



The

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Briefs

LIKE JEFF BEZOS, KATE AND ETHAN ZUKERMAN BEGAN A LOCAL BUSINESS IN THEIR AFTON GARAGE. Though not ending up billionaires, their kombucha brewing business (*Lodger* 30) boomed much like Amazon. So much so that new owner and venture capitalist Hank Heyming expects demand to soon exceed production capacity and envisions sales increasing ten fold.

Deciding they needed a break from the rigors of running a brewery and tap room in Waynesboro, the Zukermans sold the business they call Blue Ridge Bucha and plan spending time with their two young children before venturing into another yet undecided entrepreneurial pursuit.

The Zukermans started brewing non-alcoholic kombucha in 2010 as a backyard hobby in the garage behind their home. Outgrowing the garage, they sought and found a perfect vacant building for sale in Waynesboro that accommodated higher volume brewing equipment.

The fermented organic tea drink is sold at the brewery tap room and has spread to over 200 retail locations in Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Heyming is considering establishing another production facility as well as marketing an alcoholic version of kombucha while continuing to maintain the Waynesboro location.



Kate and Ethan Zukerman and Hank Heyming

A COUPLE'S LOVE IN LIFE AND WORK MADE THEM WORLD FAMOUS. Charlie and Lois O'Brien have spent over sixty years loving each other and the insects they collected together to produce an accumulation of 1.25 million specimens worth an estimated 10 million dollars. Winding down their careers as they faced old age and health problems, the O'Briens donated their entire collection to Arizona State University. This caught the eye

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RESIDENT FOCUS

They met in Barcelona, Spain and were married eight months later in Normandy, France. Thus, Dr. Luis F. Garcia and his wife Françoise began an extraordinarily eventful lifetime of traveling the world, moving their home 26 times. A premier U.S. Army surgeon, Luis was saving injured and sick military people while Françoise brought into the world and raised five eminently successful children. After Luis completed a 40-year Army career and retired as a U.S. Army Colonel, the couple settled down in Woodlake Country Club, Vass, North Carolina (near Fort Bragg) where they lived for 26 years. A move to The Lodge in 2019 put them in closer contact with the family of one of their children in Charlottesville, a place they had visited many times before.

A decorated Army veteran, Luis was named Chief of Surgery at every Army base hospital to which he was assigned. His tours of duty included assignments in the United States, France, Belgium, Panama, and Germany. He was chief surgeon at the Landstuhl Army Medical Center in southwestern Germany, the largest U.S. military hospital outside the continental United States. In 1968, while Luis served a one-year hardship tour in Vietnam, Françoise moved to Paris, France with their five children (aged between two and eight) to live with her parents.

Luis was born and raised in a small town in Puerto Rico called Pueblito del Rio. He is the oldest of four siblings. His native language is Spanish, but he is fluent in English and French as well.

After graduating from the ROTC program at the University of Puerto Rico with a bachelor's degree in science, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and enrolled in the medical program at the University of Barcelona in Spain. It

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Courtesy The Lodge

Resident Focus (cont'd)

was there that Luis and Françoise met. She was an exchange student studying Spanish at the university. The family she was staying with introduced them. He invited her to the movies and the rest is history.

Françoise is a native of Normandy, France. Her father died when she was very young. After spending some time in Bordeaux, she eventually moved to Paris at the age of 7 with her mother and two sisters at the outbreak of World War II. Her mother remarried and gave birth to a little brother. Françoise raised him almost as her own. Françoise also speaks fluent French, Spanish and English.

Devoted to raising her five children, Françoise guided them into adulthood, helping them to adjust while moving around the world every couple of years. She is justly proud of their achievements and their mastery of the three languages that she and Luis taught them.

Son Gerard is a practicing attorney in Paris, married to a French woman. Cecile and her Belgian husband live in Puerto Rico where they operate an agronomy business. Carole and her husband, both doctors, live in Texas. She is a radiologist. Patrick, an attorney, served 20 years as an officer in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and currently works as a fundraiser for UVA. Daughter Isabelle is an accountant, lives in New Jersey, is married to a psychiatrist, and manages his office. All together, the children have brought into the world 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren for the Garcias.

