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Restaurant owner healing after fall

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A restaurant owner is grateful for his family, staff, God, and community after a recent fall.

Sunil Tch, owner of Eat Street in Barnwell and manager of the Winton Inn, suffered a serious fall on Dec. 12 at his home, landing on his face. He was airlifted to an Augusta, Ga. hospital where he spent the next 10 days. On Dec. 21, just in time for Christmas, Sunil was released to go home.

"Barnwell stepped up to protect my family, my business,

and everything. I feel the love and God's grace," said Sunil during a recent interview at his restaurant.

Watching the love of her life confined to a hospital bed brought emotional ups and downs that was "faster and scarier than a rollercoaster," said Sunil's wife, Supreethi Tadamatla. However, those 10 days in the hospital provided the family with a different perspective of life.

"Throughout the entire time we had a whole army of prayer warriors and well-wishers. Almighty God protected Sunil from death and major accident. Doctors are telling me that everything was minor brain in-

juries and none of them needed surgeries," said Supreethi in a Facebook post the day he was released.

HOME SWEET HOME

As immigrants from India, Sunil and Supreethi moved to Barnwell nine years ago. They had always lived in bigger cities, including Columbia, Beaufort, and their hometown in India.

"When I came to Barnwell, I came here to be a good citizen. That's what my dad taught

See GRATEFUL, 12A

AT RIGHT: Sunil Tch with his wife, Supreethi Tadamatla, at their Eat Street restaurant.



Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Nokomia Joyner, aka Comy, has a collection of close to 6,000 clowns at her home in Barnwell County. She is hoping her collection will earn a spot in the Guinness Books of World Records.

'Comy' seeks world record for large clown collection

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In the outskirts of Barnwell County lives 80-year-old Nokomia Joyner and her collection of over 5,000 clowns.

Known by her family lovingly as 'Comy,' a nickname born out of her refusal to be called 'grandma' and her grandchildren's inability to say Nokomia at a young age, Joyner never intended to start collecting clowns.

Her retirement from the Savannah River Plant (SRS) in 1997 is when Joyner's collection began to exponentially grow, but it started over a decade before in 1985 with a clown named PeeWee.

"I was in the hospital in '85, and one of the girls I worked with came to see me. Instead of bringing me flowers, she brought me PeeWee," said Joyner.

PeeWee was the first of many to come into the company of Joyner. Although she never had a particular fascination with clowns, something about the statue's presence sparked her interest to look for more.

Just about two years later, Joyner had to move her collection outside of her home due to



Joyner's collection includes clowns of various sizes and materials.

its growth.

"I had them in the attic until I could build a house. We filled that house up, and then we built another," said Joyner.

Two buildings sit on Joyner's property, each with a clown on the door hand-painted by her son, completely filled with clowns.

While a night in these buildings may be the worst nightmare of some, it is a source of enjoyment and togetherness for Joyner and her family.

"She's been doing it for so long, and I've watched her collect them growing up," said Tiffany Zieman, Joyner's granddaughter.

Each clown is unique in some way, and Joyner tries to not have duplicates.

"There are some out there that are close, but one can have a hat and the other can have a stocking cap so they're still different," said Joyner.

In recent years clowns have been depicted as scary, when many are the exact opposite.

"When we were young, we couldn't wait to go to the carnival," said Zieman, who finds nostalgia in the bright colors and exciting atmosphere of the circus. This is where her connotation of a clown lives rather

See CLOWNS, 11A

Details limited in Dollar General robberies

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The Dollar General stores in Blackville and Hilda had attempted robberies on Dec. 28, 2022.

The Hilda store was robbed around 5 p.m.

"According to the report, there was no gun brandished or shown. The clerk was told he (the suspect) had a gun. Other people started coming in and he left before he actually got anything, money or otherwise," said Chief Deputy Darlene Cook with the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office has a suspect description and is reviewing video footage, but "we haven't determined a suspect yet," said Cook.

The Blackville incident

happened after 9 p.m. The People-Sentinel has reached out to the Blackville Police Department for details multiple times, but no information has been provided. However, Chief Ray Crawford said on Jan. 3 they were conducting interviews.

"We don't know at this point if the two are related," said Cook of how the clothing descriptions and methods of operating are different.

Authorities have released a photo of a blue van that is a vehicle of interest in the attempted robbery of Hilda's Dollar General. It is dark blue with gray at the bottom and some front end damage. A \$200 reward is being offered by the BCSO for any information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

Any information, please call 803-541-1078 or 803-541-1161.

City hires animal control/code enforcement officer

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The City of Barnwell hired former Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) deputy Andrew Thompson to fill the position of code enforcement/animal control officer after it had remained vacant for nearly a year.

Thompson began serving as the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) code enforcement officer, which the duty of animal control falls under, the week of November 30, 2022.

The position was approved at the July 26 Barnwell City Council meeting after Rose Hartzog was brutally attacked



Andrew Thompson is the City of Barnwell's new animal control/code enforcement officer.

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- Hazel Gaskins Parcell - Warrenville
- Jo Anne Miles - Williston
- Paul Edward Grinter Jr. - Barnwell



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\$1.00 Retail
For home delivery pricing, 4A

MEMS iReady growth seen in principal's new look

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Students at Macedonia Elementary-Middle School excitedly show off their prizes for growth on iReady.



MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls received a makeover on Dec. 14 in the form of purple (above) and gold (not pictured) hair. Dying his hair was done in recognition of academic gains made by students.

The Macedonia Elementary-Middle School (MEMS) gymnasium transformed into the stage of television show "The Price is Right" on Dec. 14 to award scholars with a cash prize for growth in winter iReady test scores.

Although students were excited to receive money, they were even more excited to see MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls dye his hair the school colors in recognition of their academic growth.

"The highlight of their day was seeing him get his hair dyed," said MEMS Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun.

First grade teacher Linda Fennell explained how Principal Smalls is willing to do anything for his students, even sport a new look.

"We're just so excited about the amount of growth and progress that they have shown, and we really wanted to do something to motivate them and let them know we are proud of them," said Calhoun.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade sat in the bleachers eagerly awaiting for their name to be called by hostess and fifth grade teacher at MEMS, Felecia Kinard.

iReady exams are assessments to gauge student performance and are taken in the fall, winter, and spring.

"We have a lot of students that are bubble students or a bit below average, and they grew a lot," said Kinard. "We want to motivate students across the board and build their confidence, so we decided that we would applaud them all."

"If they grew even one point, they deserve to be celebrated," said Kinard.

MEMS educators and



Macedonia Elementary-Middle School Principal Eryl Smalls (above left) and Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun (above right) congratulate students for making academic gains on the iReady test.



MEMS students were all smiles during the celebration of winter iReady test scores on Dec. 14.



Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

administrators are looking forward to the continued academic growth of its students and holding

events to recognize it, especially after the hiatus from traditional in-school learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Coming back from two years of doing untraditional school, we know there was a tremendous regression that we had to make up for, and we will never get caught up, but the point is to see them learning and growing," said Calhoun.

Plans are being made to hold another celebration in the spring provided student iReady results show continued growth.



An MEMS student was excited to have her name called for making gains on the iReady test.

