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Reidsville man gets 40 years in plea

Sentence handed down in a murder/robbery; Lewis also got 58 years of suspended sentences

By Paul Collins
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A North Carolina man who pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and other charges was sentenced Wednesday in Henry County Circuit Court to a total of 40 years in prison in a robbery-turned-deadly in Axton last year.

Judge David V. Williams sentenced Jake Andrew Lewis, 24, of

1403 South Park Drive in Reidsville, to serve 30 years for first-degree murder, with another 20 years suspended; to serve two years for robbery, with another 38 years suspended; and to serve a total of 8 years in prison on two charges of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The suspended portions of the sentence on condition of indefinite supervised probation.



Lewis

Lewis, on Feb. 27, pleaded guilty to shooting to death Eric Adams, of Axton, on Feb. 17, 2018. Deputies responding to a 911 call at 110 Keen Drive at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 18 found Adams lying face up on the living room floor. There was blood behind his head and neck, and several shell casings littered the kitchen floor.

Prosecutors have said Lewis

and three others went to Adams' home with a plan to steal electronic devices and that, in the process, Lewis shot Adams multiple times.

Dylan Alan Day, 20, of 171 Rhinewood Lane in Reidsville, is charged with first-degree murder, use of a firearm during the commission of first-degree murder and robbery.

Landon Chase Handy, 19, of 7121 Hwy. 49 North in Liberty, North Carolina, is charged with first-degree murder, use of a firearm during the commission

of first-degree murder and robbery.

Rebecca Greenberg, 23, of Kyle, Texas, is indicted on a charge of robbery in this case, according to online court records.

At the sentencing hearing Wednesday, Henry County Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester called Surry County, Virginia Sheriff Carlos Turner and Allishia Adams, youngest sister of Eric Adams, as witnesses.

SEE **PLEA** | A6

GETTING FIRED UP ABOUT FIRST-RESPONDERS

Henry County Public Safety shows students how emergencies are handled.



PHOTOS BY HOLLY KOZELSKY/MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

Students watch as paramedics try to restore heartbeat to the victim of a simulated house fire.

By Holly Kozelsky
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Drama, excitement and comedy replaced a table with brochures for a unique career-day experience for area middle-schoolers on Wednesday.

Forty kids in Patrick Henry Community College's Talent Search Program Career Exploration Camp visited the Henry County Public Safety Training Center for a start-to-finish demonstration of a house fire.

They sat under the shade of tents in front of a metal, 5-story, fire-training building. The building was put up in 2004 with funding that included a grant from the Virginia Fire Services Board. "It's a pretty simple concept but a very high-tech system," Henry County Assistant Fire Marshal Kiah Cooper said.

A control turns fire and smoke on and off as needed. "As operator I have to continually watch my system," Cooper said.

This heavily controlled environment allows firefighters to simulate kitchen fires, saving victims from a bedroom, rappelling off a



Lt. Dillon Phillips (left), middle-schoolers in Patrick Henry Community College's Talent Search program and Division Chief of Operations Jason Sturm (right) watch a controlled burn during an emergency simulation.

5-story roof and more. The participating emergency responders didn't know what they would be getting into, said Capt. Travis Burnette, one of four captains of operations for Henry County Public Safety. He's the one who assesses the situation and

tells the responders what to expect and how best to work together.

The organizers "haven't given us a lot of information. We're kind of in the blind, like we would be with a real call," Burnette said.

SEE **SAFETY** | A6

Former high school principal takes her case to appellate court

Angela Weinerth is appealing a ruling by a district judge that tossed her discrimination case.

By Paul Collins
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The lawyer for former Martinsville High School Principal Angela Weinerth, who is appealing a federal judge's dismissal of her discrimination lawsuit against the Martinsville School Board, said he believes the judge ruled incorrectly and that "the appeals court will rule favorably on her appeal, and return the matter to the District Court for trial on the merits."



Weinerth

Weinerth had claimed the district had demoted her from principal of Martinsville High School in 2016 because of her race, gender and age.

Weinerth, who is white and in her 60s, claimed she was reassigned to assistant principal of Martinsville Middle School without cause when former principal Aji Dixon, who is black and in his 30s, was appointed to replace her at the high school. She had requested a jury trial and sought nearly \$10 million in damages, lost salaries and other compensation.

Michael F. Urbanski, chief judge for the Western District of Virginia in Roanoke, wrote in his 20-page ruling May 20 to grant the school board's request for a summary judgment that there was no direct evidence that Weinerth's race, gender or age played any role in her reassignment.

"Indeed," Urbanski wrote, "there is no hint in this record that Weinerth's age or gender had anything to do with her move to the middle school."

Weinerth is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Urbanski's order granting the Martinsville School Board's motion for summary judgment.

"Mrs. Weinerth greatly respects Judge Michael Urbanski and the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia," Glen Franklin Koontz, Weinerth's lawyer, wrote in an email Wednesday.

"That being said, Mrs. Weinerth is of the view that the court ruled incorrectly, as a matter of law and a matter of fact, in granting the Martinsville City School Board's motion for summary judgment.

"Accordingly, Mrs. Weinerth seeks the review and reversal of that ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mrs. Weinerth is confident that the appeals court will rule favorably on her appeal, and return the matter to the District Court for trial on the merits."

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WEATHER

Today will have a thunderstorm in spots early. Tonight will be clear and cool. For detailed weather information, see Page A2

77 HIGH | 49 LOW



House panel votes to hold top Trump officials in contempt. Page A6



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