during their lifetime. It is a leading cause of cervical cancer in women and genital warts in men and women.

"I am extraordinarily glad that the commonwealth will continue to immunize young people against this deadly disease," said Sen. Barbara Favola, D-Arlington.

"In the past, the most successful immunization programs, such as those for smallpox or polio, required universal vaccination. Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the world, but with this vaccination, there is hope for ending the suffering caused by cervical cancer."

The HPV vaccine comes in three doses. Virginia requires girls to receive the first dose before en-

tering sixth grade. The current law has a liberal opt-out clause: Parents can choose not to have their daughters vaccinated after reviewing materials from the Virginia Board of Health describing the link between HPV and cervical cancer.

Virginia was the first state to adopt such a law. The District of Columbia has a similar mandate.

HB 1112 was co-sponsored by Delegate Timothy Hugo of Centerville and six other Republicans. While Republicans generally supported the legislation to rescind the HPV vaccination law, Democrats strongly opposed it.

Democratic Delegate Joe Morrissey of Highland Springs said he was "pleased that the Senate chose to effectively kill this legislation for this year, and it is my hope that the lives of young women will continue to be saved

as a result."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that both girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 12 get the vaccine to protect them from HPV.

HB 1112 was approved by the House, 62-34, on Jan. 27. Last Thursday, the Senate Committee on Education and Health voted 8-7 in favor of the bill after modifying the legislation: The committee's version said the Board of Health would give parents information about HPV and the vaccine, and the parent "may then choose whether to have such child receive three doses of properly spaced human papillomavirus vaccine."

However, the full Senate then voted to send the bill back to the committee until 2013.

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"I ... believe that shackling women during labor is a violation of the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." – women's rights activist Ramey Connelly

State

Jails can continue to shackle inmates giving birth *Legislature fails to act on policy to ease constraints on female prisoners*

By Zack Budryk
Capital News Service

RICHMOND – Local jails and regional prisons in Virginia can continue to shackle female inmates during childbirth – a practice that Delegate Patrick Hope, D-Arlington, says is ap-palling.

Hope sponsored a bill this legislative session to prohibit the shackling of women prisoners while in labor or giving birth. However, the bill is dead for this session after failing to make it out of a subcommittee last week.

But Hope isn't giving up on getting correctional facilities to stop

the practice.

"Having been the father of three girls, I couldn't understand why they felt the need to do that," he said.

"And as I dug into the policies and what motivated the prisons and the local and regional jails to do this, [I found that] they really didn't have a policy; they just shackled everyone ... I thought there ought to be at least some law, something codified, that says they should use the least restrictive restraints ... and use their discretion to make sure that safety's not at risk."

Katherine Greenier of the Vir-

ginia ACLU said the health risks posed by shackled delivery are well documented.

"Pregnancy can create problems with balance that are exacerbated by shackling," said Greenier, whose Patricia M. Arnold Women's Rights Project lobbied extensively for House Bill 836 before its demise.

"Leg and wrist restraints increase the likelihood that a preg-

nant woman could trip, and they compromise her ability to brace against a fall, risking miscarriage and injury."

Ramey Connelly said she finds the practice abhorrent regardless of the health risks.

"I ... believe that shackling women during labor is a violation of the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment, as set forth in the Universal Dec-

laration of Human Rights," said Connelly, a women's rights activist in Richmond.

"The process of birth is a natural one, and women are physiologically inclined to move during labor. There is extensive documentation that, given the freedom to do so, women will move into birthing positions which are most

Continued pg. 32

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Continued from pg. 31

conductive to a safe, healthy labor and childbirth.”

The Virginia ACLU was joined in lobbying for the bill by several women’s rights and prison reform groups. The ACLU, which is known for supporting liberal causes, also found an unlikely ally: the Family Foundation of Virginia, which ordinarily supports conservative and religious

causes.

Hope said it was natural for his bill to attract support from groups with different political views.

“If a woman wants to have a pregnancy, and she wants it to be carried out, then we need to make sure that it’s carried out in a safe and healthy manner. That’s why [pro-choice groups] are at the table,” Hope said.

“Virginia Family Foundation’s at the table for similar reasons.

They see the pregnancy as a life, and we need to make sure that that pregnancy is protected so it is safe, and it is healthy, and everyone’s happy.”

HB 836 had been assigned to the House Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. On Feb. 9, a subcommittee of that panel tabled the bill. As a result, the full House of Delegates did not have an opportunity to act on the measure. Any bill that did not clear its

house of origin by Tuesday was declared dead for the session.

Hope said he plans to reintroduce the issue next session. In the meantime, he said, he is exploring non-legislative ways of achieving the same goal.

“The legislation that I introduced is already the procedure in the [state] prison system,” Hope said. “However, at the Board of Corrections level, in the regional jails ... that’s not policy yet.”

“We cannot let these conversations die, because when they do, the people who are suffering these monumental injustices fade away into the background.”



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Sports

R-MA's aqua men and women complete season at states

Randolph-Macon Academy swimming team finished its season at the VISAA State Swimming Championships at The Freedom Fitness and Aquatic Centre at George Mason University in Manassas, VA. A total of 43 teams and 540 swimmers competed.