Son Patrick tells us that his father has many hobbies, including being an avid stream and lake fisherman, a detailed woodworking craftsman, an extensive silver spoon collector, a nature lover (especially birds), and a lifelong learner. Reading

has always been a passion for Luis, who tells us that history and the arts are subjects at the top of his list.

Françoise still uses her Singer sewing machine that is now over 58 years old. She has always enjoyed everything to do with putting together photo albums, making puzzles, reading, and staying in touch with family and friends throughout the world. An avid bike rider throughout her life, Françoise passed on this passion to each of her children.

"The Lodge is a great place to be," says Luis. "The people and staff are lovely and we are very grateful to them. By the way, I never read love story books. I don't need to, because I have my own love story."



Wedding Day, 1958 (above), at granddaughter wedding, 2020 (right), and in Berlin, Germany 1991 (left).



Photo by Fred Lach

Son Patrick shared this description of his parents' creation. *Sharing their labor of love, Dr. and Mrs. Garcia have put on display a splendid nativity scene they have set up annually for well over 60 years. Busloads of school-aged children would visit their home in North Carolina as a field trip. This past holiday season was no exception as many residents of The Lodge had an opportunity to visit the scene on*

the 3rd floor. The nativity scene represents some of the many countries they lived in, and their large family are all depicted throughout the display. While Mrs. Garcia is the architect and master of the display, Dr. Garcia handcrafted most everything made of wood. The sand comes from beaches throughout the world and the 300 plus figurines are handmade from Spain.

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Developer Clarifies Neighboring Office Building Plan

A site plan for a medical office building and parking lot in the open space in front of The Lodge has been approved by Albemarle County. Contrary to an earlier report that said construction would begin in January and be completed by the end of the year, the developer has informed The Lodger that details will not be finalized until later in the spring. Turner Enterprises of Charlottesville, the developer of the proposal, cannot say at this time when the project will proceed to construction.

The space at the corner of Claremont Lane and Golf Drive was previously approved for a hotel and restaurant, scuttled in 2014 due to tight money lending. The space has remained vacant ever since.

The Old Trail Community Association says it worked closely with the developer to assure the building design was compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. In a recent newsletter, the association also said construction would begin in January and be completed by year end.

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Motor Vehicle Use, Design, and Safety Face Radical Shifts

Radical changes in motor vehicle technology are coming faster than we think. Some people in Crozet recently got a taste of what's on the way. All indications are they love it.

Over 530 miles of driverless travel by 750 passengers without a single driver intervention is how the three-month autonomous vehicle trial in Crozet last summer was described by Crozet-based Perrone Robotics Incorporated (PRI). PRI automated a six-seat TONY (TO Navigate You) vehicle for driverless operation used to shuttle passengers around Old Trail and Crozet in partnership with Albemarle County and Jaunt public transportation. And if this newest navigation capability was not enough, the retrofitted electric vehicle made by Californi-based Polaris was free of all polluting emissions.

A safety driver was onboard the vehicle to take over as the driver if that were ever necessary. At no time during the trial, however, did the driver have to intervene to avoid an accident or a near miss.

Several routes were selected to demonstrate the ability of TONY to navigate in a variety of vehicle and pedestrian situations. One route connected downtown with Old Trail via Jarmans Gap Road and Old Trail Drive. A second route connected a Crozet neighborhood with downtown. Rider feedback was positive.

- A grandfather experiencing a ride in the shuttle said that he was going to text his grandson stating: "I've done something you've never done -- ride in a driverless vehicle. You've got some catching up to do."
- A couple riding TONY was dropped off at the post office in downtown Crozet, and after enjoying breakfast and shopping, they boarded the shuttle back to Old Trail. They reported that they found the shuttle very useful and would like to see it become a regular service.
- Operator reports indicate that numerous Lodge residents took rides to downtown Crozet and offered their gratitude and satisfaction after the ride.
- A mother of a young child with a disability expressed her interest in seeing such transit give more mobility for her child in the future.