HERE'S A LIST OF STUDENTS WHO WERE RECOGNIZED:

Pre-K
Ms. Hammet's Class: Brysen Jordan-Davis, Jhoan Hernandez Rodriguez, Mylee Futrell, Kailee Myrick, Torrian James, Gabriella Smith, Mariya Ferguson, James Folk, Christianna Harrison, Joseph Hutto, Paisley Mitchell, Antwan Dunbar, Araya Howard, King Roundtree, Easton Still, Jayla Keller, Kameron Radford, Jaalamir Ross, Dy'Aisha Tyler, and Cordasia Brown.

Kindergarten
Mrs. Owens' and Mrs. Joyner's Class: Zaire Dixon, Kingston Daughety, Jumerica Washington, Brantley Chavis, Gabriel Williams, Savannah Jones, Shelton Bunn, Dalenn Chesser, Willie Ferguson, Quincey Walker, Conner Collins, Jordyn Ware, Elise Futrell, Terrie Close, Joseph Driggers, Karmyn Jackson, Everleigh Mims, and Kaisley Isaac.
Mrs. Parker's and Mrs. Lott's Class: Kelton Donaldson, A'Vien Washington, Sophia Donaldson-Spann, Harper Klebe, Kash Woodley, Hunter Churuchwell, Lawrence Williams, De'Karson Richardson, Zyana Hammonds, Michael Simmons, Justice Holman, London Harley, Kendaya Sanders, Angela Henry, Carter Rivera, and Heaven Martin.

First Grade
Ms. Edward's Class: Kirahyo McCreary, Janelle Bonds, Kendall Myrick, Joselyn

Martinez-Robles, Ayden Mason, Darrian Taylor, Zuria Hammonds, Kylie Hammonds, Eartheil Walker, Celeste Batchler, D'Andre Staley, Jace Reed, Elijah Smith, Kyleaha Livingston, Kash Campbell, Germynan Dyches, Ayla Smith, Ashronde Rowe, Maurice Williams, Kaidence Cheatham, Jesus Perez-Vasquez, and Kalijah Johnson.
Ms. Hagood's Class: Imani Jones, Serenity Smith, Anthony Reed, Skylar Walker, Sean Goodwin, Ashton Robinson, Karissa Pate, Aaden Omar, Tamia Foust, Destine Rice, King Nickens, Logan Brown, Kaylee Brown, Aariel Cooks, Kayden Dyches, Messiah Mixon, Tristian Moore, Dallas Walker, and Brandon Youmans.

Second Grade
Mrs. Bongcawel's Class: Timothy Boyer, Saige Jones, Peyton Barr, Morgan Smith, Jaycee Mims, Angel Aung, Khaleah Kearse, Tiana James, Ava Eady, Zavaa Dixon, Justice Williams, Rayven Howard, and Eri'Yonna Kirkland.
Mrs. Parker's Class: Vanessa Wood, Taylor Shiggs, Ah'Mya Harris, Na'ava Floyd, Rose Martinez-Robles, Jace Bryant, Aariyana Cooks, Jabria Ware, Jayceon Barr, Hampton Carroll, Jeremiah Tyler, Taliyah Johnson, Erian Jones, Zyron Bongcawel, Hailey Cuthbertson, and Logan Howard.

Third Grade
Mrs. Allen's Class: Teri Close, Marissa Curry, Isaiah Dowling, Amaria Foust, Paris Jones, Carolina Blankenship, Elijah Priester, Zechariah Chavis, Arriyona Bing, Lilee Croft, Huntley Cope, Emoni Minus, Christian Williams, Dawayne Carrigg, Demetrius Williams, Preston Chavis, Travis Tyler, Jaicion Williams, and Zackary Parrish.
Ms. Sanders' Class: Erin Sept, Dareal Webster, Michael Williams, Zoey Burnette, Kaylee Donaldson, Jewel Parker, Sharell Jordan, Brayden Dyches, Aubrielle Glover, Ka'dyn Dials, Lilly Kinard, Kendra Rowe, Jakobe Felder, Stacy Bongcawel, and Tyquan Tyler.

Fourth Grade
Ms. Cobb's Class: Ethan Jeter, Madison Williams, Zariah James, Mauriyah Williams, Zerniya Russaw, Kaiden Williams, Majure Campbell, Sylvia Chavis, Aries Drain, Karson Epps, Naomi Salley, Kaylee Siegel, Major Salley, Jayden Omar, Braxton Bonds, Amiyah Highsmith, Ivori Roundtree, Charity Williams, and Mirackle Alicea Almoar.
Mrs. Glover's Class: Jayden Keller, Gavin Taylor, Eli Walker, Sincere Thomas, Kailaya Govan, Dylan Camarillo, Ian Hughes, Chasity Creech, Madison Hammet, Deandre Taylor, JaAir Washington, Stanford Felder, Jonathan Pacheco, Kyler

Livingston, Bre'asia Brown, Ayden Carrigg, Jabria Isaac, and Chase Harrison.

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Bryson's Class: Kyle Hayward, Aaron Johnson, Deliyah Risi, Karter Wilson, Jaycee Klebe, Azion Frazier, Michelle Williams, Brayden Brown, Da'Quan Stroman, Kylen Seabrooks, Zulema Diaz, Raphael Goodwin, Maruice Holman, Sha'Marion Brown, Thuya Aung, Dustin Carroll, Jayden Miller, Parish Thompson, Davida Mixon, and Tariah Johnson.
Mrs. Epps' Class: Landrea Young, Christian McMillian, Quinten Johnson, Braylon Owens, Tyler Joyner, Lauren Fraizer, Douglas Ford, Semaj Rice, Bryan Diaz, Cameron Smith, Carolina Flores, Ja'Nyla Donaldson, Kahrin Mixon, Chasity Lee, Damarius Odom, Heather Nickens, Ke'ara Bing, Anthony Castillo, and Ca'Mari Johnson.

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Brown's Class: Ar'Shaun Bing, Zy'Kira Daniels, Trenton Moors, Terrius James, Tytherian Yon, Kenya Tyler, Bryson Jones, Markell Jamison, Disha Patel, Ah'Real Goodwin, Sanaa Jenkins, Tyler Davis, Nevaeh Joyner, and Travaris Johnson.
Ms. Jenkins' Class: Kaileigh Simmons, Jaheem Johnson, Noah Sawyer, Tramell Mitchell, Sanora Brown, Taylor Hampton,

Cortni Gleaton, Mike Walker, Marcus Smalls, Haylei Sapp, Warren Jamison, Lashae Smalls, Kensey Martin, and Abigail Smith.

Seventh Grade
Mr. Warble's Class: Bralen Coleman, Xavier Creech, Rainey Priester, Evonna Smalls, Zariah Thomas, Malaki Brown, Timothy Johnson, Christalen Norman, Shannon Kirkland, Emmelie Moors, Taylar Evans, Mikenzie Fricling, Darnell Phillips, Jeremiah Corbitt, and Kennedy Hay.
Mr. Mendoza's Class: Savion Dowling, Shaniya Bing, Miles Minus, Faith Washington, Trevor Kinard, Xavion Creech, Destiny Owens,

ZaMiya Jordan-Davis, I'Yonna Calhoun, Zemeria Woodley, Tariuq Odom, Semi Kemp, and Mylia Brown.

