



Lamb leads charge as NFL's best rise above the rest

SPORTS, 1B

PETERSBURG'S LEADING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1865

The Progress-Index

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Reinforcements are on the way for firefighters



Petersburg Fire & EMS will receive a \$3 million federal grant to hire up to 15 more firefighters over the next three years. PROVIDED BY PETERSBURG FIRE & EMS

Petersburg could add 15 more by 2029 with money from SAFER grant

Bill Atkinson

Petersburg Progress-Index
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fifteen more firefighters could be added to the Petersburg payroll between now and 2029.

In a Facebook post last week, Petersburg Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services announced it was receiving a SAFER grant totaling about \$3 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SAFER, which stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, is a program that provides funding to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to help in-

“For Petersburg residents, this means more trained firefighters available to respond when you need help most.”

From a Petersburg Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Facebook post

crease or maintain the number of front-line firefighters.

According to the post, Petersburg Fire & Rescue will use the grant money to add 15 firefighters to the department over the next three years.

“For Petersburg residents, this means more trained firefighters available to respond when you need help most ... whether it’s a fire, medical emergency, rescue, vehicle crash or another emergency,” the department wrote.

In addition to hiring more firefighters, the SAFER goal is also to prevent firefighter layoffs, convert part-time or on-call firefighters to full-time status, and assist in recruiting and certifications for meeting national standards.

In the case of Petersburg, the department said that means it can build on “progress already underway.”

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Cast members of History Channel's “American Pickers” are, from left, Jersey Jon, Robbie Wolfe, Danielle Colby and Mike Wolfe. PROVIDED BY CINEFLIX PRODUCTIONS

Got a hidden treasure?

American Pickers are planning November visit

Monique Calello

Staunton News Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

The American Pickers are returning to Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

They plan to film episodes of History Channel’s hit television series “American Pickers” throughout the region in November.

“American Pickers” is a documentary series that explores the world of antique picking. The show follows skilled pickers as they hunt for some of America’s most valuable antiques.

The Pickers are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, as well as unforgettable characters and their collections. As they travel back roads from coast to coast, they are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics.

Along the way, they hope to meet people with amazing stories and unique items. They aim to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning more about America’s past.

The Pickers have discovered a lot of “rusty gold” over the years and are always looking to find something they’ve never seen before. They are ready to uncover extraordinary items and hear the fascinating stories

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Families of Oct. 7 victims to run in Israeli election

Candidates say they wish to heal country’s wounds

Maayan Lubell and Emily Rose
REUTERS

TEL AVIV – One was inspired by her son’s last stand trying to fight off attackers rampaging through a kibbutz, an Israeli community. Another by her son’s final words as militants tossed grenades into a bomb shelter packed with fleeing revelers from a music festival. A third by the brothers he campaigned to bring home from captivity in the Gaza Strip.

Three years since Hamas’ Oct. 7,

2023, attack, at least nine Israelis from families directly caught up in the deadliest day in the country’s history are running for parliament in an election later in October. They represent parties running the gamut of political views, but all say they aim to heal Israel’s wounds.

The militants who burst into southern Israel in 2023 killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages to the Gaza Strip. Michal Hirsch Negri’s son, Roei, died fighting Hamas attackers in Kibbutz Be’eri, where 1 in 10 residents were killed.

Soon after the surprise attack began,

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Tali Kizhner looks at a mural painted on the bomb shelter in which her son, Segev Israel Kizhner, sought refuge before he was killed in the Oct. 7, 2023, killing and kidnapping spree by Hamas militants. AMIR COHEN/REUTERS FILE

