

## Baylor stays firm at No. 1

Bears, Duke hold onto top spots. SPORTS, B1



## Life sentence reduced

Northam issues conditional pardon for Southside Virginia man. STATE, A3

# Danville Register & Bee



SUNNY 41 • 22

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

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Danville, Va.

# Winter wallop quickly fades

Snow covers Dan River Region, leaves thousands without power and makes travel tricky — until sun pops out



JOHN R. CRANE, REGISTER & BEE

Slush covers Danville streets early Monday afternoon.

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Following a stretch of spring-like weather that lasted into Sunday, the Dan River Region got its first snowstorm of the season.

More than 4 inches of snow fell in Danville and Pittsylvania County, with 4.6 inches in the city and up to 4.5 inches reported in nearby Ringgold, according to the National Weather Service. After the snow stopped falling Monday afternoon, clearing skies brought sunshine to start melting the short-lived winter wonderland.

Danville Utilities reported about 6,000 customers were without power at noon Monday. Crews worked to restore service and were expected to receive help from crews from Wilson, North Carolina, Hendrix said.

Precarious road conditions led to numerous car wrecks in the region Monday morning, including more than two dozen reported in the county and eight in the city, according to local officials.

“Conditions have certainly gotten worse as the day has progressed,” said Danville Police Department spokesman Capt. Steve Richardson.

A single-vehicle wreck at the city limits at U.S. 58 west at



LAURA WALKER, CONTRIBUTED

Danville residents young and old enjoy Monday’s snow day in the Forest Hills area of Danville.

around 8:30 a.m. Monday sent one man to the hospital in serious condition, Richardson said.

In another incident, a vehicle flipped on the bypass near Holland Road at about 8:15 a.m., he

said.

Road conditions deteriorated throughout the day Monday, with residents advised not to travel.

Snowplow crews with Danville Public Works were clearing

major thoroughfares Monday, with plowing continuing only on streets with the highest traffic volume, according to an update from Arnold Hendrix, spokesman for the city of Danville.

Crews were scheduled for round-the-clock snow-removal operations, with snowplow operators expected to make a final pass over main thoroughfares when snowfall ended.

“That pass will take about four hours,” Hendrix said in a prepared statement. “When finished with the major thoroughfares, crews then will move to streets that connect to primary routes and bus routes.”

Public Works Director Rick Drazenovich said crews usually take about four hours to clear secondary streets.

The final stage includes residential neighborhoods. City officials expected crews to reach residential roads during the late evening. It takes more than a day after snowfall has ended to clear those streets, Drazenovich said. “That takes 24 to 36 hours,” he said.

Danville had 23 plows and six smaller pickup truck plows working to clear snow from roadways, in addition to workers cleaning parking lots and sidewalks, and removing fallen trees, Drazenovich said.

The city does not clear private streets or alleys.

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## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Endgame: Learn to live with it

Newest variant is a warning about what will keep happening

LAURAN NEERGAARD AND CARLA K. JOHNSON  
Associated Press

Pandemics do eventually end, even if omicron is complicating the question of when this one will. But it won't be like flipping a light switch: The world will have to learn to coexist with a virus that's not going away.

The ultra-contagious omicron

mutant is pushing cases to all-time highs and causing chaos as an exhausted world struggles, again, to stem the spread. But this time, we're not starting from scratch.

Vaccines offer strong protection from serious illness, even if they don't always prevent a mild infection. Omicron doesn't appear to be as deadly as some earlier variants. And those who survive it will have some refreshed protection against other forms of the virus that still are circulating — and maybe the next mutant to emerge, too.

The newest variant is a warning about what will continue to happen “unless we really get serious about the endgame,” said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health.

“Certainly COVID will be with us forever,” Ko added. “We're never going to be able to eradicate or eliminate COVID, so we have to identify our goals.”

