

# THE EVELYN BOSWELL CASE

## Visual key

-  Arrested
-  Marriage/partnership
-  Divorce/separation
-  Children/parents
-  Importance to case

GRAPHIC BY CHELSEA GILLENWATER | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BY SARAH WADE | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Last month, an Amber Alert went out for a missing Sullivan County toddler, Evelyn Mae Boswell. The flurry of investigative reports and media coverage since then has revealed a complicated web of family members and nonrelatives with connections to the story. Struggling to keep up with the roles? Here's our primer.

## TIPS: CALL 1-800-TBI FIND



BHC FILE PHOTO

### DETECTIVE TRACY HARAZ

LEAD INVESTIGATOR  
Sullivan County Sheriff's Office

#### Official agencies working the case

- » Sullivan County Sheriff's Office
- » Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- » Federal Bureau of Investigation
- » U.S. Marshals Service
- » Washington County (Va.) Sheriff's Office
- » Wilkes County (N.C.) Sheriff's Office

# EVELYN MAE BOSWELL

## THE MISSING TODDLER

Age: 15 months old | Location: Unknown

Reportedly last seen Dec. 26. Megan "Maggie" Boswell (mother) alleged that Angela Boswell (grandmother) took Evelyn to Mendota, Virginia, which became the basis for the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office charging Megan Boswell with making a false report.



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### HUNTER WOOD

MEGAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND

Hunter Wood said he briefly dated Megan Boswell but had never met Evelyn. David Jones, Evelyn's great-grandfather, reported seeing Hunter Wood and Megan Boswell give Angela Boswell the car that was reported stolen. Jones said that Hunter Wood told Angela Boswell they would transfer the car title to her in several days. It is unclear if Hunter Wood is related to Melissa Wood, the car's owner.



CONTRIBUTED

### MEGAN 'MAGGIE' BOSWELL

Has also gone by "Maggie Wood"

#### EVELYN'S MOTHER

Age: 18 | Location: Jailed in Sullivan County Sheriff's Office since Feb. 26

Megan Boswell had full custody of Evelyn before the toddler's disappearance. She confirmed that Evelyn was missing Feb. 18 when the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office contacted her. Megan has given conflicting accounts of Evelyn's disappearance and whereabouts. Megan was also allegedly in the process of purchasing the stolen car that Angela Boswell and William McCloud were found driving in Wilkes County, North Carolina. (The car's owner said no payment was agreed upon or made before the car went missing.)



Arrested Feb. 25 in Sullivan County, Tennessee, on charges of providing a false report



METROCREATIVE

### ETHAN PERRY

EVELYN'S FATHER

Age: 20  
Occupation: U.S. Army soldier, active duty  
Location: Fort Polk Military Base near Leesville, Louisiana

Megan Boswell told officials that Evelyn was with Ethan Perry, and she planned to meet him in Colonial Heights to exchange custody. Law enforcement determined that Perry did not have possession. Perry said he's working with authorities on the case and can't reveal more.



BRIANNA PACIORKA/KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL

### WILLIAM MCCLOUD

ANGELA'S BOYFRIEND

Age: 33  
Location: Jailed in Sullivan County Sheriff's Office since Feb. 26

William McCloud was arrested Feb. 21 in Wilkes County with his girlfriend Angela Boswell on the charge of possessing a stolen BMW related to the Amber Alert for Evelyn. He was also charged with violating parole in Sullivan County.



BRIANNA PACIORKA/KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL

### ANGELA BOSWELL

MEGAN'S MOTHER / EVELYN'S GRANDMOTHER

Age: 42  
Location: Sullivan County

Angela Boswell was arrested Feb. 21 in Wilkes County with her boyfriend William McCloud on the charge of possessing a stolen BMW related to the Amber Alert for Evelyn. She was also charged with violating parole in Sullivan County. She was transferred to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office on Feb. 24 and released Feb. 28.



Arrested Feb. 21 in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on charge of possessing stolen BMW



CONTRIBUTED

### TOMMY BOSWELL SR.

ANGELA'S EX-HUSBAND / EVELYN'S GRANDFATHER

Age: 51  
Location: Kingsport, Tennessee

Tommy Boswell was the first family member to report Evelyn missing. He called the Department of Children's Services and told them he hadn't seen Evelyn since December. He has also offered \$10,000 for Evelyn's safe return.



METROCREATIVE

### MARY MCCLOUD

WILLIAM'S GRANDMOTHER

Location: Wilkes County, North Carolina

Mary told the Bristol Herald Courier on Feb. 26 that law enforcement officials were searching a pond next to her house in Wilkes County based on a tip they'd recently received.



