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The BrightSide

'TRULY A BLESSING'



SHARON MCBRAVER, THE NEWS HERALD

Austin Robinson, center (green shirt), and his wife, Paisley, help honor the men who helped him during a recent Burke County Board of Commissioners meeting. The men, who flank Robinson, are, from left, North Carolina State Highway Patrol Trooper Ben Phillips, Morganton Department of Public Safety Officer Justin Walker, WPCB Basic Law Enforcement Training Director Bryan Christy and Burke County Sheriff's Deputy John McKinney. Sheriff Banks Hinceman, standing beside McKinney, presented the men with the Public Safety Award for their lifesaving efforts.

28-year-old in law enforcement training saved by people around him after medical emergency

SHARON MCBRAVER
smcbrayer@morganton.com

Austin Robinson decided to transition from a detention officer to a deputy. That decision may have saved his life.

Burke County Sheriff Banks Hinceman said Robinson was a detention officer in the county jail but wanted to go to Basic Law Enforcement Training. BLET is necessary

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The Bright Side: Where good news lives.

to become a law enforcement officer.

Robinson went to BLET at Western Piedmont Community College, Hinceman said at a recent Burke County Board of Commissioners meeting.

On May 6, Hinceman got a call. His officer in basic law enforcement training had had a medical issue and was transported to the hospital.

At around 7 p.m. that day, the class was doing a live

subject evaluation by conducting field sobriety testing at Western Piedmont Community College. The college's Basic Law Enforcement Training Director, Bryan Christy, heard a loud crash in the hallway and saw Robinson lying on the floor beside the water fountain. Christy, along with Burke County Sheriff's Deputy John McKinney and Morganton Department of Public Safety Officer Justin Walker, immediately responded, Hinceman said.

Please see **ROBINSON**, Page A3

Man killed at business was set to acquire company

Partner charged with murder in shooting death

SARAH C. JOHNSON
sjohnson@hickoryrecord.com

On June 17, a Catawba County judge ordered the owner of Old Hickory Tannery to relinquish

ownership of his company to a business partner as repayment of debt and settlement of a lawsuit.

That same day, the business partner, Robert Arguelles, was shot and killed. The owner of Old Hickory Tannery is charged with murder.

Arguelles filed a lawsuit in November 2024 against Old

Hickory Tannery and the owner, Willard Gary Black, for failing to repay a series of loans Arguelles made to Old Hickory Tannery between 2018 and 2019, according to court documents.

Catawba County Superior Court Judge Nathaniel Poovey made a judgment in the lawsuit on March 30. Poovey ordered Black to pay Arguelles more

than \$310,000. Poovey gave the two men the option to come up with an alternative agreement to repay Arguelles for the loans, according to court documents.

The two men agreed that Arguelles could buy Black's stock in Old Hickory Tannery for \$1.

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All-Iredell County Softball
SPORTS, B1



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