Increasing mobility of persons without driver licenses or with disabilities is a leading incentive to make passenger vehicles automated. Reducing the outrageous 30,000 annual highway fatalities is another. Autonomous vehicles cannot eliminate highway fatalities, but they can avoid many of the driver mistakes that cause them. There is also hope that autonomous shuttle and transit services can reduce city traffic congestion and the need for parking spaces.

Jaunt transit was organized in 1975 by human service agencies. It was later reorganized under the ownership of the local governments that finance its operation. Looking to the future, Jaunt began a commitment to electric vehicles with the addition of its first EV to its vehicle fleet in 2020 and is readying the commencement of more immediate door-to-door service through the use of an app or dedicated telephone line.

After serving six years as Jaunt CEO, former Albemarle supervisor Brad Sheffield resigned his position in early December, leaving unanswered the question of how this will affect future innovations at the transit agency. The agency board of directors is expected to conduct a search for a replacement. In the meantime, Chief Operating Officer Karen Davis will serve as interim CEO.



The first completely automated electric vehicle, designed from scratch and built in the U.S. by Amazon's Wook, will perhaps be used for robotaxi service in Las Vegas and San Francisco where it has been extensively tested. (The bi-directional vehicle is pictured with its sliding doors open.)



Waymo, a unit of Google, is operating modified Chrysler Fiat vehicles as self-driving taxis in Phoenix, Arizona. Accidents in over 6 million miles of Waymo driving were all caused by other drivers.



Jaunt's first electric bus, put in service in 2020, is the forerunner of an all-electric transit fleet.

According to writer and robocar technologist Brad Templeton, self-driving company Waymo is proving that autonomous vehicle performance is "significantly superior to a human." Templeton says Waymo has set a precedent of "incredible transparency" in revealing the accident results of 6.1 million miles of autonomous driving, the equivalent, Waymo claims, of over 500 years of driving by an average U.S.-licensed driver. In all that driving, Waymo's automated vehicles, with and without safety drivers, were involved in 47 actual or simulated collisions or other contact events, none resulting in major injuries, and all caused by the fault of other drivers. Accidents that were avoided by driver intervention were computer simulated to occur.

Waymo is currently providing driverless ride-hailing service in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area using retrofitted Chrysler Fiat-made vehicles. Amazon-owned Zoox recently announced the first automated vehicle designed and made in the U.S. specifically for driverless operation. It has undergone robotaxi trials in Las Vegas and San Francisco, but no future operational details have been announced.

If driverless taxi service were to occur in central Virginia, Jaunt public transit would be the likely purveyor. A regional transportation system in Albemarle County and five adjoining counties, Jaunt provides transit service to the general public, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. A fleet of 85 minibuses provide both fixed route as well as demand-responsive services in the six-county area. Door-to-door responsive rides require a reservation one day in advance, but more immediate service is under development.

Briefs (cont'd) of a pair of film makers who produced an award-winning documentary they dubbed "The Love Bugs," a story about love of science, love of research, and love of one another.



The O'Briens met when Charlie was a teacher of entomology. Lois was his student at the University of Arizona, enamored of Charlie and insects. They married and spent their honeymoon in Canada collecting insects and later traveling the world netting every insect they could find. On a trip to the Philippines, they slept in their

car for four months to get away from their insect-infested hotel room.

Charlie became one of the world's top experts on weevils, many of which he discovered for the first time including three in his backyard while living in Florida. Lois says she helped him at times even though that took her away from studying planthoppers, her favorite species, about which she has written over 50 scientific papers.

Finally settling in Arizona, they added extra rooms to their house, stuffed with more than 1,200 glass-topped wooden drawers of preserved insects, all of which Lois had built.

"More than half of everything I have is identified, and that takes an unbelievable number of hours," Charlie said in a past interview. "I can spend a hundred hours identifying a single species. Or I can spend a hundred hours and not identify that species."

Charlie passed away in August 2019. Lois, in her early nineties, is still listed as a university research assistant.

The documentary is a colorful and poignant account of the O'Brien legacy. "Brilliant and beautiful, both the movie and these people," said one viewer. "A very special 32 minutes that is chock-

full of goodness. Recommend it to those who love nature, human relationships, and love itself," said another.