Team Results:

R-MA's Men came in 26th place overall, and "second" among DAC schools, coming in behind Seton School, but beating out St. Michael The Archangel High School, who edged R-MA for second place at the DAC Championships the previous weekend.

In the Men's 200 Medley Relay, R-MA came in 20th overall with a time of 1:53.87. The splits were as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Qian, Cheng FR | 2) Twenhafel, Dacoda SR | 3) Blankenship, Tanner JR | 4) Jung, Gwi Woong SR |
| 26.50 | 35.46 | 25.73 | 26.18 |

In the Men's 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, R-MA came in 20th overall with a time of 1:40.05 (beating their qualifying time of 1:40.72 with the following splits:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Blankenship, Tanner JR | 2) Cassone, Andrew SR | 3) Jung, Gwi Woong SR | 4) Qian, Cheng FR |
| 24.21 | 26.40 | 26.28 | 23.16 |

Tanner Blankenship (DAC Swimmer of the meet last weekend at the DAC Finals) made the finals of the Men's 200 Individual Medley and eventually placed 13th in the state with a time of 2:07.43 after his preliminary time of 2:10.43. His splits were as follows: 26.62 (Backstroke) 32.37 (Breaststroke) 38.44 (Butterfly) and 29.57 (Freestyle)

Tanner Blankenship placed 18th overall in the 100 Yard Men's Butterfly with a time of 0:57.38.

Cheng Qian placed 26th overall in the Men's 100 Yard Freestyle with a time of 0:51.92, beating his qualifying time of 0:52.31

Cheng Qian placed 18th overall in the Men's 100 Yard Backstroke with a time of 0:57.94.

In the Women's 200 Individual Medley, 8th grader Quinn Blankenship placed 23rd overall in the state with a time of 2:31.78. Her splits were as follows: 32.75 (Backstroke) 40.36 (Breaststroke) 44.59 (Butterfly) and 34.08 (Free)

In the Women's 500 yard Freestyle, 8th grader Quinn Blankenship came in 24th overall with a time of 5:56.75, beating her qualifying time of 6:01.16 by over 4 seconds.



R-MA swimmers at state meet at GMU on Feb. 18, from Left to Right, Assistant Coach Britany Zivic; Cheng Qian (Freshman); Tri-Captain Tanner Blankenship (Junior); Tri-Captain Gwi Woong Jung (Senior); Andrew Cassone (Senior); Head Coach Michael S. Williams. Front, Quinn Blankenship (8th grade) - Photo-Wendy Blankenship (last issue's swim team photos Cindy Rodney)

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\$50 million lawsuit against Journey to be served soon *Salahi claims lost income, public humiliation*

By Dan McDermott
 Warren County Report

A Winchester, Va. attorney for Tareq Salahi says she expects a lawsuit against his estranged wife Michaelae and Journey lead guitar player Neal Schon to be served soon.

Attorney Georgia Rossiter also said she has a picture purportedly of Schon's genitals which the lawsuit alleges was sent from the musician's iPhone to Salahi's email address in an attempt to inflict emotional distress.

The lawsuit says the picture was followed by a phone call allegedly from Schon that said, "This is Neal. I am f***** your wife."

The 12 page lawsuit filed just before Valentine's Day in Warren County Circuit Court alleges that Schon had sex with Mrs. Salahi in a dressing room at a Sept. 4 concert in Bristow, Va. while Mr. Salahi was in the same area and accuses Schon of "conspiring for Michaelae to desert her marriage

and allowing [Tareq Salahi] to believe that [Michaelae Salahi] had been kidnapped."

The suit alleges a conspiracy to defame Mr. Salahi by "campaigning to show him as a buffoon with respect to that affair and humiliating him" in part by displaying a "wanted poster" of Mr. Salahi at Journey concerts so security would prevent Mr. Salahi from entering venues.

The suit alleges that Mrs. Salahi and Journey have benefited financially from publicity of the affair.

Mr. Salahi is seeking \$50 million in actual and presumed damages and \$450,000 in punitive damages from each defendant.

In Sept. 2011 TMZ reported that Mr. Salahi believed his wife had been kidnapped and had accused Warren County Sheriff Daniel McEathron of not doing enough to investigate. Sheriff McEathron held a press conference to announce that the FBI was joining in an investigation and said that a woman identifying herself as Mrs.

Salahi had called the Sheriff's office to let them know she was safe and wasn't interested in coming home. It was later reported that Mrs. Salahi had joined Mr. Schon on his tour with Journey.

A message seeking comment left with an assistant for Timothy J. Jorstad, the registered agent for Journey's business company Nomata, Inc. was not returned.

Continued from pg. 25

non-profit legal group the Rutherford Institute, in defense of the group's "pro-life" perspective of civil liberties. Dunaway advocated for the bill because she said it would accomplish the long-term objective of recognizing the humanity of the unborn.

However, Dunaway says HB 1 would not supersede federal laws or the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. "A bill like this would provide a legal and philosophical foundation for specific statutes restricting abortion if the legislature ever chose to pursue such measures."

