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BROTHER, SISTER DUO WINS LYRICS ON THE LAKE CONTEST
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SMLCA HOSTS FIRST EVER FOOTBALL CAMP
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SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

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SML family displaced



C.E. Adams/Smith Mountain Eagle

A fire department crew member looks at the devastation of a house fire Monday morning on Damshore Drive in Franklin County at Smith Mountain Lake as firefighters contain the flames.

Crews battle fire at SML home Monday

C.E. ADAMS
Smith Mountain Eagle

Firefighters spent hours in the heat putting out a house fire that occurred just before 10 a.m. this morning on Damshore Drive in Franklin County at Smith Mountain Lake.

According to Assistant Fire Chief William Hoyt with Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue, the emergency call came in at 9:54 a.m., and their department was the first to arrive on the scene.

The whole roof and house were fully involved when they arrived, and Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue took command.

Crews from multiple fire departments in Franklin and Bedford counties also arrived on the scene to battle the fire.

"Everybody did great work," Hoyt said of the multiple units

See **FIRE**, Page A5



C.E. Adams/Smith Mountain Eagle

Firefighters put out a house fire Monday morning on Damshore Drive in Franklin County at Smith Mountain Lake.

Wanted man in shooting found

A suspect in connection to a shooting Monday morning at the Cannaday's Store at 24800 Virgil H Goode Highway in Boones Mill was the subject of a manhunt until he was found at a traffic stop later that day in Montgomery County, Virginia, according to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The suspect, 55-year-old Emmitt Southern of

See **SHOOTING**, Page A4



Southern

Moneta law firm sues Va. officials

Represents NASCAR legend Sadler over state skill game ban

Sen. Bill Stanley and the law firm of The Stanley Law Group, PLLC, located in Moneta, filed a lawsuit against Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring and the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) on behalf of Virginia NASCAR legend Hermie Sadler to declare the ban on skill games in Virginia as unconstitutional and in violation of the rights of small business owners throughout the Commonwealth.

In his capacity as a practicing Virginia attorney, Stanley filed a two-count Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive relief on behalf of Sadler in the Circuit Court for the County of Greenville.

Sadler, now retired as a full time NASCAR driver and TV analyst for FOX Sports, spends his days working in the family business, which is the ownership and operation of truck stops, convenience stores and restaurants all across Southside Virginia.

For at least the last 20 years, the Sadlers have offered skill games in some of their locations, especially the truck stops. The games serve as a draw for truck drivers to stop and do business at their locations. While at the location the drivers also spend money in the restaurants and food marts, all creating revenue

See **LAWSUIT**, Page A10

Mitchell's Point Marina adds 2nd fireworks event

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

As the United States will celebrate 245 years this Sunday, Mitchell's Point Marina has decided to host two fireworks this weekend: one on Friday and the other on Sunday. This comes after the fireworks show at the Parkway Marina was canceled.

Once the fireworks show for Saturday, July 3, was canceled, Jeff Prowse,

owner of Mitchell's Marina, and Todd Sheets, owner of JM Blair Co., got together and started brainstorming about how to fill the void of fireworks on the lake, according to Chris Levey, who is the vice-president of operations at Mitchell's Point Marina.

"We literally just made the plan last week," Levey said.

Mitchell's Point Marina called lake businesses on Craddock Creek and else-

where and quickly had the fireworks paid for. Extra funds will go to Saunders Volunteer Fire Department and Semper Fi & America's Fund.

After last year, where fireworks were scarce on the lake due to COVID-19, Levey said they realized the lake needed another show at least, so it made sense to put it together.

Levey said that both

See **JULY 4**, Page A10

July 4 boating safety encouraged

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) are reminding all boaters to stay safe and sober this Fourth of July weekend and summer and always wear a life jacket while on the water.

"A good day on the water can turn tragic in seconds. No matter where you boat - from large lakes and rivers to small farm ponds - wearing a life jacket and

staying sober are essential for safety," DWR stated.