It is streamed at pbs.org/video/the-love-bugs-sywsod/ or bit.ly/LoveBugsFilm.

PREPARING FOR A DEEP-SEA DIVE on November 8, 2020, she clamped her nose shut and strapped a four-pound weight around her neck, grabbed hold of a 375-foot long line, and jumped into the warm waters of the Red Sea. Dolphin finning with her monofin, she descended in pursuit of a new world record. At 65 feet, her lungs were compressed to one-third of normal capacity. A 41-time world-record holder considered the greatest free diver of all time vanished during a similar dive while training in Spain.

At 200 feet, she stopped finning, closed her eyes, and went into free fall as momentum sucked her down deeper. Just before reaching her target depth of 375 feet, two minutes into holding her breath, her dive watch sounded. Opening her eyes, she plucked a tag from the end of the line and began finning to the surface. At the risk of a blackout on the way up, safety divers watched for signs of trouble, ready to help her to the surface.

After three minutes and 41 seconds, she calmly floated to the surface. Removing her nose clip, she held up the tag for the judge to see. To the roar of the surrounding and splashing crowd of athletes and spectators, the judge held up a white card attesting to her new



world record for women's free diving, a feat once thought not possible.

Alenka Artnik had broken the world record of 371 feet she and a fellow diver earned a year ago. It was hinted that this would not be the last for the Slovenian 39-year-old.

Office Building (cont'd)

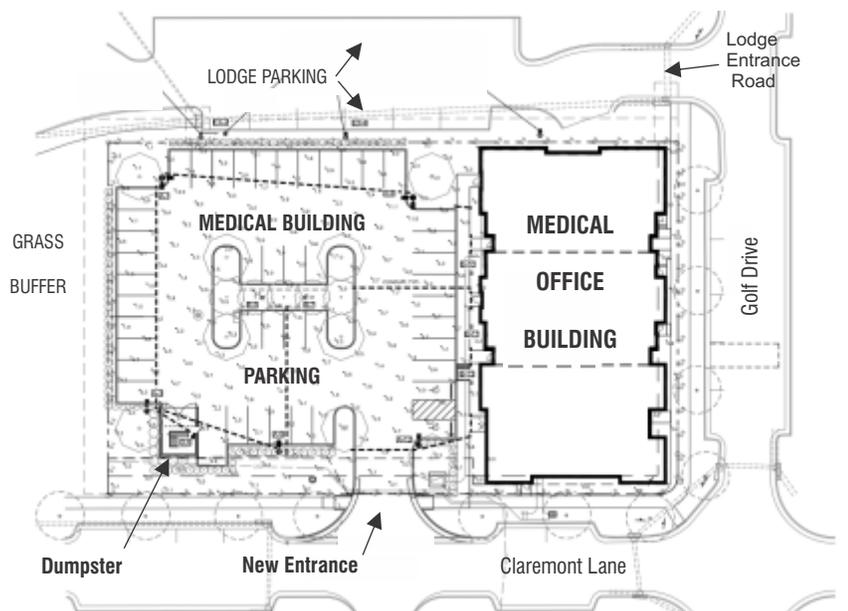
Authorization of construction by the county cannot be granted without the issuance of a building permit. Up until mid-January, a building permit had not been requested or issued.

The required approval of site development details was granted by the county in December. The site plan shows a 10,500 sq. ft. building divided into three medical suites. A 44-space parking lot is planned for the area between the building and the existing parking lot in front of The Lodge.

Traffic to the new development would be routed via a new entrance on Claremont Lane. Traffic circulation in front of The Lodge would be unaffected. Designers estimate the project to generate an average of 365 vehicle trips per weekday entering and exiting the building parking lot.

The existing zoning of the property allows the development to proceed without public hearings or any action by the county governing body.

Until further details are completed, the project implementation schedule remains uncertain.



The site plan above was granted approval by Albemarle County in December. The proposed building and parking lot abut Claremont Lane and Golf Drive on the south and east, a grass buffer and The Lodge parking lot on the west, and The Lodge entrance road on the north. A new parking lot entrance on Claremont Lane is opposite an existing Village Center parking lot entrance.