Still, many Virginians saw HB 1 as an attempt to restrict abortion rights. As many as 1,500 people gathered on the Capitol grounds last week in silent protest of HB 1 and other proposals they considered attacks on reproductive rights.

Such activism is what prompted legislators to reconsider HB 1, said Delegate Jennifer McClellan, D-Richmond. "Through petition, silent protest, calls and letters, voices across the commonwealth calling for an end to this attack on women's rights were finally heard," she said.

Dunaway called Norment's action to shelve HB 1 "nothing more than a politically motivated trick." She said there was no need to further investigate the implications of the bill. There was "not a single question raised in committee that was not definitively answered," Dunaway said.

As a result of Thursday's vote, HB 1 will be on the agenda for the Senate Education and Health Committee for the 2013 legislative session.

"I can only hope that members of the House and Senate will not forget the pushback that occurred against this legislation next year," said Tarina Keene, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. "We'll be ready for it next year."

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Settlement reached between Virginia AG and Salahi charity

By Dan McDermott
 Warren County Report

Va. Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli announced a settlement Feb. 28 with Tareq Salahi and his former Journey for the Cure Foundation over allegations the charity failed to keep true financial records, made false statements and failed to register with the state.

Current Salahi attorney Georgia Rossiter said that Salahi admitted no guilt and denies all the charges but felt that a settlement was the best way to avoid a protracted and expensive legal battle.

According to a press release from the Attorney General's office, the settlement, which is in the form of a consent judgment, has been filed for approval with the Fauquier County Circuit Court.

The settlement grants a permanent injunction prohibiting JCF and Salahi from engaging in any future violations of the Virginia Solicitation of Contributions law and awards a judgement of \$32,500 from the charity and \$2,500 from Salahi.

The Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs announced an investigation into the charity in December 2009 after a whirlwind of allegations appeared in media reports following Tareq and his estranged wife Michaelae's alleged crashing of a White House State Dinner and the couple's starring role in the Real Housewives of Washington, D.C. franchise on Bravo. (Disclosure: two Warren County Report editors including this writer appeared briefly in episodes of Real Housewives of D.C.)

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Friday, March 2, 2012

All day Forecast for 22630: 64° / 54°
1:30pm - 2:30pm Education Committee. Chamber Office.
2pm - 5pm Vino E Formaggio Wine Tasting. 124 E. Main Street. Always Free, Always Fun! www.vinoeformaggio.com (540) 635-2812.

Saturday, March 3, 2012

All day Forecast for 22630: 59° / 32°
8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.
10am - 12pm MOMS Club Event. Samuels Public Library, Front Royal. Today is the 3rd Annual Preschool Fair at Samuels Public Library. A FREE opportunity for area parents to look at multiple early education options in Warren County and surrounding areas. More information: FrontRoyalPreschoolFair@gmail.com or FrontRyalMOMS@gmail.com.
11am - 12pm Pageant. American Legion Post 53, Front Royal. Today is the Tiny, Little, Pre-Teen, Jr. Miss and Miss Shamrock. Tiny Miss begins at 11:00am. Admission: \$4.00/Adults; \$1.00/Students (ages5-17) and 4 and under FREE. Bring a canned food item and receive \$1.00off adult admis-

sion, limit one per person. Registration will be held at Driver's Choice: 214 E. Jackson Street on Thursday, February 9 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm and Thursday, February 16 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Registration Fee \$25.00. More Information: Barbara Ballentine (540) 635-8208 or Bonnie Lewis (540) 635-5510.

Sunday, March 4, 2012

All day Forecast for 22630 48° / 28°
8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.
11am - 2pm Bridal Showcase. Bowling Green Country Club, Front Royal. Today is the 2012 "I Do" Bridal Showcase. You will be introduced to all sorts of services and products, as well as on-the-spot consultations and planning. Contact the Front Royal/Warren County Chamber of Commerce for more information at (540)635-3185 or priffle@frontroyal-camber.com.
Monday, March 5, 2012
7pm - 8pm Council Work Session. Town Hall, 16 N Royal Avenue, Front Royal. Council will have a Work Session tonight in the Town Hall Conference Room. The public is invited.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

12:30pm - 1pm Tourism Tuesdays. 95.3 - the River radio station. Hear the latest tourism related news and events every Tuesday at 12:30! If you can't listen live check out the podcasts at <http://www.theriver953online.com>.
2pm - 3pm Ambassador's Club. Chamber Office.

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

8:30am - 9:30am Small Business Committee. Chamber Office.
12:30pm - 1pm Warren County Business On The River 95.3
7pm - 8pm Public Input Meeting/Planning Commission Work Session. Town Hall, Front Royal. The Town of Front Royal Planning Commission and the Department of Planning/Zoning are seeking public input on the topic of outdoor display and storage of merchandise, particularly in regards to businesses located in a commercial zoning district. The Zoning Ordinance currently prohibits most visible outdoor displays and storage. The meeting will be located in the Conference Room in Town Hall.

Saturday, March 10, 2012

8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.

Sunday, March 11, 2012

Daylight Saving Time Begins
8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.

