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Bedford Council honors Wandrei for his service to the town

By JOHN BARNHART
Staff Writer
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Bedford Town Council held a reception before its meeting, last week, to say goodbye to Bob Wandrei. Wandrei resigned last month citing failing hearing.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1961 and his law degree from the College of William and Mary in 1968. He also served in the United States Navy.

Wandrei was first elected to Bedford City Council in 1996 and won every election since. He was chosen mayor by his fellow councilmen in 2012.

"Personally Bob has been a mentor to myself," said Mayor Steve Rush. "I have known Bob since 1996 when I went to work at the Sheriff's Office and my relationship continued when I began my real estate career. He encouraged me to run for Council in 2008. He has provided leadership to many here today. Bob has served on every town committee and the planning commission."

Rush presented Wandrei with a Bedford Time watch. He noted that the town bought local when they picked out a gift for him.

In action, Council voted a net bonus of \$400 for each full time employee and a net \$200 bonus for all part time employees. Town manager Bart Warner was exempted from the bonus at his request. This was a 6-0 vote.

In another 6-0 vote, Council voted to support the board of supervisors' Second Amendment sanctuary resolution. Mayor Rush noted that Council did not need to make its own separate resolution because it is part of the county.

Town Council also voted 6-0 to reject a proposal to establish a new short-term rental zoning.

"I think this ordinance is so complicated I don't know how anyone could understand it," Mayor Rush commented. "And I don't see how we could even enforce it."



Bob Wandrei shows off the watch he received in honor of his service on Bedford Town Council.



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SOTO-BONILLA GUILTY OF CAPITAL MURDER

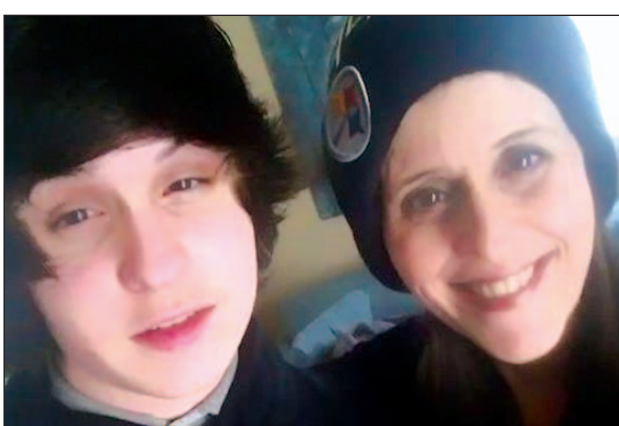


Photo courtesy of Tim Saunders/WDBJ7
Raymond Wood and his mom, Marjorie Stagno, in one of their last photos together.

'No mother should have to see pictures of her child brutally murdered like that'

By TOM WILMOTH
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Raymond Wood was full of life; he was good at making other people feel happy.

He liked to play video games, had a lot of shoes and hoped to become a Marine.

But on March 27, 2017, Raymond Wood was brutally murdered on a rural road in Bedford County. That changed everything for Wood's mother, Marjorie Stagno.

"No mother should have to see pictures

of her child brutally murdered like that," Stagno told a Bedford County jury last Thursday. "That night changed my life."

A week prior to that statement, Stagno had taken the stand as the capital murder trial of 22-year-old Kevin Josue Soto Bonilla began. She described her son to the jury and the last words they spoke to each other: "I love you Mom," he said to her.

"I love you, too," she responded.

"Those were the last words I heard from

See **GUILTY 3A**

PC gives airport district thumbs down Issue will go to supervisors

By JOHN BARNHART
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In a lengthy meeting that lasted until nearly 10 p.m., the Bedford County Planning Commission voted to not recommend an airport district or a comprehensive plan amendment that would have permitted such districts.

The members also voted not to recommend rezoning the New London airport from agricultural preserve to airport district.

The meeting and public hearings were held at Jefferson Forest High School's auditorium to accommodate a crowd that was expected to exceed the capacity of the planning commission's normal meeting chamber on the third floor of the County Administration building. A large crowd did turn out, although it was substantially smaller than the crowd that showed up for a public hearing on the airport zone in

See **AIRPORT 2A**

Shop with a Cop



(Above) Bedford Police Officer Urshulla Meade helps Tiffany Yates, 8, with her shopping on Saturday. (Below) Virginia State Trooper Lisa Brooks shows Eliana Reilly, 4, some of the toy options she could choose.

Local law enforcement help area youth enjoy Christmas

By TOM WILMOTH
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Shop with a Cop continues to grow.

The program designed to match area law enforcement officers with area youth doubled this year, thanks to donations from throughout the community.

The event, in which law enforcement officers shop with the youth for Christmas presents, was held Saturday at the Bedford Walmart. Walmart was one of the organizations



See **SHOP 3A**

State superintendent visits Bedford Elem. Part of tour of all of Virginia's districts

By JOHN BARNHART
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State Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Lane toured Bedford Elementary School last week.

The stop was part of an effort Dr. Lane is making to visit every school division in Virginia. Dr. Lane said he wants to make sure state school policies are founded on

reality. In order to do this he needs to see what is happening in schools.

"This is a really impressive school," Dr. Lane said at the end of his tour. "I really like the literary focus."

Dr. Lane visited several classes at the school, including reading and math classes. Bedford Elementary is fully accredited and he said what he saw at the school shows up

See **VISIT 2A**



Photo by John Barnhart
Virginia Superintendent of Schools James Lane looks at a child's work in one of the classrooms he visited