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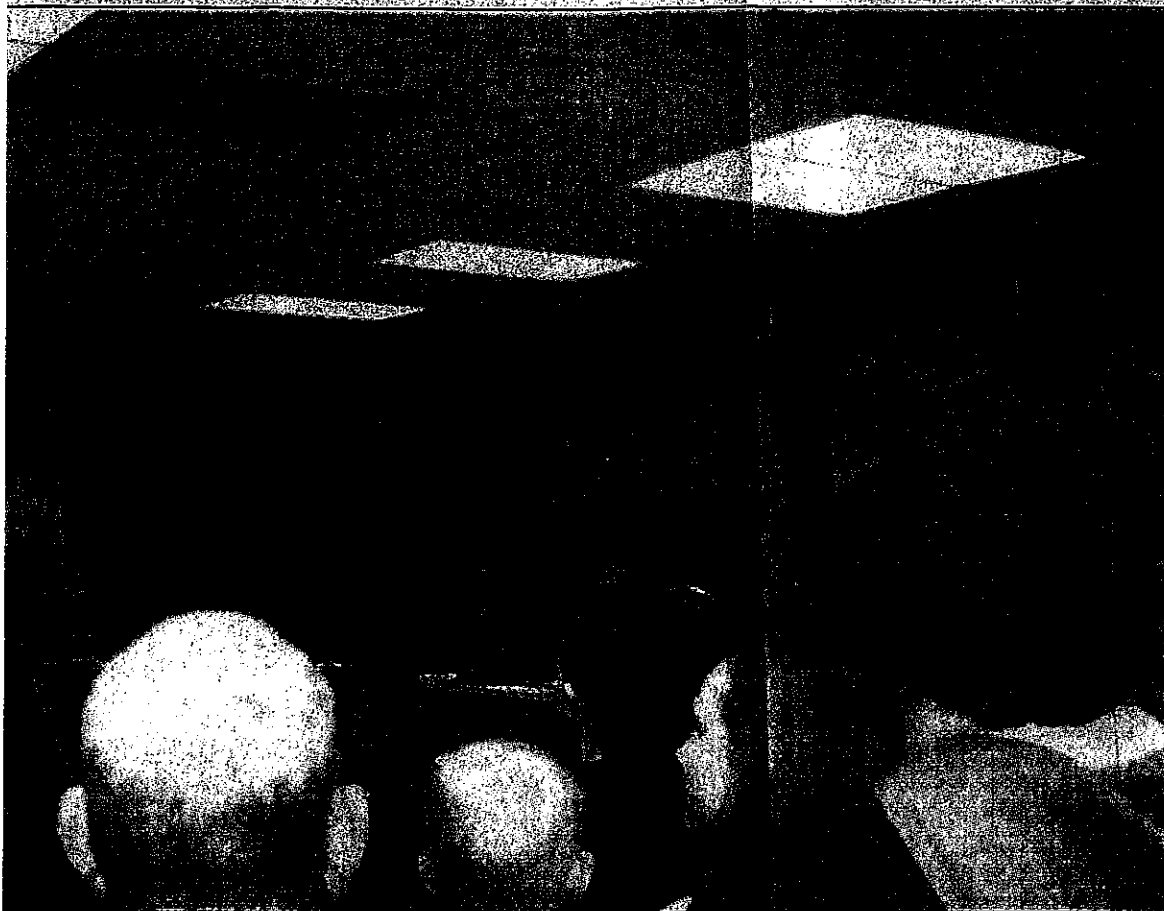
VIRGINIAN LEADER

The truth shall set you free

Number 3

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Pearisburg, Virginia



Giles supervisory primitive cabin

The Giles County Board of Supervisors held a joint public hearing with the Giles County Planning Commission during the January 20, 2011 meeting held in Pearisburg.

The purpose of the public hearing was to consider an application submitted by Lee Blaker requesting a special exception to allow a private seasonal camp or retreat on a tract near Narrows.

Giles County Planning and Zoning Official Craig Whittaker stated that Blaker's application was to allow him to have and utilize a primitive cabin located at the approximate center of a 126 acre tract in the RRA1 zoning district.

Whittaker also stated that the structure is a 24 feet by 28 feet empty building that had already been constructed. He also pointed out that Blaker would be required to meet all requirements of the Giles County Building Code as well as Virginia Department of Health (VDH) standards. He said that the county building department representatives had recently visited the structure accompanied by Blaker.

In response to a question from board member Barbara Hobbs, Whittaker said he did not know the exact date but believed that the structure had been constructed this past summer or fall.

There were no public comments and Whittaker said he had

Unanimous vote receives uproarious applause

At the monthly meeting of the Giles County School Board, the hot topic was the Ten Commandments. Last month, the Ten Commandments, which had been on display in all five Giles County schools since 1999, were removed. In order to avoid legal action, the school board created quite a passionate response within the Giles community. In front of the school board, a motion to re-hang the Commandments was presented. In response to this, School Board member Drema Weiss spoke in support of the motion. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The public response was uproarious.

School Board makes a decision

Drema Weiss described how the United States was established as "one nation under God." She continued by describing the Ten Commandments as an "historical document that is 2,500 years old - about as historical as you can get!"

She stated that "One person can't take them down, I mean them up." She then spoke

regarding the school board's decision. He closed by adding that the school board had the "support of Giles County and the support of the citizens."