Monday, March 12, 2012

7pm - 8pm Council Meeting. County of Warren Government Center

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

12:30pm - 1pm Tourism Tuesdays. 95.3 - the River radio station. Hear the latest tourism related news and events every Tuesday at 12:30! If you can't listen live check out the podcasts at <http://www.theriver953online.com>.
7pm - 8pm BAR Meeting. County of Warren Government Center Front Royal.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

3:30pm - 5pm Chamber Board Meeting. Chamber Office.

Thursday, March 15, 2012

5pm - 8pm Third Thursday ArtWalk. Downtown Front Royal
6pm - 7pm Liaison Committee Meeting. Warren County Government Center, Front Royal. The Town Council/ Board of Supervisors Liaison Committee Meeting meets tonight. This meeting is open to the public.

Saturday, March 17, 2012

All day St. Patrick's Day
8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.
9am - 1pm CPR Class. Warren County Community Center, Front Royal. Today is a CPR class for those 12 years and older to learn how to perform CPR on adults, children and infants. \$30.00/participant. More Information: Parks/ Recreation at (540)635-1021.
2pm - 4pm High Tea/Auction. Calvary

Episcopal Fellowship Hall, Front Royal. Today is a St. Patrick's Day High Tea and Silent Auction at Calvary Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall. All proceeds benefit "Christkindlmarkt Front Royal 2012". Reservations may be made with Maggie Sill at (540) 622-2060.

Sunday, March 18, 2012

8am - 4pm Warren County Fair Flea Market. Warren County Fairgrounds. For more information: (540) 635-5827 <http://www.warrencountyfair.com/15.html>.
7:30pm - 8:30pm Public Concert. Randolph-Macon Academy, Front Royal. World-renowned organist Felix Hell will perform tonight at Boggs Chapel on the RMA Campus. The suggested donation for attendance is \$10.00. More information: www.rma.edu/FelixHell.

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- If you like your coffee fresh and strong but not so hot, make a small tray of ice cubes out of coffee to cool your morning cup.
- "Always dust from the top down. My mom taught me that, since the dust falls and then you vacuum it up at the end. Also, don't use too much furniture polish, since using a lot can actually attract dust." — B.O. in Pennsylvania
- "Keep leftover slices of good meat and veggies in zipper-lock plastic baggies and freeze. When you make canned soups, just add the appropriate bits from your baggie. It really bulks up the soups, and you save money and don't waste precious food." — P.R. in California
- To calm flyaway tresses, rub Chap-Stick on your palms and then run your palms over your hair to smooth it.
- For a great springtime facial, mash up a small can (or a snack-size serving) of peaches in juice. Add to it 2 to 3 tablespoons of granulated sugar and gently massage into skin. Let sit for a minute or two and then rinse with warm water.
- "Styrofoam peanuts are great for adding to the bottom of plants for drainage. You can usually get some for free if you get packages in the mail. If not, you can ask your local shipping store for a few handfuls, and they are usually quite gracious. Mine is." — A.R. in Florida
- To check for toilet leaks, add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. If, without flushing, you see the bowl water start to change colors, you know you have a leak.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

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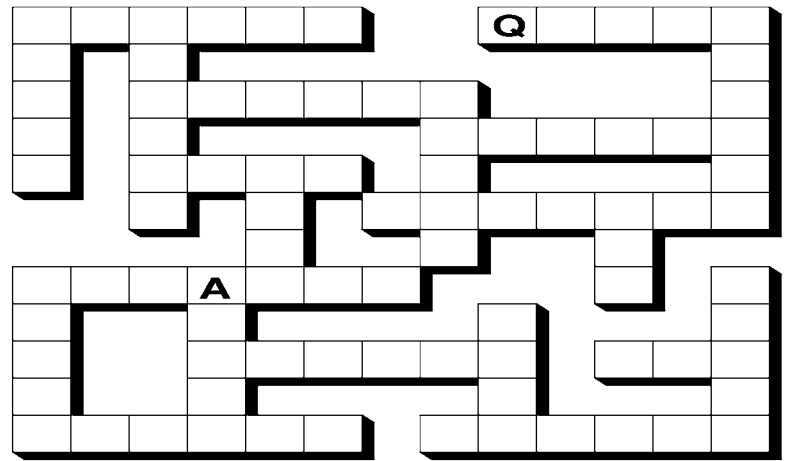
Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

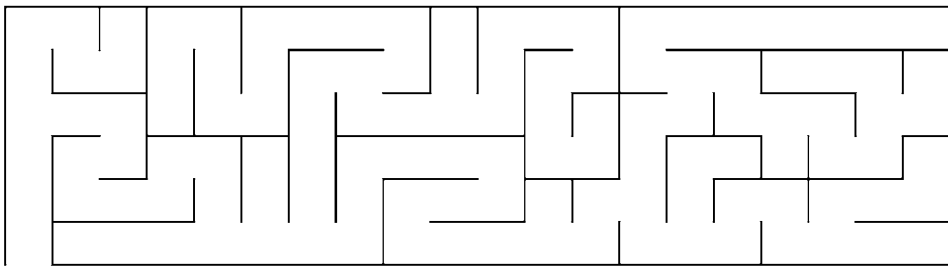
CRISSCROSS - "IT" WORDS

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

- 3 Letters
FIT
HIT
- 4 Letters
EXIT
ITEM
KNIT
- 5 Letters
ADMIT
DITCH
QUITE
SPLIT
VITAL
WRITE
- 6 Letters
CITIES
EDITOR
ITCHED
LITTLE
MITTEN
PERMIT
STITCH
WAITER
- 7 Letters
PITCHER
VITAMIN

