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Citizens honored for heroic efforts

Helped save bed-ridden man from home fire

By CHARLES CONRAD
STAFF REPORTER/TIMES VIRGINIAN

Three individuals were honored at Monday night's Appomattox County Board of Supervisors meeting for their heroic actions taken to save the life of a bed-ridden man trapped in a residential fire that occurred Oct. 13.

An official Resolution in Honor of Heroes Van Burke, Tim Tolley and Rachael Gilliland was unanimously approved by the board for risking their own lives and well-being in the rescue effort.

Burke and Tolley were present for the meeting. Gilliland was unable to attend.

First responders involved at the scene were also honored for their work in battling the blaze and preventing its spread amid fiery, smoke-filled conditions.

According to the resolution, which was read aloud by Board of Supervisors Chairman John Hinkle, county dispatchers received a 911 call just before noon regard-

ing an appliance fire at a home located on James River Road in the Bent Creek community.

Shortly thereafter, the emergency classification was upgraded to a working structure fire with entrapment. Crews engaged at the scene were the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department, Appomattox County Rescue Squad, Gladstone Fire and Rescue Service, Concord Volunteer Fire Department, and Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department.

By the time first responders arrived, the home's occupants were safely removed.

"Whereas, disregarding their personal safety, Van Burke, Tim Tolley and Rachael Gilliland had bravely removed the occupants, including one who was bed-ridden, from the structure, which by then was showing heavy fire and smoke and had multiple propane tanks in the area," the resolution states. "The human toll would've been much worse if not for the courageous

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CHARLES CONRAD/TIMES VIRGINIAN

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors honored Tim Tolley (left), Van Burke (center) and Rachael Gilliland (not present) for their heroic efforts during an Oct. 13 fire that helped save the life of a bed-ridden man on James River Road. Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jonathan Garrett (right) also honored the rescuers with a "Citizen Heroism Award" plaque.

Wall of Honor finds new home



CHARLES CONRAD/TIMES VIRGINIAN

The Wall of Honor is pictured at its new location, near the entrance of the Appomattox courthouse building.

By CHARLES CONRAD
STAFF REPORTER/TIMES VIRGINIAN

The Wall of Honor, founded by American Legion Post 104 in Appomattox shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, is in the process of moving locations. The monument isn't going far from its original location, however, as it is shifting across the lawn from in front of the old Appomattox courthouse building on Court Street to the entrance of the current courthouse beside the Flood family mausoleum.

As of Monday, the Wall of Honor's tall granite stone panels, benches, and ground-level bricks were in place with construction workers present at the site.

The monument has been moved due to

renovations being done at the old courthouse, in a way to prevent potential damage from heavy equipment. Also, the new location will make the Wall of Honor visible to more people, as compared to when it was partially hidden by the wall in front of the old courthouse.

Todd Roach, current member and former treasurer at American Legion Post 104, said the Wall of Honor honors military veterans, Appomattox County first responders, and members of the local American Legion.

Roach has been working diligently to add more names to the Wall of Honor after several years of hiatus, a situation created

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Vigil shines spotlight on domestic violence

'Abuse isn't love'



CHARLES CONRAD/TIMES VIRGINIAN

Attendees gather in front of the LOVE sign at Courtland Festival Park for a candlelight vigil held Oct. 17 in honor of domestic violence victims and survivors during National Domestic Violence

By CHARLES CONRAD
STAFF REPORTER/TIMES VIRGINIAN

In the shadows of darkness behind closed doors, domestic violence is an epidemic whose perpetrators attempt to hide from the public eye.

In Appomattox, a spotlight was shined on the horrific behavior when a candlelight vigil was held Thursday, Oct. 17 at Courtland Festival Park in honor of domestic violence victims and survivors. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Appomattox County Victim Witness Coordinator Kim Towler, who was the keynote speaker at the public vigil, overviewed

some of the repercussions that stem from domestic violence. Reciting statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Towler noted that children of domestic violence are six times more likely to commit suicide, 50% more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, and 74% are more likely to engage in illegal activity.