Eighth Grade
Mrs. Springsteen's Class: Jarvis Barnes, Terrion Johnson, Terence Joyner, Robert McCreary, Orlando Reed, Caleb Brown, Heaven Thompson, Ryian Sanders, Nazarrria Bagley, Breyon Donaldson, Willow Croft, Annasia McCreary, and Mira Holston.
Mr. Owala's Class: Sha'Mya Dowling, Desirae Joyner, Alexis Joyner, Alleik Walker, Eric Dunbar, Aimee Owens, Jayden Barnes, Kaiden Aiken, Kayla Abney, and Ja'Faith Johnson.



Registration is underway for the 2023 season for boys and girls (ages 3 to 15)
Sign-ups for baseball and softball will be held every **Tuesday and Thursday between Jan. 3rd and 31st from 5:30 to 7 p.m.** at the **Barnwell County Public Library**. Price depends on age. Cash or check only. For questions, email bbsa29812@gmail.com

County-wide 'pickle-crack' outbreak

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Known as the lovechild of badminton, tennis, and ping-pong, pickleball has been rapidly growing in the U.S. since the 1960s, and in the last two years, in Barnwell County.

Although there are not yet official places to play in the county, a lack of courts has not stopped those who caught the pickleball bug from enjoying the sport meant for all ages.

"Roger's the one that first started getting people interested. We had people driving over from Barnwell to play because it was the first group of people that had ever tried to organize it," said Greg Walkup, Williston resident and player of both tennis and pickleball.

Roger Stanten moved near Hickory, North Carolina in 2021 after living in Williston for 31 years. Before he left, Stanten built a strong foundation for pickleball and his mark on the sport still remains on the modified tennis courts pickleballers play on, both figuratively and literally.

"Roger got it started," said Susan Birt, Williston resident and pickleball enthusiast. "He taped off the exact dimensions for pickleball and the tape has long since gone from the weather, however, we can still see the glue."

The glue residue left on the tennis courts at the Williston Town Park is what Birt and other players use to note the boundaries of the court which differ from those of tennis.

"It's a smaller court than a tennis court and the net is actually shorter than a tennis net," said Walkup.

Walkup and Birt both joined the pickleball circle when Stanten was aiming to grow the sport in the county.

Stanten's initial interest in the sport began at a charity event held by the Savannah River Site a few years ago where he played for the first time.

"I was getting closer to retirement and I was looking for something to

keep me a little bit more physically active," said Stanten.

"It was probably April of 2020. I just put it on Facebook, said, 'Anyone who wants to play, I'll be down at the courts in Williston.' I went down there and I taped off one of the tennis courts and I think there were two or three people who showed up," he said.

Many pickleball players take to the sport because it has no age or skill restrictions and is a low-impact way to maintain physical activity as Stanten said.

"Pickleball is a general uniter," said Birt. "You don't have to be physically fit to play, but it helps you get more physically fit. If you're old, young, thin, fat, whatever, you can play pickleball and be good at it."

Walkup, Birt, and Stanten all expressed they had not known of the sport long before it became a key part of their weekly routine to play alongside other pickleballers.

The group would play on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Williston tennis courts weather permitting, and all began developing a passion for the sport. Birt explains she began looking for pickleball paddles that would give her the satisfying 'pop' noise when making contact with the ball.

"I think what every player wants to hear is that pop of that ball hitting a paddle, it's a very distinctive sound," said Birt. "When you hit a good shot, it makes a certain sound and every player craves that."

"We call it pickle-crack because it's so addictive," said Birt.

Birt and Walkup were a part of the initial pickleball push in Barnwell County alongside Stanten, and have similar hopes for the sport that he did.

"I would like to see a county-wide league. Williston has a team, Barnwell has a team, Blackville has a team, and maybe we play little tournaments amongst each other," said Birt.

"My vision at the time was that each of the main



The piles of gravel being used as site prep represent the location of the four upcoming pickleball courts at the Barnwell County YMCA. Courtesy: Barnwell County

communities, Barnwell, Williston, and Blackville, would develop their own play groups and then there'd be an interplay between the communities, then maybe a cham-

"We call it pickle-crack because it's so addictive."

- Susan Birt,

Williston resident and pickleball enthusiast

pionship game," said Stanten.

The first obstacle in this vision is a place to play, sanctioned or not. Walkup, Stanten, and Birt struck multiple conversations around pickleball with both town and county officials.

"I went to the Barnwell County Council a couple times and encouraged them to help spread it throughout the county so everyone kind of had an equal footing," said Stanten.

Staten explained, "They're like any other government," and took his pickleball advocacy into consideration.

Not only was the court conversation proposed to the county by Stanten, but the Town of Williston as well.

"We appeared late last year to the Town Council on Williston," said Walkup. "We were asking for funding for say two or three pickleball courts in the town park here in Williston. And at the time funding was an issue."

In a more recent conversation Walkup had with Town of Williston Administrator Mike Beasley, he was informed that the town is looking into the cost of constructing two pickleball courts

in the town park. "I used that old line out of the movie 'Field of Dreams', I said, 'If you build it, they will come,'" said Walkup.

The court conversation

quire a lot of prep work, including ground maintenance and finding a contractor.

The council agreed to carry on with placing bids to find a contractor

was discussed by the Williston Town Council at their June 13 regular meeting.

Councilman Eric Moody explained he had looked into making the existing tennis courts at the town park multi-purpose by painting lines that served both tennis and pickleball.

However, the U.S. Tennis Association forbids extra lines on courts and would make the courts not fit for competition when used by the Williston-Elko tennis team.

To solve this problem, Moody proposed converting concrete slabs to pickleball courts at a total cost of \$27,604.

At this meeting, Administrator Beasley said he would look into potential funding options for the courts.

At the September 12 Williston Town Council meeting, Walkup advocated for courts to come to Williston.

Administrator Beasley then informed the council that he has found two funding sources; a PAR Fund, or already secured American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money.

Administrator Beasley informed the council installing these courts in the town park would re-

to build pickleball courts.

In Blackville, Director of Recreation Tykesha Jenkins has been in conversations with Axis I Center about a grant to renovate one of the current tennis courts near Blackville-Hilda High School to a pickleball court.

Due to the location of the soon-to-be pickleball courts on the property of Blackville-Hilda High School, their construction is the responsibility of the school. Barnwell County Consolidated School District has agreed to handle this construction.

Jenkins detailed the school plans to continue with this project and the courts will be open for community use.

At the Barnwell County YMCA, four pickleball courts are being constructed with plans to be completed by spring 2023.

Barnwell County Administrator Tim Bennett explained no general contractors attended the required pre-bid meeting after the initial bid was placed, thus requiring the county to re-bid the court construction.

After the county's second bid was placed, four general contractors attended the required

pre-bid meetings on September 27 with their bids being due on October 11.

These courts will be managed by the YMCA, and similarly to the Aquatic Center, accessible only with either a YMCA membership or a daily fee.

"They'll be open to the public, but just like the pool, if you're not a member of the Y you'll have to pay a fee to play," said Barnwell County Councilman and Recreation Committee Chairman Jerry Creech.

"The Y is trying to manage the pickleball courts, just like they do the pool," said Councilman Creech.

The YMCA pickleball courts, along with the adjoining parking lots, will potentially be funded from the Barnwell County Economic Development Fund.

