



# Supervisors keep same tax rates, adopt new budget

By Eric Miller  
Reporter

MILFORD - A divided Caroline County Board of Supervisors voted three times before finally keeping the real estate tax rate the same in the next budget year, which starts July 1.

Supervisors also adopted a \$41,855,692 general fund budget that relies on \$35.8 million from local taxpayers. Originally, County Administrator Charles Culley

had proposed a \$42,424,590 budget, a 6 percent increase the over current fiscal year. He also recommended increasing the real estate tax rate and personal property tax rate.

The budget adopted by the supervisors will provide a 3 percent pay raise for county employees.

Culley recommended allocating \$11,601,110 in county funds for schools; the supervisors increased it to \$11,635,804. The School Board had asked for \$12.8 million in county funds — \$2.2 million more than the current fiscal year.

During discussions about setting the real estate tax, supervisors focused mainly on the gap between what they were considering allocating for schools and what the School Board had requested.

At stake was a pay increase for all school employees, not just teachers. The state will provide enough aid in the next fiscal year to help fund a 2 percent increase for teachers, but the school division has to provide matching funds.

Before taking up the budget, the supervisors left the auditorium for a closed session in order to discuss a contract involving interviews with bidders. When they returned to open session, the supervisors indicated they had an additional \$150,000 in revenue that might be available for the school system. Since the \$150,000 was part of negotiations in a closed session, Culley said later he could not disclose the source of the ad-

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MILFORD — Except for new hires, Caroline County Public Schools employees will get a 3 percent pay increase in the next fiscal year.

The School Board unanimously endorsed the salary increase at its regular meeting on Monday night of this week.

“The raises are very much needed,” said Superintendent Gregory Killough, school division superintendent.

To make the 3 percent raise a reality, the School Board agreed to hold off on funding four new teaching positions — two for middle school and high school and

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Photo by Tim Cox

## School addition in use

Erin Teger, a kindergarten teacher at Bowling Green Primary School, keeps watch over her young charges one morning last week in their new classroom. The school recently began occupying new classrooms built in an expansion and renovation project, although other work continues.

# Verizon drops cell tower bid

Verizon Wireless has withdrawn an application with Caroline County that sought a permit to erect a cellular telephone tower at a site near off Guinea Road in Woodford near the National Park Service's Stonewall Jackson Shrine.

County planning officials were informed of the company's decision in a letter from Charles Rothenberg, a Richmond attorney representing Verizon, in a letter dated March 25. His letter did not indicate why the company was withdrawing its application, which had already been endorsed by the county's Planning Commission.

“Upon review of all of the due diligence for this site, it's been determined that Verizon Wireless will not move forward,” Melanie Ortel, a spokesman for the company, said via e-mail to The Caroline Progress on Friday of last week.

The Planning Commission voted 6-0 in February to recommend approval of the request, and it was sent to the Board of Supervisors for final action.

Rothenberg had told the Planning Commission there would be “virtually no impact” to the Stonewall Jackson Shrine, the site where Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson died. Verizon was “sensitive” to the effects of the tower, he told the panel, but he added that there were “no alternatives.”

In briefing the commission on the request, county planner Angeline Pitts said Verizon officials considered the site an “ideal location” and that the tower was needed to meet increasing demand for service.

However, even though Verizon had conducted tests at the proposed site to gauge the potential visual impact of the tower and had conducted part of the test on the shrine property, they had not notified the National Park Service (NPS) of the proposed cell tower.

After being informed of the Planning Commission's action by The Caroline Progress, NPS officials expressed concern about the proposed tower although they did outright oppose it.

“The site of the proposed tower is about 3,000 feet from the park boundary, and the potential for impact on National Park Service resources (which are all listed on the National Register) seems significant,” John Hennessy, chief historian for Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, wrote to Caroline planning director Mike Finchum in a March 5 letter.

“Based on the materials we have seen, we cannot begin to judge the potential effect of the proposed tower on historic resources at or near the Jackson Shrine,” continued Hennessy. “The photo-simulations included in the packet view the site from the

see Tower page A2



Mourners file into Salem Baptist Church cemetery in Sparta to pay final respects to James Trivette.

# Hundreds mourn death of Milford man, 21

Friends and family paid tribute and final respects to a “precious, energetic, outgoing young man” who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident.