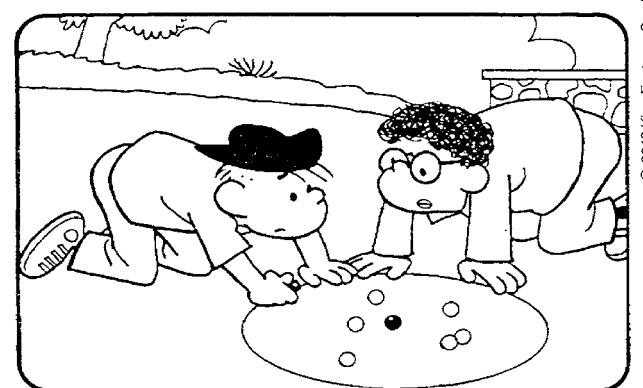
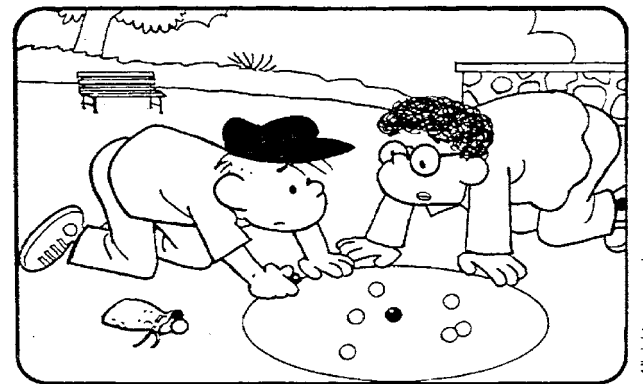


Kids' Maze



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.
Differences: 1. Bench is missing. 2. Marble bag is missing. 3. Cap is reversed. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wall is shorter. 6. Smritail is different. 7. Fly is missing. 8. Fly is missing.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

PICK PLAY! Nine minus eight equals four in the toothpick trick at right—in a manner of speaking. Object is to remove eight toothpicks from the nine squares and have just four squares remain. How is it done? Give it a try before reading on. Try not to peek.

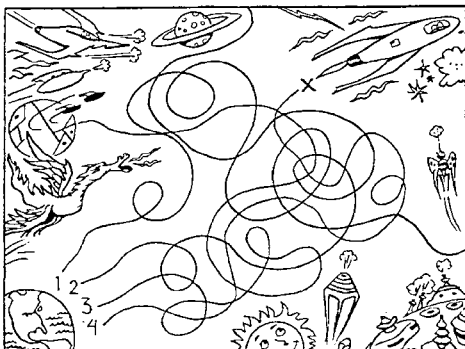


Here is the answer: Alakazam, simply remove middle toothpicks of each outside row, then remove four toothpicks at center.

SAY WHAT! Let's see if you can complete these words from Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi": "I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said —" What three words are missing?

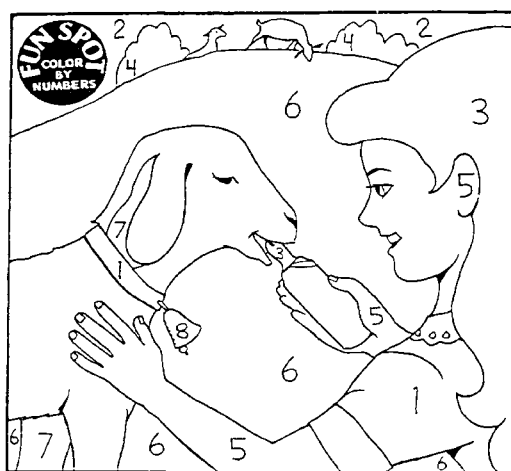
WORD JUGGLER EXERCISE

LET'S see if you can rearrange letters of the five words above to form a word square. That is to say, form a grouping of words that will read the same both across and down. Here's how:
1. Rearrange TEARS into a flower.
2. Rearrange SPEAR into a kind of tire.
3. Rearrange STAKE into business profits (slang).
4. Rearrange CRETE into an upright stance.
5. Rearrange TRESS into times of repose.



How quickly can you bring about the changeovers?
Time limit: 2 min.

SPACE CHASE! Just one route above puts the spacecraft on course. Which one? Choose path 1, 2, 3 or 4 to find out.



BO PEEP SHOW! Not to worry — Little Bo Peep's lost sheep have returned. Coloring code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Dk. green. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Purple. 8—Orange.

SPELLBINDER

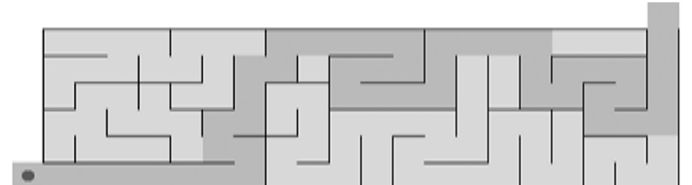
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

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THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosomes: Main, loop.



