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Business Briefcase

CBurton

Jul 17, 2026

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Paul Massimiano

Valley Health

- Elizabeth Schlupp, PA-C, joined Valley Health Surgical Oncology in April. She earned a bachelor's degree in health sciences from Stratford University in Falls Church and a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Shenandoah University. She discovered her passion for patient care during six years as a medical assistant in dermatology, following four years of service in the U.S. Navy as a cryptologist.

- Paul Massimiano, MD, joined Valley Health in July at the Advanced Valve Center in Winchester. Massimiano is a board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon with more than 30 years of comprehensive cardiac surgery experience. He completed medical school at Georgetown University School of Medicine and his residency at Walter Reed. He completed a fellowship in cardiac surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital, and an advanced valve fellowship at St. Vincent's Heart Institute in Portland, Oregon.

REC director elections

- Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) member-owners have an opportunity to make their voices heard in the Cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting and Director Elections. Members have until 5 p.m., Friday, July 31, to designate a proxy or register to vote live during the Annual Meeting.

Members with a valid email address on file should have received instructions, including a unique username and password, to designate their proxy online. You can also log in to MyREC SmartHub and click Vote Now. Paper proxy designation forms were also mailed in early July for those who wish to return their proxy by mail.

REC's 2026 Annual Meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5. Members who want to vote live during the meeting must register between 7 a.m. Monday, July 27, and 5 p.m. Friday, July 31. Only registered members will receive instructions to join the meeting and vote live. Register online at myrec.coop/register.

Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard as an REC member-owner. Designate your proxy today or register to vote live by 5 p.m. July 31.

Utility scams

- As rising summer temperatures cause energy demands to increase, criminals exploit fears of losing power and air conditioning by posing as local utility companies, according to Virginia AARP.

Scammers place threatening phone calls, phishing emails, or urgent text messages aimed at convincing consumers to supply personal data or to click on unverified links to resolve a past-due balance. Oftentimes these schemes are accompanied by a push to receive instant payment through unconventional payment methods like gift cards, or cryptocurrency.

If you receive an unexpected threat to terminate your service, take an active pause and contact the utility company's customer service department using the number from your physical bill or the company's website (don't search – go directly to the site) to check your account status. Chances are it's a scam.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Networ. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

Weller announces retirement

- Rich Weller, marketing manager for Solenberger's Home & Hardware in Winchester, retired effective June 30, concluding a decades long career in retail executive leadership, marketing strategy, chamber of commerce service, insurance advisory work, and storytelling across the Shenandoah Valley.

At Solenberger's, Weller helped lead brand evolution, messaging, and storytelling strategy for one of the Shenandoah Valley's most established family-owned businesses. His work focused on strengthening brand identity, honoring heritage, and deepening the store's connection with multiple generations of customers.

Beyond his professional career, Weller is a digital creator, author, and co-host of the podcast "Slice of Life," which reaches audiences in 54 countries and more than 400 cities. The podcast is built around nostalgia, storytelling, humor, and shared human experience, with a focus on bringing out the child in all of us.

Following retirement, Weller plans to continue creative work including podcasting, writing, storytelling, and selective consulting, while remaining active in mentorship throughout the region.

— Send announcements to cburton@winchesterstar.com

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