Towler also said a study by Duke University indicates that domestic violence affects a child's brain development. In fact, a 2003 report on the Duke Scholars website states "Children exposed to high levels of domestic violence had IQs that were, on average, 8 points lower than unexposed children."

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Hasadiah Baptist Assoc. collects supplies for hurricane victims

By ORA MCCOY
CONTRIBUTED

The Hasadiah Baptist Association, in coordination with the Virginia Baptist State Convention (VBSC), held a Supply Relief Drive for the victims of Hurricane Helene. The Appomattox Walmart graciously allowed us to have a tractor trailer parked in front of the store on Oct. 16 to receive goods for these families whose lives have been devastated.

The Hasadiah Baptist Association is a collective of 15 Baptist churches from Appomattox, Prince Edward and Campbell counties, and the City of Lynchburg. Under the leadership of Moderator Rev. John H. Braxton Jr., its mission is to commit ourselves to The Great Commission, and strengthen our churches holistically. We do this by coordinating and supporting missionary works and promoting Christian education. We are aligned with the VBSC, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Waddell Jones. The VBSC spans the Commonwealth of Virginia, bringing believers together to grow in the knowledge of



ORA MCCOY/CONTRIBUTED

Hasadiah Baptist Association and volunteers helped collect items for victims of Hurricane Helene at the Appomattox Walmart on Oct. 16.

Christ and supports foreign and home missions.

We thank everyone for their support and donations that we were able to send well-needed supplies to those in need. Please continue to pray for the victims and donate to help those in need. If you are interested in learning more about our education and missionary efforts, please visit our Facebook page for more information.

Sheriff updates Town Council on department stats, K-9 dogs

By CHARLES CONRAD
STAFF REPORTER/TIMES VIRGINIAN

At the most recent Appomattox Town Council meeting held Oct. 15, Appomattox County Sheriff Robby Richardson gave an update on the police department's statistics and its K-9 dog unit.

During the past six months in the Town of Appomattox, the sheriff's office served 171 summonses for speeding and traffic infractions, 135 misdemeanor warrants, and 103 felony warrants.

Although Richardson didn't have the total number of parking infractions with him at the moment, he told Town Council that the numbers have increased and that the department is doing its best to address concerns within the town.

"I can tell you they have risen, mostly due to the new parking signs on Church Street, and also whenever we've had the time and people have called in, we try to monitor the mornings over near the ABC store and Kroger parking lot, things of that nature," he said. "We can't get to them all. I know there's been a lot of complaints we haven't gotten to, and it's strictly because deputies are on call and they can't get over there in time before the person's already left. And the law also dictates if somebody's in the driver's seat we can't write them a parking ticket, we have to ask them to move on; it's only if somebody's not in the driver's seat." Town Council member Claudia Puckette asked Richardson to discuss the current status of the two K-9 officers, Virgilio and Conner. The response was all good news as

the dogs are keeping up with state requirements and standards.

"They're being used consistently," Richardson answered. "They both just took their state test again, and I think it was back in August, and both of them passed in drug identification, narcotics, and also in tracking, which is a good thing."

Richardson added that the dogs have been instrumental in getting a lot of narcotics off the streets, including a recent operation that resulted in the seizure of large amounts of methamphetamine.

"That makes me feel good to hear that because I was told, in fact I heard a lot from a lot of sources, that the dogs were gonna be the best way to help you get rid of the drug problem," Puckette said in response.

Town Council member Jane Allen asked Richardson how the dogs were performing on school duties when called upon to do so. Richardson said that, fortunately, there haven't been many recent incidents to investigate.

"Luckily, the dog-to-school has not been too proactive, which is a good thing in our world, when they are being used in school searches and things of that nature to make sure there's no narcotics in the schools," he said.

The K-9s are also being effectively used in places Richardson describes as being known for narcotics usage.

"Our drug task force is using advantage of them as well," Richardson added. "They have an interdiction line, which is basically they come down in high problem drug ar-

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