

MEMORY LANE: Amherst High seniors enjoy 'nostalgic' walkthrough. **A2**

HS SPORTS: Brookville softball slugs its way to ninth consecutive win. **B1**

The News & Advance

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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LYNCHBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



MATTHEW PERSCHALL PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Chief of Police Kenneth Edwards Jr. speaks during the Regional Police Memorial Service at the Lynchburg Police Department on Monday.

'They will never be forgotten'

LPD hosts a memorial service in Honor Garden to remember fallen police officers

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

The Lynchburg Police Department held a memorial service in the Honor Garden in front of police headquarters on Monday to remember officers who have died in the line of duty.

With rain earlier in the day, the evening weather turned bright and peaceful as the Regional Police Memorial Service was held to remember fallen police officers, the first time the Regional Police Memorial Service has been held at the LPD's new headquarters on Odd Fellows Road. About 100 people attended the service.

Officers from across Central Virginia joined elected officials for the service as part of National Police Week. Sen. Mark Peake, R-Lynchburg; Del. Wendell Walker, R-Lynchburg; Mayor Larry Taylor; Vice Mayor Curt Diemer; Ward II Councilman Sterling Wilder; City Manager Wynter Benda; Acting Fire Chief Jonathan Wright; and Sheriff Don Sloan were among the local officials who attended the service.

Taylor read a proclamation in honor of National Police Week at the service. The week was created in October 1961 when Congress authorized the



Officers bow their heads during the Regional Police Memorial Service at the Lynchburg Police Department on Monday.

president to designate May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. President John F. Kennedy then signed the bill in October 1962.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.,

honors officers who have died in the line of duty, dating back to 1786 and features more than 24,000 names on its walls.

Please see **LPD**, Page A3

US ECONOMY

Iran war pushing jump in inflation

Consumer prices accelerate at fast pace in April for 2nd straight month, report finds

LUCIA MUTIKANI
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer inflation increased further in April, with prices rising at the fastest annual rate in three years, heightening political risks for President Donald Trump and his Republican party ahead of November's midterm elections.

The back-to-back rises in the Consumer Price Index reported by the Labor Department on Tuesday reflected strong gains in the costs of energy products amid the U.S. - Israeli war with Iran. Food prices surged last month, and inflation also spilled over to the services sector, with higher rental costs and airfares.

Trump won reelection in 2024 in large part because of his promise to reduce inflation, but Americans have soured on his handling of the economy and many blame him for the pain at the pump.

Trump said he's not thinking about Americans' financial concerns about rising gas prices and is only worried about preventing Iran from building a nuclear weapon as he negotiates a deal with Iran.

"Not even a little bit," Trump told reporters Tuesday when asked to what extent he's motivated by Americans' financial situation to reach a deal that ends the war.

"I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing. We cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That's all," the president added.

Rising inflation outpaced wage gains for the first time in three years and underscored the financial strain on households.

With no end in sight to the conflict, economists warned prices would continue to push higher and broaden in the months ahead. Trump on Monday proposed reducing the 18.4-cent federal gasoline tax to lower prices at the pump.

"Prices are going up everywhere you look and families everywhere are struggling to keep up," said Janelle Jones, a visiting senior fellow at the Century Foundation.

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LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

LCS leaders show data on early childhood chronic absenteeism

Board sees community involvement as answer to high rates in division

MADI KIRKMAN
The News & Advance

After hearing about the high rates of chronic absenteeism in Lynchburg City Schools, particularly among economically disadvantaged students, board members discussed the need for community involvement to address the issue.

At last week's school board



Somerville-Midgette

this topic, LCS Superintendent Kristy Somerville-Midgette said. The next two will focus on the same data for students in grades 3-5, then 6-12. Somerville-Midgette said the

work session, LCS leaders shared enrollment, attendance and early readiness data for pre-K-2 students.

This is the first of three planned work sessions on this topic, LCS Superintendent Kristy Somerville-Midgette said. The next two will focus on the same data for students in grades 3-5, then 6-12. Somerville-Midgette said the

division is sharing this data in response to concerns from the community and board members about the achievement gap, which she said is sometimes seen as "only being a Black-white gap."

"It's not just race," she said. "It could be economics, it could be gender, it could be a disabling condition," she said. "It could be any one of those things. So, we want to make sure that we look at it clearly through each band."

Please see **ABSENTEEISM**, Page A5

BEDFORD

\$10 monthly surcharge to recover power costs OK'd

Council looks to revisit the issue in September to review effectiveness

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The News & Advance

After reviewing two options for a power cost adjustment set to take effect May 1, Bedford Town Council voted Tuesday on an option that will apply a \$10 surcharge for all electric customer bills for 24 months.

Town Manager Bart Warner said the power cost

adjustment (PCA) was set to result in a "pretty significant increase," prompting him to recently ask the council to defer the matter so town staff could work on alternatives to bring the costs down some what.

John Wagner, director of the town electric department, said last month the PCA is "significant" and at 2.4 cents per 1,000 kilowatt hours of usage would generate \$24.32 per month for the average customer's bill.

Please see **SURCHARGE**, Page A3

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