Hundreds of mourners flocked to a memorial service for James A. Trivette, 21, on Sunday. (See obituary, page A3.)

Trivette, who lived on Devils Three Jump Road in Milford, died at the scene of the accident on Tuesday night of last week.

Trivette grew up in Caroline and was a graduate of Caroline High School. He was a steamfitter apprentice for R.M. Thornton and a member of the Steamfitters Union Local 602 of Washington, D.C., and he had been accepted by a technical school for apprenticeship training.

The memorial service was held at the Community Services Center in Milford. Every seat in the auditorium was taken, and mourners lined the sides and stood in rows two deep or more in the back. Others listened to the service in the halls or even outside. The crowd was estimated at between 700-800 people. Many wore an orange ribbon bearing Trivette's first initial, J.

Despite the outpouring, there was “no one...who wants to be here,” said Kevin James, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Sparta, as



James Trivette

the service began.

“We come searching for reasons,” he said, reasons as to why a young person's life would be ended so quickly, answers known only to God.

Trivette was an avid fisherman and hunter, and he loved to train hunting dogs. He was widely popular, according to accounts of those who memorialized him, and enjoyed the companionship of friends and family.

“It's obvious that James loved his family and friends,” said Terry Evans of Spotsylvania, an aunt. “It's also obvious they loved him in return.” She recalled him as a “precious, energetic, outgoing young man.”

Some of the most poignant

see Trivette page A2

# Town's 'Mayberry Days' festival set for Saturday

By Jim Mason

BOWLING GREEN - Just like folks in Mount Airy, North Carolina, Andy Griffith's hometown, people in Bowling Green will stage a Mayberry Days festival of their own on Saturday.

“Mayberry” was the popular tag given a 1960s CBS-TV sitcom, The Andy Griffith Show, in which Griffith played affable sheriff Andy Taylor in the fictional small town of Mayberry, North Carolina. Re-runs of the show may still be watched on cable and satellite TV Land channels.

Mount Airy will hold its annual Mayberry Days in September. For Bowling Green, this will be the town's second annual Mayberry Days celebration.

Mayberry Days? Plural? You bet, says Lisa Pigg, one of the spring event organizers. “Every day is Mayberry Day in Bowling

Green.”

So how will Bowling Green cast itself as Mayberry again this time? For starters, farmers and vendors will be selling fruits and vegetables and eggs and baked goods on the front lawn of Union First Market Bank on Main Street.

Remember Aunt Bee's tasty pies in Mayberry? Come Saturday, Bowling Green will hold its own Aunt Bee's Pie Baking Contest as part of the festival.

Jennifer Stroud, a Caroline County Sheriff's Office employee, won the blue ribbon and \$100 prize last year when judges declared her Kentucky Derby Pie the best. She ran across the recipe in a magazine in a Richmond hospital while waiting as her grandfather underwent emergency surgery.

“As I have a tendency to do, I

see Festival page A7

## Coverage of attacks on website

The Caroline Progress is affiliated with The Associated Press, which has provided an interactive web page with news coverage of this week's bombings in Boston.

The page is accessible from The Caroline Progress website, which is at [www.carolineprogress.com](http://www.carolineprogress.com).

To access Associated Press coverage, highlight the ‘News’ pull-down menu, and click on ‘Boston Marathon Tragedy.’



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## Teen charged in assault

A 14-year-old boy was charged with domestic assault and destruction of property, the Caroline County Sheriff's Office reported. The teen was arrested and charged April 4.

Two assaults, seven cases of domestic violence, and 11 thefts were reported for the week ending April 6, according to the sheriff's office.

The following people were arrested and charged:

- David W. Rogers, 25, Bowling Green, drunk in public.
- Jody M. Byles, 32, Spotsylvania, possession of marijuana.
- Richard A. Toppings, 58, Richmond, driving under the influence.

According to Sheriff Tony Lippa, Caroline deputies made four drug arrests, one DUI arrests, seven domestic violence arrests, 83 other criminal arrests, and issued five animal control summons or arrests during the week. The deputies served 227 civil papers, issued 192 traffic summonses, handled 13 motor vehicle crashes, responded to 24 alarm calls, and dealt with four juvenile offenders.

