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BEDFORD COUNTY



HEATHER ROUSSEAU PHOTOS, THE ROANOKE TIMES

The Montvale tank farm located off of U.S. 460 is pictured on Thursday.

The future of fuel tanks in Montvale

Colonial Pipeline operated them from 1964 until 2018

JUSTIN FAULCONER
The (Lynchburg) News & Advance

MONTVALE — For more than half a century, large fuel tanks have been part of the scenery in western Bedford County, an economic driver roughly at the halfway point between the cities of Lynchburg and Roanoke.

“The fuel tanks out there have been out there for a long time,” Bedford County Administrator Robert Hiss said. “They’ve had a big presence in Montvale for a long time.”

The future of Montvale and how the tanks factor into it seven years after the cessation of op-



The 140-acre tank farm’s status is closed with 35 tanks and 47.5 million gallons of capacity.

eration was the topic of discussion Hiss brought forward to the Bedford County Board of Super-

visors and the county’s economic development authority board for discussion during a work session

on Oct. 14.

Colonial Pipeline operated the fuel tanks from 1964 until operations ceased in 2018, according to Hiss’s presentation.

“The cost to repair the pipeline wasn’t worth the squeeze, no pun intended, but that was kind of the decision sort of made by Colonial Pipeline at that time,” Hiss said. “Unfortunately, it did lose some jobs that were directly related to the pipeline. In Montvale, there were also some smaller businesses and stores that suffered from the lack of truck drivers coming in and out every day. That was a major economic impact.”

More than 30 jobs were lost, and Motiva, one of the companies involved in the operation, removed its tanks and sold its

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WAR IN GAZA

Ceasefire tested as fighting renews

Health officials said at least 36 Palestinians were killed

JOSEF FEDERMAN AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Gaza’s fragile ceasefire faced its first major test Sunday as Israeli forces launched a wave of deadly strikes, saying Hamas militants had killed two soldiers, and an Israeli security official said the transfer of aid into the territory was halted.

The military later said it resumed enforcing the ceasefire, and the official confirmed that aid deliveries would resume Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he’s not authorized to discuss the issue with the media.

A little over a week has passed since the start of the U.S.-proposed ceasefire aimed at ending two years of war. There was no immediate U.S. comment.

Health officials said at least 36 Palestinians were killed across Gaza, including children. Israel’s military said it struck dozens of Hamas targets after its troops came under fire.

A senior Egyptian official involved in the ceasefire negotiations said “round-the-clock” contacts were underway to de-escalate the situation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak to reporters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu directed the military to take “strong action” against any ceasefire violations

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ECONOMY

Poll: Americans concerned about inflation, jobs

Many households fear high prices for groceries, housing, health care

JOSH BOAK AND LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are growing increasingly concerned about their ability to find a good job under President Donald Trump, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll finds, in what is a potential warning sign for Republicans as a promised economic boom has given way to hiring freezes and elevated inflation.

High prices for groceries, housing and health care persist as a fear for many households, while rising electricity bills and the cost of gas at the pump are also sources of anxiety, according to the survey.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY

Davis challenges Mitchell

Race is for Snow Creek seat on board of supervisors

JASON DUNOVANT
The Roanoke Times

SNOW CREEK — Local small business owner Shawn Davis is vying for the Snow Creek District seat on the Franklin County Board of Supervisors currently held by Nick Mitchell, who won the seat during a special election.

Mitchell won in a tight race against five other candidates in 2022. The special election was

held following the death of former district representative Leland Mitchell, who had just been reelected to the seat in 2021.

Mitchell is facing only Davis in this year’s election. Davis said he is running to speak for the residents of Franklin County who are not currently being heard.

“The biggest issue is that people just feel they are forgotten,” Davis said.

According to Davis, Snow



Davis



Mitchell

Creek needs a louder mouthpiece, which is what he plans to be for the community. He also wants to be more available for the residents of the community, accusing Mitchell of not being seen or heard.

Davis was born in Franklin County, living in the Scruggs community briefly before moving with his family to Roanoke County. He returned to the area in 2015 after graduating from

Virginia Tech and now owns a home with his family in the Snow Creek District.

Davis wants to push harder for improved access to broadband internet and improved cell phone coverage in the district. Much of the district does not have broadband access.

He said many in Franklin County have been pushing for better internet access. Davis admits work is being done, but he said Mitchell has not updated residents in the district about why it is taking so long in Snow

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Data centers more of election issue

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