

Watauga Remembers

Written by Steve Frank

Watauga stopped briefly today to remember—it was a year ago this morning Watauga Deputy William Ronald Mast Jr. was shot and killed, as was his assailant, 33-year old Mitchell Trivette. The tragedy seemed to multiply as the day went on—that Mast left behind a wife, pregnant with a son that would never know his father. That the troubled man who fired the shotgun early that morning that killed deputy Mast was shot and killed by another deputy who has to live with the horror of that early morning moment. Today will be a day of remembrance of the fallen deputy, with thoughts for the wife he left behind, the son he never saw. Watauga Commissioners, in a proclamation adopted last week, are asking for flags to be flown at half staff, and for a moment of remembrance, which came at 10 this morning. There was silence on law enforcement and our radio stations, and there were some sounds—several members of the Watauga Community Band chimed hand bells on King Street downtown at 10. The county commission is seeking to have the bridge on US 421 over the South Fork of the New River named for Mast, working with the State and Town of Boone on that project.