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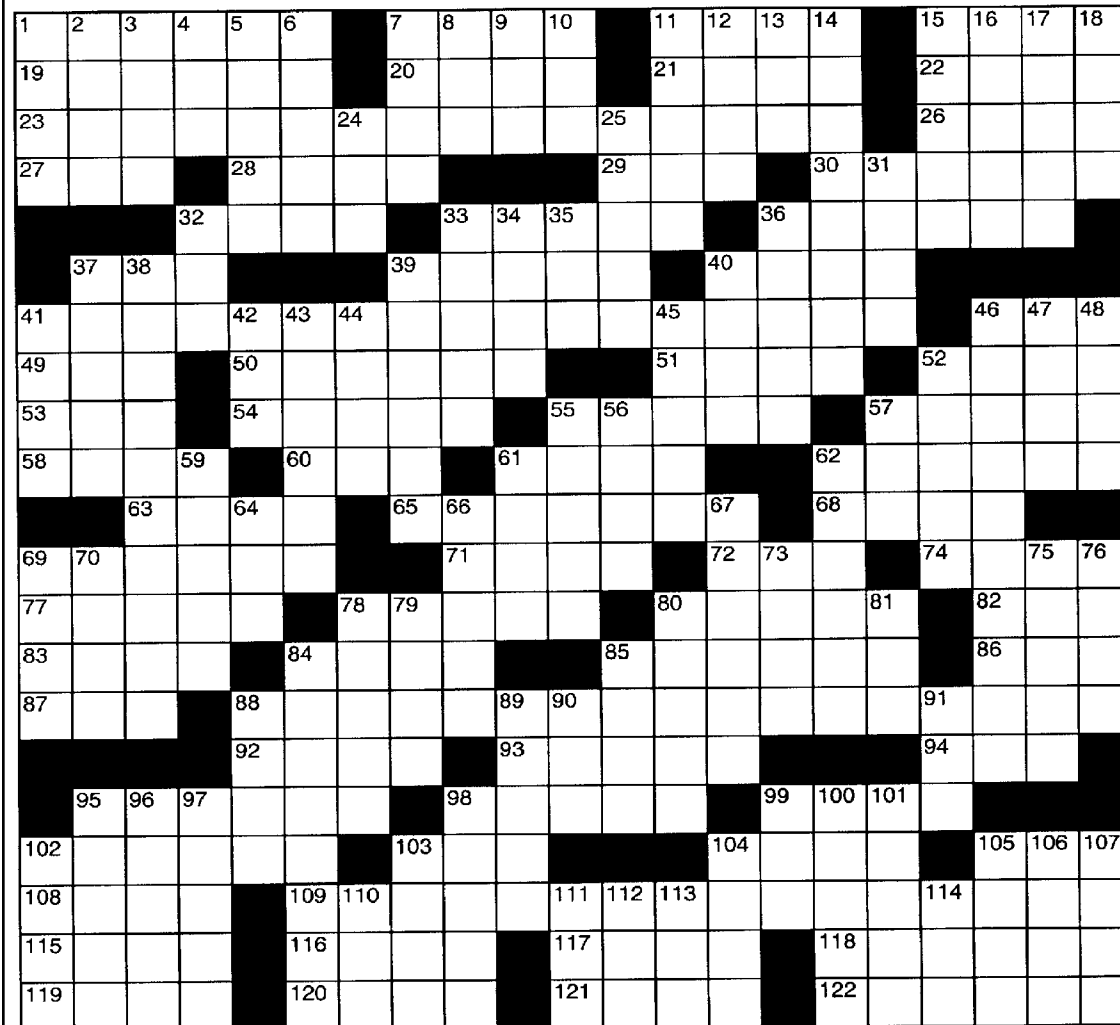
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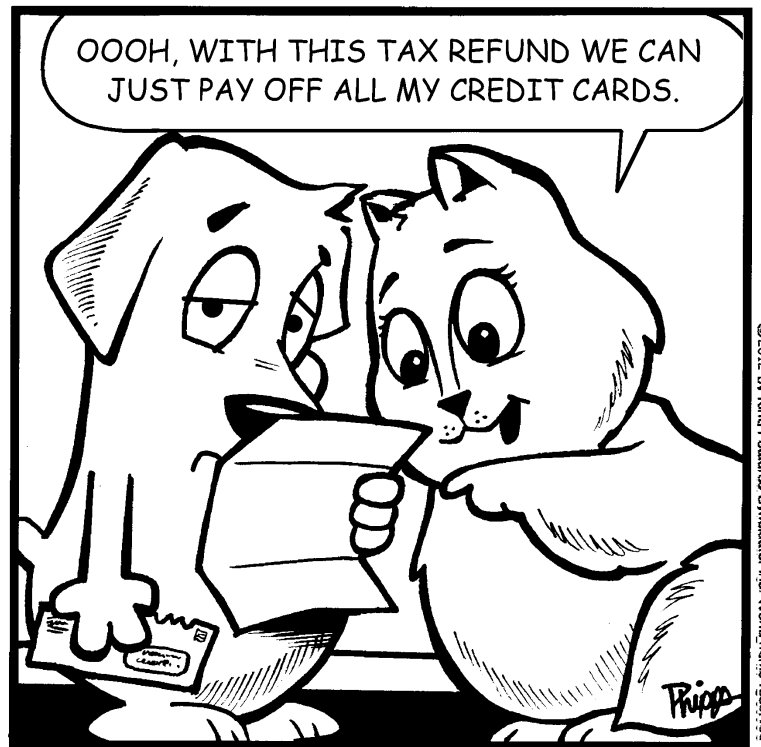
- ACROSS**
- 1 Pay hike?
 - 7 Chore
 - 11 Styptic pencil stuff
 - 15 Predicament
 - 19 Model Kim
 - 20 Press
 - 21 It's a long story
 - 22 "Inter —"
 - 23 Start of a remark
 - 26 Fluff the flour
 - 27 Mr. Hammar-skjold
 - 28 Composer Satie
 - 29 Majors or Marvin
 - 30 Layers
 - 32 Had kittens?
 - 33 Postern and portcullis
 - 36 Main squeeze
 - 37 "— culpa"
 - 39 Heavenly hunter
 - 40 "I bet!"
 - 41 Part 2 of remark
 - 46 Faux —
 - 49 Fireworks reaction
 - 50 "— Boulevard" ('50 film)
 - 51 They may be rolled
 - 52 Billings or Mostel
 - 53 Neighbor of Miss.
 - 54 "— Blade" ('96 film)
 - 55 Leans
 - 57 It's taken by nurses
 - 58 Sharp taste
 - 60 Skater
 - 61 Wine choice
 - 62 Nabokov novel
 - 63 Kukla's colleague
 - 65 Part 3 of remark
 - 68 Fail to mention
 - 69 Tedious
 - 71 Sues or Shepard
 - 72 Boathouse item
 - 74 Objectives
 - 77 Take on
 - 78 Pack of partridges
 - 80 Like many gyms
 - 82 Cornfield cry
 - 83 Calcium oxide
 - 84 Non-stereo
 - 85 Peaceful
 - 86 Chemist Remsen
 - 87 Singer Joey
 - 88 Part 4 of remark
 - 92 Heady quaffs
 - 93 Respond to an alarm?
 - 94 "Ask — Girl" ('59 film)
 - 95 Fop's neckwear
 - 98 Marsh bird
 - 99 Facts, for short
 - 102 Georgia athletes
 - 103 Brit. fliers
 - 104 Way to go?
 - 105 Clean-air org.
 - 108 Serenade accompaniment
 - 109 End of remark
 - 115 Fragrance
 - 116 Peace of mind
 - 117 "My word!"
 - 118 Swimmer Gertrude
 - 119 "Circus Boy" prop
 - 120 Prophet
 - 121 Lorre role