"The county must pay for the project, and then justify reimbursement. Reimbursement is not guaranteed. We will prepare a reimbursement request that hopefully meets the criteria for reimbursement," said Administrator Bennett.

Walkup recounts a prior conversation with Barnwell County Councilman Don Harper about bringing courts to Williston as well after hearing of the courts coming to Barnwell's YMCA, where Councilman Harper expressed to Walkup it was funding that was preventing court construction in Williston.

"I told him I was a little disappointed that all four courts were going to Barnwell. I said, 'It seems like maybe you would've had one or two courts in Williston where there's some interest, or maybe Blackville,' but he said something about it was going to be cheaper to do it all right there in Barnwell," said Walkup.

The future of pickleball in Barnwell County is unclear; however, the sport continues to grow in neighboring Aiken County and even across the world with 4.8 million players in the U.S. alone.

For more information on the sport, visit <https://usapickleball.org/>.

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Shenika was born and raised in Williston. She enjoys engaging members of the community to bring awareness to preventive health.

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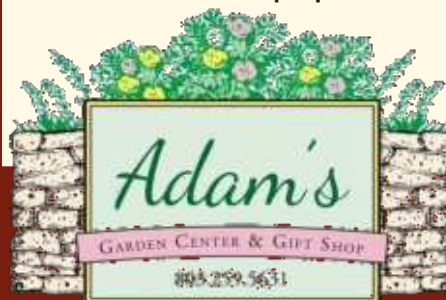
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Mind Matters Column

Anxiety, Still Anxiety?



Dr. Greg Smith

Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health

I was listening to one of my favorite podcasts this past week, Ten Percent Happier, with Dan Harris. His guest was Dr. Judson Brewer, and the episode was called Your Anxiety Questions, Answered. Dr. Brewer is the Chief Medical Officer at Sharecare and the Director of Research and innovation at Brown University's Mindfulness Center.

Anxiety has been a part of our daily lives for millennia, but never so much at the forefront of our minds as during the COVID-19 pandemic and afterwards as we enter the third pandemic winter. There was a marked spike of anxiety at the beginning of the pandemic, said Dr. Brewer, and I certainly saw that in myself, my colleagues, and my own mental health practice. The uncertainty of the pandemic has morphed into uncertainty about not only our health, but about the economy, the political landscape, the environment, and other issues that impact us all. Dr. Brewer said that our brains are programmed to tell us to "pay attention" when we sense that we are entering into a danger zone. Anxiety, defined, is a feeling of unease due to uncertainty of various types.

Now, many of my patients ask about the difference between anxiety and worry. Worry is mental behavior layered on top of anxiety. Anxiety and fear can certainly be helpful to us and very adaptive if we are in danger. If not, and we layer worry on top of them, it is sometimes a useless waste of our energy! Dr. Brewer talked about how our prefrontal cortex, the "thinking part" of our brain, can be short circuited and go offline in times of great stress and worry. The older parts of our brain go into panic mode. We cannot plan and make good decisions, he said, or think and evaluate clearly if we are severely anxious. He had been using medications to treat many of his patients who had anxiety, as do many of us, but he found that only about twenty per cent of those patients were getting better with meds alone. He began to teach them about habit loops, which basically means that anxiety leads to behaviors that lead to worry that lead to more anxiety. His position was to offer the suffering brain an alternative, a better alternative, such as kindness toward the self and curiosity about the situation that was making us anxious in the first place. Curiosity, he said, feels much better than worrying! The Bigger Better Offer, as

he called it, taps into already existing reward mechanisms in our brains. As it turns out, we can store up these feelings of kindness toward the self and refer to them the next time we are anxious. We can do this by physical actions as simple as pulling our hand to our heart or using self-talk.

As we age, and as I am experiencing personally, we can have health issues come up that cause us existential anxiety. Instead of saying "Oh, no!" and getting overly anxious about these changes and stresses, we can say "Oh!" with curiosity and explore how we feel and think about how we want to respond rationally. We can use these times to learn about how we handle stress, how we can explore and learn more about ourselves physically and emotionally. Aging is unavoidable. Ruminating and getting anxious versus showing curiosity about a natural process is a choice. Everyone is aging and dealing with some of the same problems and stresses that we all are. Our common humanity leads to universal experiences, and we can take some solace in that.

Dr. Brewer discussed meditation as one way that we can deal with our anxieties and stress. The more we learn about our own minds through meditation, the more we can work with our minds when anxious or caught in one of those loops. We can find tension free zones in our bodies and notice how they feel. We can use a Noting Practice that helps us to observe but not get completely caught up in the experience of, say, a panic attack. We can learn to know our own limits and to ask, when stressed or caught up in a situation, "What do I need right now?" This, according to Dr. Brewer, is the best baseline parameter of any good self-care practice.

To consider life a journey is a workable way to explore and be curious. Things will happen, you will be stressed during your life, so you can choose how to respond, accept these stresses and challenges and deal with them as positively as possible. Interestingly, society often thinks that excitement equals happiness, Dr. Brewer stated. However, the restlessness that comes with anxiety and excitement is not always pleasant. We often forget how good a state of calm feels! In this holiday season, he closed, think of the anticipation and excitement before gift opening on Christmas morning. Then envision the calm, happiness, and joy of simply being with family that follows the pandemonium. If you celebrate, I wish you happy holidays. If you do not, I wish you that peace and calm that we all crave, and that every one of us deserves.

Better Business Bureau Column

Holiday returns and exchanges



Kelvin Collins

Better Business Bureau

The weeks following the Christmas holiday are often busy for retailers exchanging or refunding holiday gifts. As consumers interact with businesses, it is important to consider a few key facts regarding product returns or exchanges.

Stores are not legally required to accept exchanges or give refunds unless the merchandise was defective or misrepresented. While most retailers offer refund and exchange programs, policies vary significantly from one store to another. Fortunately for shoppers, one positive outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic is that many retailers have become more lenient in their return policies. Despite this, be sure to double-check policies this holiday season, even if you are familiar with the brand, as stores can change their policies frequently.

The following tips from your Better Business Bureau should help to make your holiday returns run more smoothly.

Get to know store policies. Before you make a purchase,

find out if the store has a return policy and, if so, how it works. Understand that many retailers change their policies for the holiday season. If the store does allow returns or exchanges, find out if you will need to pay a restocking fee. Ask the seller if they offer cash refunds, exchanges, or store credit. Store policies are usually posted at the check-out counter or printed on the back of receipts.

Understand online store return policies. If you are shopping online, search for the seller's return policy and read it through before clicking "buy." Find out if they accept returns or exchanges and who pays the shipping when an item is returned. In some cases, you can save on shipping fees by returning an online purchase to the local brick-and-mortar store.

Get the details on a product's warranty. Most electronics and home appliances come with warranties honored by the manufacturer, not the retailer. Find out how returns and repairs are handled if an item stops working or needs replacement parts. Will the retailer ship the item to the manufacturer for you, or will you need to deal with the manufacturer directly? Knowing the answers will leave you well-prepared for any future issues.

Keep your receipt and packaging. Most stores will only accept returns and exchanges

if you present the item with its receipt and original packaging. Always include a gift receipt with items you give and hold on to any gift receipts you receive.

