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County indecisive on new fire truck funding

MICHELLE PAYNE
Times Virginian

The Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department's (AVFD) request for funding assistance in the purchase of a new fire truck appeared on the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors' agenda Monday.

Chairman Samuel Carter announced that the county's

public safety committee, consisting of Supervisor Watkins Abbitt and Supervisor William Hogan, needed to conduct some further research prior to making a decision on the matter.

Jonathan Garrett, fire chief of the AVFD and a member of the Appomattox town council, made his request on behalf of the AVFD before the board of

supervisors at the May 18 meeting.

The cost for the new vehicle is estimated to be between \$600,000 to \$650,000. The AVFD's request to the county is for approximately \$360,000.

At the May 18 meeting, Garrett shared that about 40 percent of the calls involving the fire department were town addresses. In light

of that, the town agreed to cover 40 percent of the cost for a new fire truck.

In a letter to the county dated May 21, Appomattox town manager Gary Shanaberger explained,

"The Appomattox Town Council has agreed upon a plan to help fund a new fire truck for the Appomat-

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Courtroom security fees to double

MICHELLE PAYNE
Times Virginian

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors meeting Monday featured four public hearings one of which pertained to the county's fiscal 2021 proposed budget. No one spoke for or against the budget during the public hearing. A board of supervisors meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, to approve the budget.

Other public hearings held that evening included a public hearing amending an ordinance to the county

code for increasing courthouse and courtroom security fees; a public hearing amending a county code taxation and fees ordinance; and a public hearing amending the fiscal year 2020 budget to retire water revenue bond, series 2011 debt.

Regarding the public hearing to increase courthouse and courtroom fees, Appomattox County Sheriff Donald Simpson made an appearance to express his support for the amendment. The amendment

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Spring Sports Spotlight

Champion wrestler: Boys soccer team had shot at states

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Pierce Bryant, a Class of 2020 graduate of Appomattox County High School (ACHS), was a multi-sport athlete known for his competitive nature and aggressive style.

Bryant's mountaintop accomplishment during his athletic career for the Raider sports program came in February 2019 when he earned the VHSL Class 2 State Wrestling Championship in the 152-pound division.

Aside from wrestling, Bryant also was a member of the Raider boys soccer program and played for three different head coaches — Travis O'Brien, Mark Bowman and Evans Thomas.

In 2017, Bryant was a member of the boys soccer



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Pierce Bryant (right) of the Appomattox Raiders boys soccer team tracks down an opponent during 2019 action.

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The Court Report Man denied bond in armed robbery case

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

On June 4, DeQuincy Darrell Kelso, 28, of Appomattox, was denied bond in Appomattox County Circuit Court.

Kelso is charged with multiple offenses for an alleged crime that took place on Dec. 15, 2019.

The charges include possession or transporting a firearm by a violent felon, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, armed burglary at night to commit a felony, unlawful shooting or throwing a missile object in an occupied building, robbery of a residence, destruction of property, pointing or brandishing a firearm, reckless handling of a firearm, robbery of a residence with a gun, and malicious wounding.

Kelso allegedly acted in concert with DeQuan Montez Kelso, 27, also of Appomattox, during the armed robbery. DeQuan is charged with possession of a gun within 10 years of conviction by a nonviolent felon, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, armed burglary at night to

commit a felony, robbery of a residence with a gun, and malicious wounding. He is also being held without bond.

Both men are scheduled to appear in Appomattox County Circuit Court for trial on Aug. 20.

Concord man given two years on firearm conviction

Michael Lee McFadden, 22, of Concord, will serve two years of incarceration on a conviction of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. McFadden pleaded guilty to the charge June 11 in Appomattox County Circuit Court. Two years is the mandatory minimum sentence in Virginia for the conviction.

McFadden also pleaded guilty to felony receiving or buying a stolen firearm, and misdemeanor possession of marijuana (second or subsequent offense).

A summary of the evidence in court stated that McFadden attempted to sell a firearm to a male in Appomattox County on Dec. 12, 2019. The buyer

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Womack Publishing director elected as VPA president-elect

JEREMY MOSER
Womack Publishing
News Service

Chad B. Harrison, director of operations for Womack Publishing, the company that owns the Times Virginian newspaper and 18 other newspapers in Virginia and North Carolina, has been elected as the president-

elect for the Virginia Press Association (VPA).

"It's an honor to be elected as president-elect, because there's never been a more important time for the Virginia Press Association," Harrison said while in his office in Chatham, Virginia. "This is an exciting but critical time in our industry, and it's going to take all the news-

papers in Virginia working together to best serve our primary mission."

Harrison elaborated on that "primary mission" as the reason he decided to get into the media business in the first place.

"Journalism has always ap-

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Harrison

Small Business Spotlight

Local family jeweler still improving 108 years later

MICHELLE PAYNE
Times Virginian

Customers in various seasons and walks of life will find themselves greeted by friendly smiles at Wilkes' Jewelers thanks to a multi-generational tradition of putting the customer first. Driving by, locals may notice some changes at the 108 year old business — namely in the form of renovations that increased the store's footprint.

Renovations began June 4, 2019. Fourth generation jeweler at Wilke's, Chris Simpson, said that Christmas of 2018 made it clear to them that expansion was important. The store was becoming more and more cramped in front of and behind the counter.

The family-owned store set to work with a plan.

They enlisted Philip Jarmerson to draft up the basic plan for the renovations. The plan was slightly ad-

justed by the jewelry store family. DHT Woodworks was instrumental in the design for the showcase area.

The renovations process greeted the family with numerous weather-related setbacks. On February 15, the store shutdown to accommodate indoor renovations. Prior to renovations, the inside featured wood paneling and a mossy green paint color making for a

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Michelle Payne/Times Virginian

From left, Wayne Simpson and his wife Peggie Simpson pose for a picture with their son Chris Simpson in the newly renovated jewelry store and repair building.



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