At some point, the World Health Organization will determine when enough countries have tamped

Please see ENDGAME, Page A5



PANAGIOTIS BALASKAS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A staff member from the National Health Organisation prepares a booster Johnson and Johnson vaccine against COVID-19 On Dec. 15 at Karatepe refugee camp, on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece.

## COMING TOMORROW

In The Yard columnist discusses superstitions in the garden.

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# Dan River bows out

Appomattox captures region title. SPORTS, B1



## An early tropical punch

Parts of Florida braced for heavy rain and wind from Saturday system. NATION, A7

## 50 years in the making

Relive the summer of '72. DAN RIVER LIFE, C1

# Danville Register & Bee



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## Mission to demystify

With TikTok, 30-year-old shares journey with schizophrenia, one video at a time



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Daniel Hale poses next to the Dan River near the River District in Danville. Hale has amassed 45,000 followers on TikTok with his videos chronicling his journey with schizophrenia.

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Daniel Hale has roughly 45,000 followers on TikTok.

The 30-year-old former Danville resident — who now lives just a few miles away in Reidsville, North Carolina, but still works in the city — amassed that number by posting near-daily videos chronicling his medical journey.

Hale has schizophrenia. He was first diagnosed in 2019.

The short clips are a way for him to unglue the stigma society sticks on mental illnesses.

“I was dealing with a lot of thoughts in my head to the point where I literally could not hear myself think,” he said in an interview with the Register & Bee, describing how he found out he had the disease. “I chalked it up to stress, and made an appointment to see my primary care doctor.”

His doctor asked if there was a history of mental illness in his family. Since Hale’s father died when he was young, he didn’t have much contact with relatives on that

### Follow

Follow Daniel Hale on TikTok by searching for danielhale40.

side.

He started to investigate.

“So I talked to my aunts to see if they knew anything and they shared that he was on an antipsychotic but wasn’t sure for what,” Hale said.

Now realizing his own symptoms, he felt confident his father also suffered from schizophrenia.

“Through happenstance, I found an aunt on Facebook from my father’s side of the family and she confirmed his diagnosis,” he said.

Please see HALE, Page A3



**WATCH:** For video of one of Daniel Hale’s TikTok posts, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU



Daniel Hale sits by a sign welcoming people to Danville’s River District. Hale uses the video platform TikTok to share his story of living with schizophrenia.

## Budget targets pay for officers

The 2-year \$165B plan raises starting salaries across Va.

**MICHAEL MARTZ**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Col. Wayne Huggins was grinning as he waited at the Capitol for the General Assembly to adopt a budget on Wednesday.

For Huggins, the two-year, \$165 billion budget culminates years of work on a new pay plan to raise starting salaries for sworn officers of the Virginia State Police while rewarding veterans whose pay has lagged behind new hires.

The budget includes \$46.5 million to fund the new plan, which also will dovetail with across-the-board raises of 10% over two years for all state employees as Virginia tries to bolster its government workforce as it hopes to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’ve finally got the problem solved,” said Huggins, a former state police superintendent and Fairfax County sheriff who is retiring as executive director of the Virginia State Police Association after 18 years. “We’re very pleased.”

The new budget would increase annual starting salaries for state police officers from \$47,843 to \$51,500 (\$64,383 in Northern Virginia because of the higher cost of living).

It also would fund a pay plan that ensures a 10% salary separation based on rank, so higher ranking officers don’t earn less than those they supervise, while increasing pay by 1.4% per year of service.

State police were not the only group of law enforcement and public safety officers to receive targeted pay relief in the budget, which also boosted starting pay

Please see BUDGET, Page A6

### DAN RIVER CROSSING APARTMENTS

## Tenant: ‘They’re forcing us out’

New owner says rise in rents is a move to ‘current market value’

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Orland Mayes’ rent went from \$642 a month to \$800 the beginning of this month.

The 62-year-old Dan River Crossing Apartments tenant says he cannot bear the extra burden

on his finances. He says is not able to stay — or leave.