Bring your ID. Many stores ask to see your ID when you return an item to avoid holiday return scams. Sometimes retailers require you to bring your ID and the original form of payment. If this is the store's policy where your gift is from, you may need the assistance of the gift giver to obtain a refund or exchange.

Make returns in a timely fashion. Almost all return policies are valid during a specific period. Some stores modify their return period during the holidays, so don't risk missing your chance to make your return. Take the item back to the store without delay.

For more holiday tips, visit BBB.org/Holiday.

Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia, and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org.

Dogs have great qualities that we people may not have



Phil Hudgins

Contributor

We've been dogsitting Bear, an aging mauzer, while his parents are out of state, and on our daily walks to water the neighborhood foliage, I've come to appreciate again why dogs are such special. Here are just a few of their attributes:

Dogs never judge you. They like you the way you are. If you didn't comb your hair or brush your teeth, they still nuzzle up close to pant in your face, commiserating with you because they didn't brush their teeth either.

Dogs never assume anything about you. People might take something I've written the wrong way, but dogs don't really care about my opinions. Newsprint tastes the same, whatever the content.

Dogs are not concerned about your heritage. Sometimes their own heritage is questionable. For starters, their ancestors were wild wolves.

Dogs don't get hung up on things they can't or won't do. If someone says, "That dog won't hunt," they know they have other worthwhile virtues

and skills.

Dogs are in a good mood most of the time, unless they're the kind that's never in a good mood. But the grouches are rare.

Dogs (small ones) love a welcoming lap. They'd offer theirs if they had one.

Dogs will fish or swim with you, even if they don't know how to do either. If you think all dogs can swim, you never met the late Rufus, a blond cocker spaniel of ours.

Dogs can be afraid—fireworks will usually do it—but they seldom suffer from stress.

Dogs are observant. They know instinctively when a deer has been in the yard. They possess a poop detector more sensitive than an expensive Geiger counter.

Dogs are always glad to see you. If the pet doesn't notice when you walk into the room, it's a cat.

Dogs are accepting of all friendly people, even those with quirky personalities. They know that they and their fellow canines are also a little flaky sometimes.

Dogs are forgiving. You can scold them for unbecoming behavior, and a few minutes later they've forgotten all about it. They think a grudge is something to eat.

Dogs are perceptive.

They know that dog-lovers are really nice people, and they can tell when they're not welcome.

Dogs will never complain about a squeaky toy or any other gift from you. They even like the box it came in.

Dogs appreciate small favors. Slip them a piece of ham from the dinner table, and their tail, if they have one, says enthusiastically, "Thank you very much."

Dogs are not prejudiced. They don't care what color you are, where you grew up, or how much money you have. They relinquish all biases to human beings.

Best of all, dogs are always there for you. They are excellent therapists. You can have the blues; you can be rejected by a friend; you can be feeling ill; you can be grieving a death. But that's no problem for your furry friend. He or she is always there for you, offering a kiss to make you feel better.

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or by form e-mail on: www.thepeoplesentinel.com

All letters must be signed, and have an address and phone number (for verification only). Letters may be edited for grammar, length, good taste or legal purposes. The publisher retains the right to decline any letter. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper, its owners, employees or its advertising partners.

Barnwell County Arrest Reports

Arrest reports listed below are public record and have been provided by local law enforcement agencies. All persons named are presumed innocent until their cases are determined in a court of law.

Robert Ronnie Allen Jr., 46, of Curtis Drive, Williston, was arrested on December 7, 2022 by the Williston Police Department (WPD) for Driving with No License and Driving Under Suspension while Under the Influence,

and cited for Speeding, Registration Not in Possession, Failure to Surrender Driver's License, Improper Lane, Driving Too Fast for Conditions, Failure to Give Turn Signal, and Failure to Stop for Blue Lights. Allen was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Jacky Alan Blackwood, 40, of 124 Cooper Drive, Aiken, was arrested on December 19, 2022 by Barnwell County Sheriff

Office (BCSO) for Failure to Stop for Blue Light. Blackwood was booked and released to the BCDC.

Jonathan Coleman, 35, of 6615 Hwy. 39, Williston, was cited on December 13, 2022 by WPD for Reckless Driving and Open Container.

Christopher Dunbar, 37, of 4055 Allendale Ave, Williston, was arrested on December 15, 2022 by WPD for Burglary and Breaking & Entering. Dunbar was booked and re-

leased to BCDC.

Benjamin Wilson Gantt, 31, of 590 Youmans Lane, Aiken, was arrested on December 22, 2022 by BCSO for Unlawful Communications. Gantt was booked and released to BCDC.

Trevaris J'Quan Moore, 28, of 43 Robin Court, Williston, was arrested on December 10, 2022 by WPD for Petit Larceny and Simple Possession. Moore was booked and released to BCDC.

John Carlton Rhodes, 35, of 60 Camden Court, Williston, was arrested on December 14, 2022 by WPD for Shoplifting. Rhodes was booked and released to BCDC.

Justin Omar Rollins, 20, of 1358 Water Street, Allendale, was arrested on December 23, 2022 by BCSO for Failure to Appear. Rollins was booked and released to BCDC.

Donald Craig Weber Jr., 35, of 157 Chester Street, Williston, was arrested

on December 19, 2022 by BCSO for Criminal Domestic Violence and Malicious Injury to Personal Property. Weber was booked and released to BCDC.

Benjamin Clay Wilson, 40, of 1130 Railroad Avenue, Williston, was arrested on December 10, 2022 by WPD for Disorderly Conduct and Threatening and Public Employee. Wilson was booked and released to BCDC.

Car crashes into Williston gas station

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople-sentinel.com

What began as a car driving through the storefront of a local business quickly developed into the Williston Police Department (WPD) chasing the driver on foot through town.

Around 11:30 on the night of Tuesday, November 29, a car appeared to have intentionally driven through the storefront of Lucky Gas & Food Mart on Church Street in Williston, according to the store's surveillance footage.

Upon arrival of WPD, the driver was unresponsive and later identified as Terrence S. Bryant, 40, of Carrollton, Ga.

"Later after returning to Lucky Gas officers were shown video footage where Bryant stopped in front of the store by the pumps and then proceeded to drive directly into the store as if intending to do so," stated the WPD's incident report, which is not yet finalized due to this case being actively investigated.

After EMS was dispatched by officers, the responding officer (R/O) ran the Georgia tag on the car and found the red Ford Fiesta had been re-

ported stolen. The owner of the vehicle was identified as Heather Ashley Murphy, 37, of Villa Rica, Ga.

At this time the South Carolina Highway Patrol was asked to assist, but later concluded they would not be taking over the case even with the possibility of intoxicated driving resulting in an accident.

EMS arrived and strapped Bryant on a stretcher. Emergency personnel then administered NARCAN due to his unresponsiveness. Bryant opened his eyes after being injected with NARCAN but was still mostly unresponsive, according to the incident report.

Bryant was then moved to the back of the ambulance to be transported for further care. However while the R/O was taping off the scene, Bryant broke from EMS restraints and took off on foot toward the Town of Williston.

Bryant's transition from an unresponsive state to fleeing down Highway 78 is not detailed in WPD's incident report.

The R/O began chasing Bryant while yelling for him to stop. In the pursuit, the R/O deployed his taser but it was not effective in slowing down



The front window of Lucky Gas Food Mart in Williston remains boarded up more than one month after a car plowed through it. Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Bryant.