 - 122 Triangular sail
 - 6 Grenoble's river
 - 7 Walrus weapon
 - 8 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
 - 9 NCO
 - 10 It may be major
 - 11 Fatheads
 - 12 — bloomer
 - 13 "Yuck!"
 - 14 Mehta and Muti
 - 15 Iraqi city
 - 16 Homeric work
 - 17 Cool
 - 18 Base stuff?
 - 24 Bream of baseball
 - 25 Actress Graff
 - 31 "— Angel" ('60 smash)
 - 32 "Pshaw!"
 - 33 "Peer Gynt" composer
 - 34 Non-standard contraction
 - 35 "Mazel —!"
 - 36 Fills the bill
 - 37 Dough
 - 38 Wharton work
 - 39 "Smilla's Sense —" ('97 film)
 - 40 Actuary's fig.
 - 41 Ditch under a drawbridge
 - 42 Road curve
 - 43 Decree
 - 44 Step — (hurry)
 - 45 Nick of "The Deep"
 - 46 Party animal?
 - 47 Guy Fri.
 - 48 Queens stadium
 - 52 Raul of "The Addams Family"
 - 55 At present
 - 56 Rock's — Butterfly
 - 57 Petite pooch
 - 59 Bellyache
 - 61 Journalist Ernie
 - 62 Mime Yarnell
 - 64 Picnic crasher?
 - 66 Devastation
 - 67 Fashionable event
 - 69 Like Mus-sorgsky's mountain
 - 70 Garfield's pal
 - 73 Actor Guinness
 - 75 Tie the knot
 - 76 Fluctuate
 - 78 Telescope view
 - 79 Responsibility
 - 80 Wired
 - 81 — Plaines, IL
 - 84 Exemplar of slowness
 - 85 Cut cuticles
 - 88 Cut coupons
 - 89 "84 Charing Cross Road" author
 - 90 Psychic Geller
 - 91 — Pauto, Brazil
 - 95 Uncouth
 - 96 Boca —, FL
 - 97 Ward off
 - 98 Morley of "60 Minutes"
 - 99 Charged atom
 - 100 Puzo product
 - 101 Singer Payne
 - 102 Ink stain
 - 103 Trick
 - 104 Carthaginian queen
 - 105 Reason d'—
 - 106 Soccer superstar
 - 107 Mideastern gulf
 - 110 — kwon do
 - 111 Jewel
 - 112 Inflatable item?
 - 113 Use a shuttle
 - 114 Lepidopter-ist's need