The sheriff's office communications center dispatched 516 calls for service and handled 1640 telephone inquiries. The center also logged 33 calls assisting outside agencies and had 307 self-initiated calls.

## Trivette from page A1

memories were shared by Don Pitts of Milford, Trivette's grandfather. His wife, Aileen, taught Trivette and their other grandsons to swim in the pond near their home. Trivette later was baptized in the pond as a boy after making a profession of faith, his grandfather recalled.

Pitts was hospitalized in intensive care 18 months ago, and Trivette was the first one to visit him. He got onto the hospital bed and embraced his grandfather and told him he loved him, and he told him he needed to get well for hunting season, just a few months away.

"That was quite a motivation to me, I must say," said Pitts.

His grandson caught his first fish with him and harvested his first deer and rabbit with him. When they hunted together, Trivette was careful to watch out for his grandfather and help ensure his safety.

Trivette once drove a deer to his grandfather, and Pitts was able to bag the deer. His grandson

described how he knew where his grandfather was, picked a likely spot where there were deer, and hunted through the area to drive the game to him. As Pitts recounted it, he told his grandson, "You know James, I remember when I did that for you."

Just a few weeks ago Trivette took a chainsaw from his grandfather to finish clearing some brush for him, recalled Pitts. He described his grandson as a "kind-hearted, responsible young man."

"He loved people, and he loved to help people," he said.

"It's good to be here and celebrate a life that was lived so well," said James in his closing remarks.

"We feel a pit in our stomach," he added. "Our heart breaks," he said, when a young person dies.

Trivette was killed when the pickup truck he was driving went off the road and struck a tree in the Carmel Church area.

Trivette, who was wearing a safety belt,

## Budget from page A1

ditional revenue.

Supervisor Wayne Acors made a motion to adopt the budget and allocate the additional \$150,000 to the school division, but the measure ended in a 3-3 tie. Acors was joined by Supervisors Calvin Taylor and Floyd Thomas in voting in favor of the motion; Supervisors Jeff Black, Jeff Sili, and Reggie Underwood voted against it.

A subsequent motion to adopt the budget was approved by a 5-1 vote; Taylor cast the only vote against it.

Acors and Taylor supported increasing the real estate tax from 72 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 73 cents or 74 cents in order to help ensure a 3 percent pay raise for all school employees. However, Underwood, expressed concern that the board had already increased taxes in recent years.

The board held several budget work sessions, noted Sili, and gave no sign that it was going to increase the real estate tax rate by 1 or 2 cents. "To change this now with no indication that this was coming, I think that is wrong," he said.

Taylor reminded the board that a year ago it had cut funds for schools by \$350,000, "which I personally did not want to do."

"I feel we are in a little bit better position this year," added Taylor. "I am not a proponent of higher taxes, but I am a proponent of children, and I certainly believe they are worth a penny or even two pennies" extra on the real state tax rate.

"I think we're talking about six or seven dollars a month more to the taxpayer," said Taylor. "I don't know many taxpayers who couldn't afford five or six dollars a month."

Acors made a motion to set the real estate tax rate at 73 cents and got supportive votes from Taylor and Black, while Sili, Underwood and Thomas voted against it.

Then, Sili made a motion to set the tax rate at 72 cents and got support from Underwood and Thomas, while Black, Acors and Taylor voted against it.

After taking a break, Black made a motion to set the rate at 72 cents and got support from Sili, Underwood and Thomas; Acors and Taylor voted against it.

During the April 9 meeting the supervisors increased the personal property rate from \$3.50 to \$3.80 per \$100 in assessed value on vehicles, boats and campers. However, people should not experience high bills because Commissioner of

Revenue Sharon Carter changed the method of assessing motor vehicles from the 'clean retail' value of the national Auto Dealers Association to the 'clean trade-in' value, which is less. By increasing the personal property tax rate, the supervisors merely 'equalized' the amount of revenue the county will collect.

Before supervisors discussed the budget, a Caroline High School English teacher, Stephanie Covington, asked the board during the public comment phase not to cut school funding. "We cannot go without adequate funding for textbooks and technology," Covington said.

Covington, a teacher for nine years, told supervisors that teacher retention has been good in recent years. However, teachers have not had a significant pay increase in years, she added.

Some Caroline teachers have a "significant commute" to Caroline schools and it's hard to justify the commute when they could find better pay in school divisions north or south of Caroline, she said.