Bryant then attempted to break into the Church Street home of Susan Kirkland by kicking on a door and breaking a window, according to the officer's recourt and home security footage provided by Kirkland detailed in WPD's incident report.

At this time, the R/O deployed his taser again and instructed Bryant to place his arms behind his back. According to the incident report, Bryant refused to comply and attempted to get up again.

Here, the R/O deployed another cycle on the taser and attempted to place Bryant in handcuffs.

However, in the midst

of being cuffed, Bryant got "off the ground and began to actively try to snatch [the R/O's] taser from him," stated the report. Bryant was unsuccessful in his attempts to take the taser, but it did not discourage him from trying again.

The R/O then deployed his taser again but it had no visible effect on Bryant, which resulted in Bryant running to the corner of Kirkland's yard along the fence. Here, Bryant tried to jump the fence to leave the yard and when approached by the R/O, tried to grab the taser again.

After a brief struggle, the R/O was able to get

both handcuffs on Bryant who then refused to put his legs in the patrol car until another officer "did a drive stun with his taser on Bryant's knee and Bryant complied," states the report.

Bryant was tased by officers a total of five times during this interaction. Once apprehended, he was returned to the ambulance and transported to receive medical attention.

While at Aiken Regional Medical Center, toxicology was not performed by medical personnel and WPD officers are attempting to obtain a subpoena to obtain the results of the bloodwork. This will determine if

Bryant was driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Warrants for burglary in the first degree, resisting arrest, and possession of a stolen vehicle were applied for by the R/O, but then placed on hold pending toxicology results which would determine if a charge for driving under the influence must be added.

According to the Barnwell County Second Judicial Circuit Public Index Search, Bryant was also charged with malicious injury to real property for attempting to break into Kirkland's home.

Officers found an open can of beer, a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana in the vehicle, the end of a wooden bat, and numerous credit or debit cards belonging to several different people. Also in the vehicle was Murphy's social security card and a social security card belonging to another individual.

When WPD officers made contact with Bryant once relocated to the Barnwell County Detention Center, he explained he had done one year in prison and when he got out he was dating a woman who allowed him to use the vehicle presumed to be stolen.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Barnwell County

Notice of Hearing Concerning Community Needs and Priorities

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5:30 PM, in County Council Chambers (54 Irving Street, Barnwell, SC 29812) Barnwell County will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities, and economic development.

At this public hearing, Barnwell County will conduct its annual community needs assessment, addressing development activities which might be undertaken to meet identified needs, including the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Citizen Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Federal HUD HOME program, providing for the participation of the citizens of Barnwell County in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects, which will involve HUD funds.

The Citizen Participation Plan is available for review at the Barnwell County Administration Building, 57 Wall Street, Barnwell, SC 29812, during regular business hours. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or the Citizen Participation Plan may contact Timothy Bennett, Barnwell County Administrator, 57 Wall Street, Barnwell, SC 29812, phone number (803) 541-1000, or Brooke Morris, Community & Economic Development Manager, Lower Savannah Council of Governments, P.O. Box 850, Aiken, SC 29802, phone number (803) 508-7069.

Barnwell County does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Timothy Bennett, 57 Wall Street, Barnwell, SC 29812, phone number (803) 541-1000 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988). Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of handicapped persons attending the meeting upon request. Persons needing special assistance or auxiliary aids should contact Barnwell County at (803) 541-1000 seventy-two (72) hours before the public hearing.

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Puzzles are on pages A9 and 6B.

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ENGAGEMENT



Skyler Hooper and Stephen Kinard will be married October 21, 2023.

Skyler Hooper, Stephen Kinard

Mr. and Mrs. Ski (Wendy) Hooper of Barnwell are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Skyer McKenzie Hooper, to Stephen Cordrey Kinard. Cord is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen (Wendy) Kinard of Sycamore.

Skyler is the granddaughter of the late Daniel E. and Cheryl Delk Hartzog of Hilda and Maxine Pender Hooper and the late Gary David Hooper of Barnwell. She is a graduate of Barnwell High School and is currently attending the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, where she is pursuing a BSN in Nursing through USC Beaufort.

Cord is the grandson of the late Robert F. and Sara O. Clifton of Varnville and the late Grady C. and Ruby A. Kinard of Sycamore. He is a graduate of Wade Hampton High School and presently employed with Welch Forestry Products of Hampton.

The wedding will be held on October 21, 2023.

ENGAGEMENT



Brad Bryan and Alyssa Salcido will be married August 19, 2023.

Alyssa Salcido, Brad Bryan

Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Salcido of Windsor are proud to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Alyssa Salcido, to Brad Bryan. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Bryan of Batesburg-Leesville.

The bride-elect is currently employed by Plum Pretty in Barnwell.

The groom-elect is currently employed by Brad's Bail Bonding and B&B Ford in Barnwell.

The wedding is scheduled for August 19, 2023 at Pine Knoll Farms in Appling, Ga.

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Eleanor's Corner

Warhorses, Tigers JROTC teams compete



Tiger JROTC Battalion Cadets stand guard during the JROTC competition held at Allendale-Fairfax High School.



Warhorse JROTC Drill Team members from left to right: Breonna Creech, SaMariona Mayes, A'xperylene Geiger, and LaMarcus Gill.

Contributed Photos

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

On October 21, 2022 local JROTC Battalions showcased their skills at one of the first Lowcountry Drill and Color Guard Competitions since the pandemic.

The Warhorse JROTC Battalion at Barnwell High School (BHS) and the Tiger JROTC Battalion at Allendale-Fairfax High School (AFHS) competed alongside Denmark-Olar High School, Woodland High School, and Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School.

"Our cadets are very excited that we've been able to resume these types of extracurricular activities. For the past two years due to COVID related restrictions, we were unable to conduct these types of events," said Sergeant First Class (Retired) Jerry Smith, one of the JROTC instructors at Barnwell High School. "All the schools feel the same impact due to COVID," said Senior Army Instructor JROTC Chief Jeffery Gordon at AFHS. "COVID hurt, a lot of our resident experience went out the door."

A lot of these students are ninth graders and I just hope they stay with us." JROTC Battalions at both AFHS and BHS are made up of new members this year, making competitions such as this a first-time experience for many.

"Our competition teams are made up of mostly freshman first-year cadets that have only been drilling for about six weeks, but they are beginning to notice their improvement and growth and walked away from this competition really excited about the future," said BHS instructor Lieutenant Colonel (Re-

tired) Marvin Brown. Tiger JROTC Battalion cadets such as ninth graders Misha Grayson, Zy'Nahriah Rhodes, and Rebecca Powers plan to stick with the program throughout their time at AFHS, and are happy to be involved.

"It's fun, and it's not a strict class. There are lessons about anger management, respect, and etiquette," said Cadet Powers.

Although it was the first competition for many cadets in the Tiger Battalion, Sergeant Major Norman Fisher felt "they really went out there and performed."

The competition consisted of the following events: Color Guard, Platoon Drill without Arms, Platoon Drill with Arms, Squad Drill without Arms, Squad Drill with Arms, as well as Platoon, Squad, and Individual Exhibitions.

