

# Laker Weekly



lakerweekly.com

WEDNESDAY June 26, 2019

Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia

## WEEKEND'S TOP PICKS

### Thursday-Saturday

#### "1776" the Musical

Revel in the revolutionary spirit of America's Founding Fathers at this presentation of the Tony Award-winning musical comedy by Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone based on the events leading up to the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence. Bring a picnic dinner, sit back and enjoy theatre under the stars. Rain date June 30.

**Where:** Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, 1542 Bateman Bridge Road, Forest

**When:** 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$17.76, \$13 students ages 6-17 and college, \$4 children ages 5 and younger

**Contact:** www.poplarforest.org, 434-534-8120

### Friday

#### BBQ & Booze

Southern Smoke Company and Twin Creeks Distillery are teaming up to host an evening of community fun for everyone. Free food on a first come, first serve basis.

**Where:** Twin Creeks Distillery, 510 Franklin St., Rocky Mount

**When:** 5 to 9 p.m.

**Cost:** Tasting fee, \$5 Spirit Flight, \$7 Cocktail

**Contact:** 483-1266

### Saturday

#### Downtown Moneta FireWORX Fest

Hosted by the Moneta Volunteer Fire Department. Live music by The WORX, food and drink, adult beverage garden, kids' activities and fireworks. No outside food or drinks, coolers or pets (service pets allowed). All proceeds benefit the Moneta Volunteer Fire Department.

**Where:** Downtown Moneta, 1123 Celebration Ave., Moneta

**When:** 5:30 p.m. gate opens, 6 to 10 p.m. music with fireworks afterward

**Cost:** \$10 admission, free kids 10 and younger, free parking

**Contact:** Moneta Volunteer Fire Department, info@monetafire.com, 297-7281

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday

#### Healing Your Body Through Physical Therapy: Balance

Jake Divers and Neel Shah from CORA Physical Therapy in Hardy will discuss balance and what causes balance problems as we age. Participants will learn some simple exercises that can be done at home to help improve their balance.

**Where:** Moneta/SML Library, 13641 Moneta Road, Moneta

**When:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** 425-7004

#### Wacky Wednesdays: Make Your Own Instruments

Join us this summer if you enjoy making fun crafts. Make a different project each week. Part of the 2019 Summer Reading Program.

**Where:** Bedford Central Library, 321 N. Bridge St., Bedford

**When:** 2 to 3 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** 586-8911

For more events, please see page 6



Photos by JASON DUNOVANT | Laker Weekly

Neil Harrington points to the metal bars commonly found on boat lifts. The metal is often the source of stray voltage in the water around docks.

# Boat lifts a common source of stray voltage in water

SML Marine Volunteer Fire Department member warns to stay clear of boat lifts while swimming around docks.

By Jason Dunovant  
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For nearly two years, Neil Harrington has provided free checks for stray voltage around docks on the lake. In that time, he has found some level of electricity in the water around nearly every dock he has visited.

Harrington, a member of the Smith Mountain Lake Marine



Neil Harrington points to the ground wire in his dock's electrical circuit panel that connects from his home. He said stray voltage can reach the dock through that ground wire.

Volunteer Fire Department, discovered the stray electricity almost always came from one common device at lakefront

homes. Since the issue is so prevalent, he has decided to stop doing checks and start working to inform the public about ways

to mitigate the problem. "If you have your boat lift in the water, you have stray voltage in the water," Harrington said.

The source of the electricity, Harrington has found, is the metal portions of a boat lift or personal watercraft lift when it is lowered into the water. If electrical wiring is up to code, he said the water around the docks was almost always free of stray electricity when a lift is out of the water.

Harrington said stray voltage results from electricity traveling from the power lines on the street to the dock. The electricity reaches the dock from a ground wire that is connected

See DOCK SHOCK, 2

## Independence Day events

There's no shortage of upcoming festivities to celebrate the Fourth of July. To help plan your holiday weekend, Laker Weekly has compiled a list of events happening around the lake.

### June 29

#### FireWORX Fest 2019 at Downtown Moneta.

Hosted by Moneta Volunteer Fire Department at Downtown Moneta, the event includes live music by The WORX, an adult beverage garden, kids' activities and craft and food vendors. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with music from 6 to 10 p.m. followed by fireworks. Admission is \$10 (free for kids 10 and younger). Proceeds will support the Moneta Volunteer Fire Department.

### July 3

#### 36th Annual Independence Day Festival.

Bring the family for a free, fun-filled evening

See INDEPENDENCE, 3

## AEP installing new meter readers at lake area homes

Crews have replaced meters in several lake communities in the past few weeks.

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Appalachian Power is upgrading its meters for customers throughout the region, including the lake area.

The new Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters were installed in nearly 200,000 customers' homes in 2017 and 2018. Appalachian Power plans to install 260,000 more this year.

"By the end of the year, all of our customers will have them," said John Shepelwich, Appalachian spokesman.

Contract workers from Quanta Utility Engineering Services have been replacing the meters with new ones, Shepelwich said. Customers may experience a power outage that lasts less than five minutes while the new meters are installed with the entire process taking about 10 minutes.

"It's a lot like changing the filter in your

See AEP, 2



Photo courtesy of Appalachian Power

An Appalachian Power employee installs a new Advanced Metering Infrastructure meter at a home. The new meters are currently being installed around the lake area.



## The Westlake

GolfTheWestlake.com | 540-721-4214

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