"Please support our School Board's entire request," Covington said. She was the only school employee who addressed the board.

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two for kindergarten.

Killough suggested they go back to County Administrator Charles Culley in the fall and ask for additional funding for the new positions. School officials won't know exactly how many kindergarten teachers are needed until the children are enrolled later this year, noted assistant superintendent Rebecca Broadus.

Early in the discussion, School Board member Shawn Kelley questioned whether all school employees should receive the 3 percent pay increase.

Chairman Nancy Carson suggested the school division provide a raise for employees "with one year or more (of employment) but not new hires."

Carson also commended Supervisors Wayne Acors and Calvin Taylor, saying they "fought valiantly for the schools." During the Board of Supervisors April 9 meeting, Acors and Taylor supported increasing the real estate tax rate in part to provide additional funds for schools and ensure the School Board could grant a 3 percent pay raise for employees.

Killough noted the School Board originally started out with a request of \$4.7 million in additional funds from the county. Killough and the School Board eventually trimmed it to \$2.2 million; the supervisors agreed to allocate an additional \$1.5 million for the school division in the next budget year.

"We cut out equipment, buses, desk replacement and supplies we have needed and technology," Killough told the School Board.



Mourners wore ribbons to honor James Trivette, who was killed in a motor vehicle accident.

was driving a Ford F-150 pickup truck west on Coolwater Drive. The accident occurred about one-quarter of a mile

north of the intersection with Moncure Drive shortly before 9 p.m., said State Police Sgt. Thomas Molnar.

Speed was considered a factor in the crash, and it is still under investigation, said Molnar.

## Bass tourney set for vets

Mount Olympus Farm in Ruther Glen will host the second annual bass fishing tournament for wounded veterans.

The April 27 event is sponsored by Caroline County American Legion Memorial Post 221 and Caroline County.

Fishing has been found to be a positive way for veterans to enjoy comradeship and also has been demonstrated to be a therapeutic activity for those with both wounds or injuries.

The American Legion is soliciting volunteers to serve as fishing companions to the participating veterans and also donations to help support the program. Donations are tax-deductible.

People interested in volunteering may contact post commander Ron Curlings at (804) 448-4763 or e-mail carolinewarriors@aol.com. Checks should be made payable to Virginia Wounded Warrior - Region One and mailed to: Wounded Warrior Program, P.O. Box 678, Lady-smith, Va., 22546.

## Tower from page A1

north and northeast, but not from the southeast - the area of the Jackson Shrine."

Hennessy requested that Verizon conduct another so-called balloon test that could be assessed from different locations on National Park Service lands at the shrine. (The test consists of raising a balloon to the height of the proposed tower to determine how visible it would be from various surrounding vantage points.) He also asked for the test to be set when National Park Service management staff could be available to witness it.

If the cell phone tower project had gone forward, Verizon eventually would have had to obtain a permit from the Federal Communications Commission, as noted in Hennessy's letter. As such, the permit ap-

plication would have been subject to review under a section of the National Historic Preservation Act in order to identify historic sites that may have been impacted and to avoid or mitigate impacts.

Verizon apparently arranged for a second balloon test - without notifying NPS officials again - but did not provide the results of the second test to federal officials, according to Russ Smith, superintendent of the park.

Ortel was asked why Verizon did not notify the NPS of its plans, arranged for the balloon test on NPS property without involving NPS personnel, did not provide copies of the two balloon tests to NPS officials, and did not include photos from the shrine property in its application.

In response, she said

that, had the process moved forward, the company would have provided information about the proposed cell phone tower to the State Historic Trust Officer and all other parties, such as the NPS.

"The results of the test showed that the site was not visible from the shrine," added Ortel.

The permit for the 199-foot tower was being sought for a site of slightly less than 1 acre near 8308 Guinea Station Road. It is a vacant wooded lot and pasture with the exception of some out buildings.

The property, owned by Christopher and Lynda Benden, who live nearby on Guinea Station Road, is zoned rural preservation.

The shrine is access via nearby Stonewall Jackson Road.

Jackson, wounded by

'friendly fire' from Confederate troops during the Battle of Chancellorsville in Spotsylvania County in 1863, was transported to a plantation in Guinea Station, and his left arm was amputated. He died of pneumonia eight days later.

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