METROCREATIVE

### DAVID JONES

ANGELA'S FATHER / EVELYN'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Age: 68 | Location: Kingsport, Tennessee

David Jones told the Bristol Herald Courier that he believes Megan Boswell (his granddaughter) knows more about Evelyn's disappearance than she's revealing. He also said he witnessed Hunter Wood and Megan Boswell give Angela Boswell the car that was reported stolen.

# St. Patrick's Day

## O' THE NUMBERS

**32 MILLION**

The number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2018; this amounts to

**9.9%**  
of all U.S. residents



**123,950**

The number of foreign-born U.S. residents who reported **Ireland** as their birthplace in 2018

**470,277**

The number of people living in **Cook County, Illinois**, the county with the largest population of people who claimed Irish ancestry in 2018



**20,590**

The estimated number of U.S. residents who spoke Irish Gaelic in 2013



Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration of all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. This parade became an annual event, with President Truman attending in 1948.

The U.S. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1991, and the president issues a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

**57%**

The percentage of U.S. adults 18 and older who plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in 2020

**\$42.96**

The average expected spending per person of U.S. adults 18 and older who plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in 2020

**\$6.16 BILLION**

The total expected spending by U.S. residents who plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in 2020

**75%**

The percentage of U.S. adult **men** 18 and older who plan to wear green for St. Patrick's Day in 2020

**83%**

The percentage of U.S. adult **women** 18 and older who plan to wear green for St. Patrick's Day in 2020

**Irish American Heritage Month**

INFOGRAPHIC BY DAVID THOMETZ/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER | SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION | IMAGES: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS; PIXABAY

# Occupants escape house fire in Bristol, Va.

**Bristol, Virginia firefighters fight an early Monday morning fire.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/MIKE ARMSTRONG

**BRISTOL HERALD COURIER**

**BRISTOL, Va.** — Residents escaped a house fire early Monday morning near the intersection of Old Airport Road and King Mill Pike in Bristol, Virginia, according to city Fire Chief Mike Armstrong.

Emergency officials received a call about the fire shortly after 5 a.m., and crews arrived to find fire visible on all sides of the house,

Armstrong said. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, which caused major damage to the structure's roof, Armstrong said.

Armstrong said officials think the fire was accidental and possibly caused by an electrical issue. He said there were no reported injuries.

The American Red Cross is assisting the home's residents, Armstrong said.

## Haven of Rest

# Planning Commission recommends approval of transitional housing

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**BRISTOL, Va.** — The Bristol Virginia Planning Commission voted Monday to recommend that City Council approve a Haven of Rest request to establish a transitional housing facility on Moore Street.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to support a special-exception request for a transitional housing facility for men released on probation who are dealing with drug addiction issues. It is to be inside a two-story house at 617 Moore St.

The Haven of Rest, which operates a rescue mission, homeless shelter and a transitional facility in Bristol, Tennessee, sought the exception to establish a similar facility on the Virginia side.

The property is owned by the Bristol Virginia Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Action is needed because the proposed use doesn't fall within zoning guidelines for the neighborhood zoned R-3, or moderate density residential.

The request must now be approved by City Council.

"We just want to be a good neighbor to the community with what we're trying to do, and we feel this is our best opportunity," Haven of Rest Director Brian Plank said after the meeting. "We want to see [that] people who are hurting from drugs and other influences are given a chance to move forward, have a normal life and become taxpayers. We're thankful to be able to serve both Bristols, not just Bristol, Tennessee."

Virginia residents may participate in the agency's programming in Tennessee but can only stay there 45 days, Plank said.

No violent offenders, sex offenders or juveniles are admitted to the program. Participants will be required to have jobs, and 60% of their income will be held in savings for future rental and utility deposits, transportation and other expenses after leaving the program.

The new facility would provide meals, transportation, coaching, medical and mental health care and spiritual counseling and other services for its residents. Residents would have constant supervision, must abide by curfews and must pass regular drug screenings.

Commissioners approved the recommendation with three conditions: any future change in a program provider must undergo a Planning Commission review; the total number of occupants is limited to nine, including one staff member; and participants cannot remain in the facility more than 24 months.

Commission member Breanne Forbes Hubbard said the program can assist people from Bristol and across Southwest Virginia.

If approved by council, the haven will be required to install a fire suppression system and make some other interior modifications, which are expected to take about 90 days, Plank said.

The plan is to acquire the building June 1.

"We're just excited this will serve our mission and remove this asset from our inventory that we haven't been able to utilize in a way that's really helpful to our community," said Lisa Porter, executive director of the Housing Authority.