A JROTC competition has many components, some of which are life lessons rather than prac-



Tiger JROTC Battalion Cadet Zy'Nahriah Rhodes receives recognition for her leadership during the October JROTC competition.

ticed exhibitions.

"These types of events help improve the Esprit

de Corps and motivation of the cadets in our unit," said LTC Brown. "The

extracurricular activities are the reason students join our program."

"It helps them to communicate and talk to other students outside of their comfort zone, so we teach them to network with other students," said SGM Fisher.

Chief Gordon finds competitions to be "a way to bring all our communities together and reinforce the values of the program; character and leadership development."

AFHS Cadet Rhodes felt "overall we did pretty good for freshmen," of her Battalion's performance at the competition. Cadet Rhodes stepped out of her realm of experience and led a drill event in which she took home first place.

"We just practiced until we got it, and we won first place," said Cadet Rhodes.

The Tiger Battalion placed second overall in the competition. They placed first in the Drill Ceremony, second in

Exhibition, and third in Color Guard.

The Warhorse Battalion placed last overall and are looking forward to growing the experience of their team throughout the school year.

Woodland's JROTC cadets came in first place overall.

The Tiger Battalion Commander is Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Cameron Williams, and the Color Guard consists of (L-R) C/1st LT Arianna Priester, C/MSG Lokeya Robinson, C/MSG Trinity Mikell, and C/SSG Ramona Magee.

The Warhorse Battalion is led by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Tameriah Hutto, a senior who has plans to attend the University of South Carolina on a Army ROTC Scholarship, and ultimately serve her country as an Army nurse.

"Tameriah is a well-rounded scholar, athlete and leader. The cadets under her command are fortunate to have her as an example of excellence, commitment to duty, and leadership," said LTC Brown. "Her positive attitude is infectious and her work ethic is unmatched. I look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things that will come her way in the future!"

"These cadets here, that's our future," said SGM Fisher.

Cadet Rhodes, Cadet Grayson, and Cadet Powers all are considering a career in various branches of the military after graduation, but have their sights set on other options as well.

"When we look at the young talent that we have in our Warhorse Battalion, SFC Smith and I frequently comment that the future is very bright for our program, the high school, the Barnwell community, and our nation," said LTC Brown.



Allendale-Fairfax High School Tiger JROTC Battalion Color Guard showcased their skills at the October competition.



Allendale summit empowers, educates teens

A Youth Summit was held on October 29, 2022 at the National Guard Armory in Allendale.

This event was hosted by the Allendale Community Based Tobacco Disparities Coalition for

middle and high school students. Keynote speaker was Devon Smith, also known as Mr. Change Your

Mindset of Allendale.

The students in attendance experienced breakout sessions discussing

topics on Mental Health, Financial Literacy and Self Care. Students experienced learning, empow-

erment, food and fun.

Upcoming events for Allendale youth will be advertised.

Barnwell & Allendale County students apprentice locally

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople-sentinel.com

Fourteen students in Allendale and Barnwell counties took a major step in achieving their personal, academic, and career goals at the Youth Apprenticeship Carolina Signing Day on December 14, 2022 at the Barnwell County Public Library.

Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45), Allendale County School District (ACSD), and Barnwell County Consolidated District (BCCSD) scholars have been learning valuable career and life skills at local companies and in departments within their schools.

Apprenticeships with Apprenticeship South Carolina through the S.C. Dept. of Commerce is an employer-sponsored, job-related, education program that aims to grow highly skilled employees who meet various workforce demands.

This program has two major components; supervised and specific on-the-job training provided by the employer at the workplace, and related technical instruction.

Some of the benefits to this program are educators creating classroom instruction that is relevant to business and industry requirements, employers are growing their workforce pipeline, employee shortages are decreased, and students are able to better understand local career options while developing skills for a successful career.

This year in Barnwell and Allendale counties, students have apprenticed with Swiss Krono, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), BCCSD, and BSD45. Each position teaches both soft and hard skills to help apprentices be better employees throughout their careers.

BSD45 has been in this program with the S.C. Dept. of Commerce since 2016 and started at Swiss Krono with two apprentices, and the program has since grown to 14 students and three businesses.

Joni McDaniel, the Lower Savannah Regional Workforce Advisor with the S.C. Department of Commerce in surrounding counties, welcomed students, family, educators, and the



Allendale-Fairfax High School student Arian Williams accepts her apprenticeship with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.



Barnwell County Career Center Director David Augustine, Lisa Still, and training coordinator at Swiss Krono, Todd Mankin support Swiss Krono apprentice Clifford Still at the Apprenticeship Signing.



Todd Mankin of Swiss Krono and BSD45 Principal Frank McCormack chat after the apprenticeship signing.



BCCSD student Cadence Brown and BSD45 student Michael Badger prepare to sign on as Swiss Krono apprentices.

community to the event. "Making the connection between business and education to develop partnerships ensures South Carolina's workforce will continue to be one of the best in the nation," said McDaniel.

McDaniel directed Swiss Krono apprentices through the 40-hour Microburst Employability Skills program in the industry.

"Upon successful completion student apprentices realize as an employee they are responsible for allowing the company to thrive through teamwork, critical thinking and being an overall productive employee," said McDaniel of the Microburst Employability Skills program taken in conjunction with on-the-job training.

Todd Mankin, training coordinator at Swiss Krono, detailed the benefits of this program from a business perspective at the signing. Mankin told apprentices, "because you went through these programs, you are bettering the workforce."

"Youth Apprenticeships typically require

2,000 hours of on-the-job training with a minimum of 144 hours of classroom instruction," said McDaniel.

"Apprenticeship Carolina works closely with the company to develop a program to meet the company needs. Youth Apprenticeships can be continued in an adult program with training taking place at the technical college," said McDaniel.

"The partnerships are beneficial for both parties as our scholars are able to get the real-world experience needed that extends their classroom lessons and businesses are able to train and grow a workforce that will help them achieve their goals as well," said Williston-Elko High School Principal Anthony Flowers.

"This is the future of our community," said Barnwell High School (BHS) Principal Franklin McCormack.

Before introducing Swiss Krono apprentice TyZavier Grayson, McCormack stated Grayson once referred to this program as a game changer.

This program can serve as a game changer in the

community by building the next generation of reliable employees.

"It's our obligation as a business to teach," said Mankin.

Grayson began his apprenticeship in August 2021, and shared with the crowd at the signing that this position has taught him safety skills, problem solving, and has even brought travel opportunities. Grayson visited Washington D.C. to meet with Swiss Krono officials and the former President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research, Guy Parmelin.

Grayson was also named the South Carolina Career and Technology Education (SC CTE) Work Based Learning Champion and Student of the Year for the SC CTE Lower Savannah

Region in part of his work in this program.

Apprentices at Swiss Krono and students at BSD45 are Grayson, Michael Badger, Matthew Croft, Christian Padgett, Bryce Pinkney, Dorion Sanders, and Shontavia Tyler.

Drew Platts is a BSD45 student who apprentices at SRNS alongside Allendale-Fairfax High School student Arian Williams. Platts and Williams are the inaugural participants in the apprenticeship program at SRNS.

SRNS works with local technical schools in Aiken, Denmark, Orangeburg, and Augusta to fill positions requiring a technical school degree in addition to the apprenticeship program.