Operation Dry Water 2021 is July 2-4 and is a national awareness and enforcement campaign focused on reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-related accidents and fatalities, and fostering a stronger, more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water. It is coordinated by NASBLA in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard as well as local, state and federal law

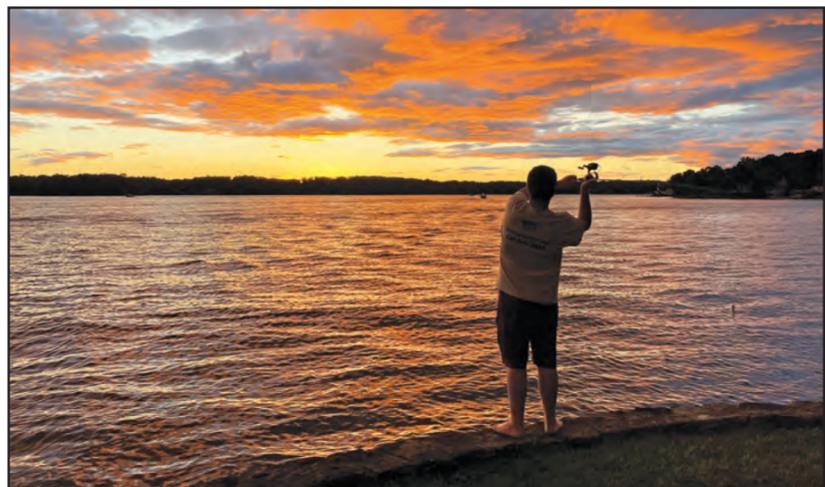
enforcement agencies. U.S. Coast Guard 2019 data reveal that alcohol use remains is the primary contributing factor recreational boater deaths.

DWR provided the following information for boaters:

- While getting ready for the boating season, boaters should make sure they have U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets in good condition that fit every occupant

See **SAFETY**, Page A4

A great day for fishing!



Contributed

Rob Poindexter submitted these photos of fishing from the Huddleston area of Smith Mountain Lake.

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Ken Webber/Contributed

At top left, children go through agility drills at Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy's first ever football camp. Above, the kids work on proper technique when working on the sled. At bottom left, former Staunton River High School star and Buffalo Bill Jarret Ferguson speaks to the children just before lunch. Below, Coach Dexter Beverly encourages a camper to run harder.



SMLCA hosts first football camp as they prepare to build on new football program

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

Back in December, Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy announced the major news that they were going to add football to their varsity sport. The school also announced that former William Byrd and UVA-Wise star Kenis Maciel will be the program's head coach. Fast forward six months, and on a warm Saturday morning, the Ospreys hosted their first ever football camp. Because the football program at SMLCA is just

half-a-year old, Maciel was concerned about the turnout and was shooting for around 40-50 kids. It turned out that around 60-70 showed up to the one-day camp. He also added that he believes over 80 percent of the kids in attendance haven't played any organized football.

Since the program is new and hardly any of the kids have played football, Maciel felt this camp was all about teaching them the basics.

"The foundation comes with being able to do the very basics and do-

ing them exactly right," Maciel said. "We want to preach that you do the fundamentals and the basics so many times, then it will become second nature and you don't even have to think about it."

He mentioned that they want to get the kids playing and taught at a young age so they won't be behind from a development standpoint, adding the more they play, the better their skills and the more refined their technique will get.

The kids were separated from kindergarten through

fifth grade, and sixth through 12th grades. The upper grade was separated into position groups – one half on the offensive position groups and the other half for the defensive position groups for an hour and a half.

The younger kids were broken into three groups: kindergarten and first grade, second and third grades, and fourth and fifth grades. They spent 30 minutes in each position to understand what they entail.

"We wanted to give them a taste at every position to see how they liked

it," Maciel said.