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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
 ★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

S	A	F	A	R	I	T	A	S	K	A	L	U	M	B	I	N	D		
A	L	E	X	I	S	U	R	G	E	S	A	I	G	A	A	L	I	A	
F	I	N	E	C	E	S	I	T	T	H	E	S	I	L	L	I	T		
D	A	G	E	R	I	K	G	A	T	L	E	S	S	T	R	A	D		
M	E	A	B	R	I	E	D	G	A	T	L	E	S	S	T	R	A		
M	O	L	T	H	E	R	O	R	A	N	T	H	E	R	O	R	A		
M	O	L	T	H	E	R	O	R	A	N	T	H	E	R	O	R	A		
T	A	N	K	S	L	I	T	T	I	N	G	T	I	L	L	I	T		
T	A	N	K	S	L	I	T	T	I	N	G	T	I	L	L	I	T		
B	O	R	I	N	G	A	L	A	N	O	A	R	I	A	T	I	M	S	
A	D	O	P	T	C	O	V	E	R	T	I	L	E	D	C	A	W		
L	I	M	E	M	O	N	O	S	E	R	E	N	E	T	I	R	A		
D	L	E	E	S	O	M	U	C	H	U	N	N	E	C	E	S	A	R	Y
C	R	A	V	A	T	S	I	N	A	R	I	S	E	I	N	F	O		
B	R	A	V	E	S	R	A	F	F	I	G	E	T	I	N	V	E	N	T
L	U	T	E	S	T	U	F	F	I	G	E	T	I	N	V	E	N	T	
O	D	O	R	E	A	S	E	R	E	G	A	D	E	D	E	D	E		
T	E	N	T	S	E	T	E	R	M	O	T	O	L	L	A	T	I	E	N

Ask Stewart

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Ask Stewart

Dear Stewart,

Is it possible to force tree flowers indoors in winter like you can with, say, forsythia branches to add color to the winter drabness?

Janice, in Front Royal

Dear Janice,

Unless a storm knocks our cozy nest apart, we squirrels look at winter as a great, lazy, slow-down time of year, almost like human children regard summer vacation from school. But I can understand how some humans hate to see the landscape go dormant in winter. If you were dazzled by autumn colors, it probably felt like nature threw a party that came to an end but you still wanted to party on.

Well, don't be sad until spring, Helen. There are ways of forcing some

tree pizzazz ahead of schedule. Trees and shrubs that bloom in spring form their flower buds the previous fall. They need eight weeks of cold—below 40 degrees F. By the middle to end of January, the tree branches should be ready for careful pruning. Select branches with a lot of flower buds. You can tell them from leaf buds because they are often larger and rounder.

Bring the branches indoors and immediately put the stem ends in water. If possible, submerge the whole branch in a tub of water overnight so the buds and stems can quickly absorb water and begin to break dormancy. Then keep the branches in a bucket of water in a cool area—60-65 degrees F. Warm temperatures cause them to develop too fast and not open properly. Try to keep the branches in bright but indirect light. When the flower buds begin to show color, they are ready to be used in ar-

rangements.

For my nest, I like to begin with branches from the *Eastern Cottonwood*. It takes three weeks to force this tree but it will produce drooping flowers called catkins, red from male trees, green from female.

Red Maple branches bloom with attractive tiny bright red flowers, *Birches* give a variety of male and female catkins from the same tree, *Pussy Willows* give those soft furry flowers, and the *Hawthorns* produce white to pink flowers.

Remember to cut branches carefully, not cutting too many from any one tree. Better yet, incorporate your cuttings into an annual pruning of possibly problematic branches if left to grow.

These are just a few suggestions. Perk up the rest of your winter, experiment, and have fun with your trees all year.

-Stewart

The Front Royal/Warren County Tree Steward program began in 1997 with volunteers dedicated to improving the health of trees by providing educational programs, tree planting and care demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. The group now consists of over 30 active members with several interns working toward becoming certified tree stewards from our annual "All About Trees Class". Each month Stewart will answer a question from our readers. Please forward it to "Stewart" in care of frwctreestewards@comcast.net and we may publish it in a future issue. Please visit our website at www.treesfrontroyal.org.

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Humane Society of Warren County

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The Humane Society of Warren County will be having the 1st Annual Kitten Shower on Saturday, March 31, at 11AM-2PM. Come to the Shelter for a day of fun and help us prepare for the coming kitten season. We will be collecting much needed donations to help us care for mama cats and kittens. There will be one day only adoption specials and a chance to learn about our foster program and low cost spay/neuter options. See our Facebook page for more info and our Kitten Wish List.



Winnie - 2 year old female German Shorthair Pointer. Winnie loves to run! She's very playful and great with other dogs.



Brianna - 2-3 year old female Pit/Lab mix. Brianna's a real sweetheart! She's very outgoing and loves to cuddle.



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Nellie - 1 year old Pit/Pointer mix. Nellie's a real lovebug! She loves to climb in your lap and cuddle.

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