“They’re forcing us out and people cannot afford to move,” Mayes told the Danville Register & Bee.

But the building’s owner said tenants are not being priced out of the apartments and the new rental rates are within guidelines.

“We’re just moving them to the current market value,” said Drew Lancaster, with Bridge Street Properties, LLC, which owns the complex.

Bridge Street Properties bought the 74-unit Dan River Crossing Apartments through a foreclosure sale in April 2021.

Under the previous owners, Finlay Interests 5, LTD, Dan River Crossing had 60 of those 74 units designated under a federal low-income housing tax credit program, said Kyla Goldsmith-Ray, a spokesperson with Virginia Housing. Incomes for tenants in those units could

Please see TENANT, Page A6



**JOHN R. CRANE, REGISTER & BEE**

Tenants at Dan River Crossing, including 62-year-old Orland Mayes, say they are being priced out of their apartments through rising rents. The complex’s owners say that is not true and the increases are just a move to “the current market value.”

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# Lanternfly invasion

Insect infestation growing in Va. **DAN RIVER LIFE, B6**



## Police host talent show

Students of all ages eligible to perform in fourth annual youth event. **YOUR COMMUNITY, A2**

## Hurdle to diversity

Nepotism common in football. **SPORTS, B1**

# Danville Register & Bee

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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## City reverses course

Woodside Village left without water following unpaid bill by management company



JOHN R. CRANE, REGISTER & BEE

Jessica Scripter, 32, said she was not able to bathe her 3-year-old autistic daughter Monday night after water service was disconnected at Woodside Village because its management company did not pay its bill.

**JOHN R. CRANE**  
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An unpaid bill left Woodside Village residents without water for several hours Monday.

The city of Danville shut down the apartment complex's water

supply after Woodside Village's management company, NJSMP LLC in Hackensack, New Jersey, did not pay its bill.

"The water was disconnected because they were past due on their monthly payments," said Danville City Manager Ken Larking.

The city restored water for Woodside on Monday evening. It's not clear how many people live in the 160-unit complex.

Officials from area organizations including Danville Public Schools, Danville Community College and Mount Carmel

Baptist Church provided bottled water for residents Monday evening.

Woodside Village resident Lynn Simpson, 56, said the disconnection left her unable to

Please see **WATER**, Page A5

### DANVILLE

## Teenager is found with gun at school

Officials credit tip after fight at GW for the discovery

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

A 15-year-old student is in custody after a gun was found Tuesday afternoon at George Washington High School in Danville.

The Danville Police Department reported a fight broke out at about 3 p.m. between students at the high school. Following the altercation, security officers were notified that one of the students involved had a handgun, a news release reported.

That student was taken to what police described as a "secure office" where the firearm was found in his book bag.

Authorities said the school was placed on what's known as lockdown when the fight broke out and all students were searched for weapons. Following the search, students were allowed to leave in a "systematic dismissal."

No other weapons were found and no injuries were reported. Police stress the gun was never "displayed in a threatening manner" or discharged.

The student was in custody Tuesday afternoon while

Please see **GUN**, Page A5

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

## Interim administrator stepping down

Clarence Monday will depart as county searches for leader

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Pittsylvania County's interim administrator — in place since February following the firing of

David Smitherman — is stepping down.

Clarence Monday submitted his letter of resignation Tuesday morning in what a news release describes as a "collaboration" with the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. The resignation will be effective in 30 days or sooner.

County officials said in the release Monday is stepping down because his home sold quicker than anticipated. While he intended to sell it by the end of the year, it sold the same day it went on the market. That leaves his family with a challenge to move

Please see **ADMINISTRATOR**, Page A5



Clarence Monday, right, speaks in February after being officially installed as Pittsylvania County's interim county administrator.

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY PHOTO, CONTRIBUTED**

### Local calendar of area events

YOUR COMMUNITY, A2

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### Weather

Mostly sunny  
**High 88 • Low 66**  
FORECAST • B10

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