ACC official Bruce Palmer and Riddell representative Bob Wilmoth came to the camp to talk to the kids and their parents about the difference in rules and equipment than from the past and how they are striving to make player safety a top priority.

"It's leaps and bounds better," Maciel said when comparing it to his days playing football.

Bedford Parks & Recreation also was on site holding signups for the Moneta rec league for this coming fall. They also shuttled

those in attendance to drive them to the site where the new SMLCA football stadium will be built, which is one of the first stepping stones to building a championship football program at SMLCA.

Maciel had a three-year plan to get the program at a competitive level, but after what he saw on Saturday, he feels they can see success sooner than that.

"I feel like we're already ahead of schedule. I think in year two, we're going to turn some heads and really get our name out there," Maciel said.

Smallwood reflects on busy spring season as the AD for Staunton River High School

After taking over the Staunton River High School athletic director position in October, Josh Smallwood said this year wasn't the ideal year to begin his career because of COVID-19 and the seasons being compacted together.

Due to fall sports being pushed to the spring season, Smallwood had a little bit of time to get his feet wet and get acclimated into his new role. Then when it turned out that winter

sports were not going to happen this year, it gave him more time to prepare for the upcoming trials of having fall and spring sports seasons back-to-back.

When the season arrived, Smallwood said scheduling was the area that gave him the most fits.

"That was easily my biggest headache all year long, especially toward the spring with rain. If we had a rain-out date, you didn't

really know if you would be able to make it up," Smallwood said.

Smallwood added that one issue SRHS needs help on is finding bus drivers, which can cause issues with scheduling. He said it's not just a problem at SRHS but in the county and around the region.

"I bet if you called every athletic director in the Blue Ridge district, they would tell you that they have bus driver issues," he said.

911

Continued from Page A3

runs our phone system that we process all of our incoming 911 calls ..." said E911 Director Judson Smith.

Smith said the recommendation changed and they are currently using the Motorola VESTA phone system, which they have

been using for the past 20 years. He mentioned there has been no concern with the services they provide, but they are costly with the maintenance they pay on a yearly basis, which is around \$54,000.

The Intrado system is used across the country, state and surrounding areas such as Roanoke and Franklin, Botetourt and

Rockbridge counties, Smith said.

There are currently seven consoles at their 911 center, but they will now go up to eight consoles and add two admin positions to help take phone calls.

There also is a laptop station, in which they can still take calls in the county if they were to evacuate for any reason.

Fire

Continued from Page A1

who worked together. "It was a team effort."

According to the fire marshal's office, a resident was alerted to the fire, and the occupants were able to successfully exit the home. One adult resident sustained a minor injury and was transported to the hospital.

A firefighter also had a minor injury, and another firefighter was evaluated on the scene for heat-related exposure.

"It was really hot, and a lot of guys were overheating," Hoyt said. Bottles of water were

passed out to firefighters during the incident to keep them hydrated.

Firefighters cleared the scene at about 3 p.m., after having to wait on special equipment to move debris and hours monitoring for hot spots.

The family of the home was displaced since the home was a total loss, and they are reaching out to American Red Cross for assistance, according to the fire marshal's office.

The origin and cause of the fire is unknown at this time, and the fire is under investigation.

According to the Responding Fire news page, the following departments responded to the incident:

Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue (Company 10), SML Fireboats (Company 11), Franklin County Department of Public Safety (FCPS) - Westlake (Company 15), Burnt Chimney Volunteer Fire Department (Company 9), Glade Hill Volunteer Fire Department (Company 4) (added), Red Valley Volunteer Rescue Squad (Squad 9) and Medic 1-4 with FCPS.

Other units added were Rocky Mount Fire Department (Department 1), Boones Mill Volunteer Fire/EMS (Company 7), Cool Branch Volunteer Fire Company (Company 13), Moneta Volunteer Fire Department (Company 8) and PS-29 with FCPS.

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