Pastor Shaun Wilburn opened his comments by stating, "I feel responsible for putting you through this," regarding this situation confronting the school board. He went on to describe how the placing of

the Commandments in schools is a violation of the First Amendment by describing how a number of courses related to religion are taught in schools such as The History of Religion, Religious Art and Religious Music and that these are okay as long as they are "balanced."

Wilburn cited a court case, *ACLU, et al. v. Grayson County, Kentucky*. He suggested that the findings of this case were that it

Exhibit 10

Photo: Justin

Giles School Board makes a decision

The Thursday, January 20, 2011, meeting of the Giles County School Board opened to a standing-room-only crowd in excess of 200 persons. School Board Chairman J.B. Buckland commented that they had been in executive session since 2:30 and that if they had known there would be so many attending, they would have moved the meeting to one of the schools.

Under public comments, Elwood Lambert of Narrows spoke first stating how he understood that the school board had received a complaint about the Ten Commandments being posted in the schools and had removed them. Lambert questioned "why," emphasizing that "y'all have a responsibility and a moral obligation, we live under God." The attendees responded with a loud "Amen." Lambert closed by imploring the school board, "do not deprive our children," and that they have a "God given right."

Barbara Scheid of Pearisburg spoke next, thanking the school board for their "hard service for us." She then read a prepared statement "on behalf of the students." The statement stated, "We can not be here as we have practices and auditions to participate in, but please read our statement. Taking down the Ten Commandments is an historical document that is also held as a holy document to many religions. But, first it is an historical document. By hanging the Ten Commandments in our schools, we are showing the history of our nation, which was founded, on "One Nation, under God." No one is forced to read the Ten Commandments. Please re-consider your decision that took the Ten Commandments down. Sincerely, GHS Students."

The next speaker was Becky Weiss who stated that she was "speaking on behalf of the Ten Commandments." She expressed her pride in what Giles County was but that she was concerned.

Weiss described how the United States was established as "one nation under God." She continued by describing the Ten Commandments as an "historical document that is 2,500 years old-about as historical as you can get!" Weiss closed by stating that "One person had them taken down, I think we need to keep them up."

Reverend George Creger spoke next closing with a request to the board; "Please put the Ten Commandments back up." He added that the laws pertaining to the separation of church and state were intended to "keep the state out of the church, not the church out of the state."

Next up was Eric Gentry, who stated he would speak as both Eric Gentry the father and Eric Gentry the Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairman. Gentry explained that he was a "lifelong resident of Giles and when he was in school they "still had paddling," and how they "turned out alright." He continued by explaining that he had always described Giles as "Gods Country."

Speaking as Eric Gentry the BOS Chairman, "the board is behind you. We will fight the American Civil Liberties Union." We won't let an "anonymous coward tell us how to run" our business.

Pembroke police investigate assault

Pembroke Police are investigating an assault of a Pembroke man that occurred in his home at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

The victim, whose name is being withheld at the request of his family, was taken to Carilion Giles Community Hospital with multiple wounds to his apparently inflicted by a baseball bat.

Pembroke Chief of Police Doug Sadler stated that this is an ongoing investigation and further details will not be made public at this time.

He closed by adding that the school board had the "support of Giles County and the support of the citizens."

Pastor Shaun Wilburn opened his comments by stating, "I feel responsible for putting you through this," regarding this situation confronting the school board. He went on to describe how the placing of the Ten Commandments in the schools came about in response to the rash of shootings in schools during the 1990's. He described the loss of life and shooter profiles in the shootings in Alaska, Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Virginia and in Colorado. He explained how he had gone to Giles County School Superintendent Dr. McCracken and asked whether they might post the Ten Commandments, containing such relevant guidelines as the Sixth Commandment-Thou Shalt Not Kill. He suggested that under the Virginia Department of Education Guidelines this would be permissible when placed with other historical documents. They were posted in late 1999. Wilburn added that their posting was "not offensive as far as he knows." Wilburn continued

by describing how a number of courses related to religion are taught in schools such as The History of Religion, Religious Art and Religious Music and that these are okay as long as they are "balanced."

Wilburn cited a court case, *ACLU, et al. v. Grayson County, Kentucky*. He suggested that the findings of this case were that it was "okay to display the Ten Commandments." Wilburn suggested that more documents be displayed along with the Ten Commandments such as the US Constitution, the pre-ambles, the Virginia Motto, etc. He added that the "Ten Commandments do not stand there and preach." Wilburn promised to provide the school board with some supporting legal documentation.

Following is the official conclusion from the legal record of the above referenced case.

II. CONCLUSION

The record clearly demonstrates that the County erected the Display with a predominantly religious purpose and that the Display has the purpose or effect of endorsing religion. Accordingly, I would AFFIRM the district court's grant of summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs. However, because the majority has seen fit to imagine that a clear intent to post a religious document only for its religious value *does not evidence a predominantly religious purpose, I must dissent.*

Wilburn closed by stating that "We stand with you. I've lived in Giles County for 60 years and God has never done us a disservice in Giles County."

Pastor Dan Kelly described how the Ten Commandments should be hung as an historical document and that "our church will pay for that. Please hang them. I want a judge to tell you to take them down. You have our support. Tell that attorney, you'll see him in court."

Judy Lawson spoke next describing how she was a "blessed lady to live in Giles County." She moved here from Montgomery County, Maryland that she described as "the most liberal county in America." "Yes the did come down but I saw them on many (students') lockers to

Hilltop Grocery again victim of break-in

Sadler said that the suspect was also charged with felony auto theft and several other charges by the Giles County Sheriff's Office.

According to Sadler, Pem-