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## CURTAIN DOWN



# Barter Theatre postpones 3 productions

**BRISTOL HERALD COURIER**

**ABINGDON, Va.** — The Barter Theatre in Abingdon will postpone the openings of three upcoming productions amid concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Productions of "Macbeth," "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Peter Pan" — originally scheduled to open on March 26, April 2 and April 7, respectively — will be delayed, according to a news release.

"Barter is in the process of filming these productions for possible streaming to patrons and is working to finalize the



PHOTOS BY ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**ABOVE AND INSET: A sign on the door of the Barter Theatre in Abingdon announces that all usher training sessions have been postponed amid concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. The opening of three productions has been postponed as well.**

technical and contractual requirements necessary to proceed with the distribution," the release states. "Barter continues to offer its flexible and free exchange policy for all of its shows and hopes that patrons will show their support for the company by continuing to purchase tickets to productions that are scheduled for later this year."

The decision came after Gov. Ralph Northam issued a statewide ban in Virginia on non-essential public events, meetings and gatherings of more than 100 people. The ban ap-

plies to events that confine more than 100 people in a single room or space and events outside the normal course of daily life. It does not apply to normal workplace operations, such as those in grocery stores, airports and restaurants.

The theater said its decision was in response to the ban and was made in an effort "to ensure the safety of Barter's staff, volunteers, and patrons."

More information about the rescheduling of postponed shows will be available on the theater's website.

## BTPD adopts COVID-19 precautions

**BRISTOL, Tenn.** — The Bristol Tennessee Police Department is adopting precautions to ensure officer safety in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, a BTPD press release states. Officers will not enter private

homes unless it is necessary and will strive to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. Additionally, to help determine how calls will be handled, dispatchers will start asking questions related to sickness and COVID-19 exposure risk. Emergency calls will be handled as emergencies, but non-emergency calls may have a delayed

response, and the responding officers may wear a medical gown, gloves, mask and eye protection, the news release states.

From staff reports

## ONLINE

» See what has closed due to the pandemic at **HeraldCourier.com**.

# Valentine's Day

## BY THE NUMBERS

**O**n Feb. 14, Americans celebrate love and friendship by exchanging cards, flowers and candy. Although the origins of Valentine's Day are murky, ancient Romans celebrated the Feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the 15th of February. Like so many holidays, a Christian gloss was added to the pagan fete when the holiday moved to the 14th of February – the saint day associated with several early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

The romance we associate with Valentine's Day may spring from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on Feb. 14. During the Middle Ages, lovers recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. The Nuremberg Chronicle (published in 1493) is believed to contain the first in-print mention of St. Valentine, though his role as patron saint of lovers was not mentioned.



**\$27.4 billion**  
Total spending forecast on gifts for partners, friends, pets and more on Valentine's Day in 2020

**55%**  
Percentage of Americans planning to celebrate Valentine's Day in 2020

**\$196.31**  
Average amount planned per person to spend on Valentine's Day in 2020

**27%**  
Percentage of Americans planning to buy Valentine's gifts for their pets in 2020

**\$1.7 billion**  
Total spending forecast on gifts for pets on Valentine's Day in 2020

**Shoppers plan to spend:**  
 » **\$5.8 billion** on jewelry (given by **21%**)  
 » **\$4.3 billion** on an evening out (**34%**)  
 » **\$2.9 billion** on clothing (**20%**)  
 » **\$2.4 billion** on candy (**52%**)  
 » **\$2.3 billion** on flowers (**37%**)  
 » **\$2 billion** on gift cards (**19%**)  
 » **\$1.3 billion** on greeting cards (**43%**)  
 » Gifts of experience, such as tickets to an event or a trip to a spa, are wanted by **41%** and planned by **28%**.

**16.6**  
The national marriage rate for 2018; this means that **16.6 of every 1,000** women aged 15 and over were married in the last year in the United States.

**36%**  
Percentage of Americans planning to buy Valentine's gifts at a department store in 2020. Discount stores and online tied at **32%**, specialty stores at **19%**, florists at **17%**, local small business at **15%**, and clothing stores and jewelry shops tied at **11%**.

**Source:** NRF's Annual 2020 Valentine's Day Spending Survey, conducted by Prosper Insights & Analytics. The survey of 7,267 adult consumers was conducted Jan. 2-9 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.2 percentage points.

INFOGRAPHIC BY DAVID THOMETZ/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER | SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION | IMAGES BY DARKWORXX AND GORDON JOHNSON FROM PIXABAY

## Three injured in two separate crashes on I-81

**BRISTOL HERALD COURIER**  
Three people were transported to a hospital early Thursday after two separate crashes on Interstate 81 in Smyth County, according to

the Virginia State Police. Two people were taken to Smyth County Community Hospital in Marion after a Chevrolet Tahoe traveling south ran off the left side of

the interstate and struck a northbound tractor-trailer near mile marker 42 around 12:30 a.m., VSP said in a news release. The crash caused the tractor-trailer to overturn

and both drivers were treated for non-life-threatening injuries, the release states. "Within minutes," a second crash occurred at mile marker 62, where there was a crash

between a tractor-trailer and a Dodge Ram pickup truck, the VSP said. The crash caused the tractor-trailer to run into the median. The tractor-trailer driver was not injured, but the

pickup driver was also taken to the Smyth County Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, the release states. Both crashes are under investigation.

## Perrigan, rural schools call for more funding

**BY DAVID MCGEE**  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER  
Bristol Virginia School Superintendent Keith Perrigan urged state lawmakers to fulfill their campaign promises and provide additional funding for schools during a Richmond news conference. Perrigan, who also serves as president of the Coalition of Small and Rural Schools in Virginia, was among several speakers, including other superintendents and lawmakers Sen. Todd Pillion, R-Abingdon, Del. Israel O'Quinn, R-Bristol, Del. Jay Jones, D-Norfolk, and Del. Chris Hurst, D-Blacksburg. Lawmakers are scheduled to work on Gov. Ralph Northam's proposed biennial budget next week.

Perrigan praised efforts to increase the At-Risk Add-On that provides additional funding for school divisions with large populations of children living at or below the poverty level. "The Coalition of Small and Rural Schools challenges the 2020 legislature to live up to their campaign promises of prioritizing public education and fund our schools. We hope that you will exceed the governor's recommended budget and suggest that approving anything less than his budget is nothing short of malfeasance," Perrigan said. He urged legislators to take four actions:  
 » Reinstate enrollment loss funding to offset divisions losing state per-pupil funding when students move away.

## North Carolina man charged in death of Coeburn native and unborn child

**BY ROBERT SORRELL**  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER  
A North Carolina man faces murder charges in the death of a Wise County, Virginia native and her unborn child, authorities said Thursday. James Isaac Jones Jr., 33, of Pikeville, was charged with one count of murder and one count of murder of an unborn child in the death of Cassia Renee DuVal, 29, who was pregnant, according to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. On Jan. 29 at 11:16 p.m., Wayne County emergency communications received a call about a woman slumped over in a vehicle near the intersection of Pikeville-Princeton Road and Nahunta Road. Upon arrival, deputies found a vehicle in the ditch and DuVal's body. Investigators later revealed the death was a homicide. Then, after receiving tips from the public and further inves-



Cassia Renee DuVal  
CONTRIBUTED

and kept us informed on the investigation," he told the Bristol Herald Courier. "It was very difficult for me to sit back and let them do their work knowing what they had to do. We are very blessed to have the support we've had from our friends and community as well as Renee's friends in North Carolina." A GoFundMe account has been established to raise funds for Duval's funeral. "Cassia Renee DuVal and her baby girl Aspen were taken away from us unexpectedly," the GoFundMe account states. "Renee was an amazing person who had an impact everywhere she went. In this moment of tragedy we are trying to lessen the burden of funeral expenses by putting together this go fund me. Any amount is appreciated!" The GoFund Me account can be found at [gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-cassia-renee-duval](http://gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-cassia-renee-duval).  
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**Wise County band director faces child porn charges**  
 WHITESBURG, Ky. — A Wise County, Virginia band director has been arrested on child porn charges in Kentucky, according to court records. Dalton Matthew Bates, 20, faces one count of distribution of matter portraying sexual performance by minors and 20 counts of possession of matter portraying sexual performance by minors in Letcher County District Court. Bates lives in Letcher County and commutes to Wise Central High School. County Superintendent Greg Mullins confirmed Thursday that Bates is a band

director and the district is aware of the charges. Mullins said the charges are not believed to be related to the school. Bates is being held on \$100,000 bail in the Letcher County jail.  
**Two Sullivan County constables indicted on charges**  
 BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Two Sullivan County constables have been indicted following an assault investigation in Kingsport, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. A grand jury has indicted Ralph T. King, 83, and Marshall Harris Buckner, 62, on one count of assault and

two counts of official misconduct, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Both men serve as constables in the 11th District and are seeking reelection this year. TBI special agents said that on Feb. 1, 2019, the constables assaulted an employee at a Kingsport business while executing a writ of possession. The constables were indicted in January and were booked at the Sullivan County jail Thursday on a criminal summons and released. They have been arraigned on the charges in criminal court.  
 From staff reports

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