According to McDaniel, many of the companies will pay for students to continue their training

and education after high school, as some industry training programs can exceed the length a student is in high school.

From Williston-Elko High School (WEHS), Cadence Brown and Clifford Still are both apprentices at Swiss Krono. Also from WEHS are Gabe Refugia and Omarion Williams, who are information technology (IT) apprentices with BCCSD.

At BSD45, Grayson Thompson is an I.T. apprentice with the school and also a student at the Barnwell County Career Center (BCCC).

Many of these individuals are students at the BCCC where they participate in courses furthering their career-ready skills.

Sanders is a Swiss Krono apprentice and a BSD45 student in the mechatronics program at BCCC, and would "like to see Swiss Krono in my future."

"I appreciate Ty, and Swiss Krono," said Sanders of Grayson and his apprenticeship.

Omarion Williams is a senior at WEHS and IT apprentice with BCCSD. The interview for his position was the first interview he had ever had.

As he grew in the position, Williams began learning from co-workers who "took the time to help me understand."

"I am grateful for the partnerships that we have been able to form with many of our local businesses to provide apprenticeship opportunities for our scholars," said Principal Flowers.

"WEHS will continue to work with Apprenticeship Carolina to continue to grow these opportunities for our scholars and bring more local industries into the program," said Flowers.

For more information about the Youth Apprenticeship Carolina program, visit <https://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com/youth-apprenticeship.html> or reach out to Joni McDaniel at (803) 378-9310.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: World Cuisine

ACROSS

1. Like popular Pad
5. Limit
8. Boozehound
11. Bring home the bacon
12. *Combine cuisines
13. Door holder
15. Between ports
16. *America's favorite cookie, according to some
17. Driver's 180
18. *Like poke bowl
20. Magician, in the olden days
21. Type of wrench
22. Campaigner, for short
23. Traditional sock pattern
26. *Southeast Asian spiky fruit, pl.
30. ____-di-dah
31. Unambiguously dotatable
34. Same as ayah
35. "That is," Latin
37. Urge Spot to attack
38. Chilled (2 words)
39. Observation point's attraction
40. *Soft and soft type of tofu
42. Ship pronoun
43. Thrusts out or causes to protrude
45. One way to steal gas
47. Without professional help, acr.
48. Energy to motion converter
50. H.S. math class
52. *Wasabi is popular in this cuisine
55. *Type of soda bread
56. g in 10 g
57. Francis Coppola's middle name
59. End of tunnel
60. Casanova, e.g.
61. In the thick of
62. Saturn's wife
63. Human limb
64. *Russian borscht vegetable

DOWN

1. *Brew from China, originally
2. *American ____ browns
3. Acroage
4. Sort of (3 words)
5. Mario or Pierre, physicists
6. Southeast Asia org.
7. Lowly laborer
8. Like a bug in a rug
9. Princess Fiona, by night
10. Square root of 100
12. Thwarted
13. SNL's forte
14. *Nationality that gave us gelato
19. Administer
22. Wound fluid
23. Not dead
24. Radices, sing.
25. *Clarified butter of Indian origin, pl.
26. *Peking fowl
27. Mennonite's cousin
28. Jack Black's Libro
29. Marlin of "Apocalypse Now"
32. Terrorist org.
33. Fat of olives
36. *Like certain meatballs
38. Tear-jerkor
40. Hag heaven
41. Posthumous typo of tax
44. Like 90 degree angle
46. Reassembled dwelling
48. Feudal dwelling
49. Poppy tears
50. Acid "journey"
51. Somis
52. France/Switzerland border mountain range
53. Not all
54. Canal in a song
55. U.N. workers' grp.
58. Banned insecticide, acr.

CROSSWORD

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Land of Scrubs opens in Barnwell

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Steven Fredette opened Land of Scrubs & Kids Wear in November 2022 to cater to the needs of essential workers in Barnwell County.

The idea for the Main Street store came to Fredette after marrying a nurse and becoming privy to the needs of scrub-wearing professionals.

"I saw how much time she spent in her scrubs and how often she was spending money on scrubs," said Fredette. "I wanted to open a business that would help essential workers."

Fredette graduated from Barnwell High School in 2005 and was excited to bring a business back to the community he spent time in over a decade ago.

Growing up in Canada, Fredette watched his mother run a foster care home for teenagers and his father work relentlessly hard. Watching

his parents led to his own entrepreneurial mindset.

Before moving to the U.S. from Canada, he too opened a foster care home. Fredette also has current business ventures near Lake Murray in Columbia where he resides.

Aside from Land of Scrubs & Kids Wear, operating a pontoon boat rental on Lake Murray, and caring for his family, Fredette is also a full-time employee for T-Mobile corporate.

Fredette's return to Barnwell came with the goal to open a business that would benefit the community.

"I had a business partner call me and say, 'You might want to put a scrub store in Barnwell,'" said Fredette, who upon doing research, agreed.

Fredette also reached out to other Barnwell alumni he knew from high school, who explained to him they were having to leave Barnwell or go online to find suitable scrubs.

"It was a need in the neighborhood," he said.



Steven Fredette opened Land of Scrubs on Main Street in Barnwell just over a month ago and hopes to become a staple in the community.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

"I want to talk to and meet everybody so we can cross promote and help build Barnwell, because Barnwell is a staple in this area."

—Steven Fredette, owner of Land of Scrubs on Main Street in Barnwell.

The only other competing locations to purchase scrubs are Walmart and Citi Trends, each of which carries

a plethora of other items not related to scrubs.

"I have direct connections with my vendors so I can give wholesale prices on quality products and offer the best prices for the best quality," said Fredette.

Fredette hopes to turn Land of Scrubs & Kids Wear into a Barnwell staple and ensure the community knows they can rely on him for their work attire.

"My main goal is to get in the community," said Fredette. To do this, he hopes to open embroidery and heat pressing capabilities to budding business owners and entrepreneurs.

Fredette currently has the needed equipment to embroider or heat press a company's logo onto their clothing of choice, and hopes to get the service established soon to be of use to the community.

"You come up with your idea, and I'll help you develop it and put your brand on clothing," said Fredette.

Fredette also has a section for local authors and artisans to sell their goods in his store that he hopes local vendors will take advantage of. This effort is to further his growing connection with the community.

Aside from scrubs, Fredette also sells a plethora of clothing for younger children from sizes 2T to 8T.

"I bring that boutique style to a smaller town, but still with great prices," said Fredette, who did not initially anticipate selling clothing but found it to be taking off.

Fredette finds the support from the community has been strong in their first month of opening, and hopes to continue this upward momentum as he gets to know more of the Barnwell community.

Land of Scrubs & Kids Wear is located at 216 Main Street, Barnwell. For more information call (803) 335-7232 or visit Land Of Scrubs & Kids Wear on Facebook.

Axis I Center thanks retiree for service



Clinical Counselor Pam Carter retired from the Axis I Center of Barnwell in December 2022. "We would like to thank her for five years of amazing service to our agency and the community. You will surely be missed and enjoy your much deserved retirement!" said Axis I Center Executive Director Pam Rush.



Land of Scrubs offers a selection of not only scrubs but also children's clothing, including Clemson and USC apparel. Contributed Photos



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Clowns: Barnwell resident seeks world record for clown collection

FROM PAGE 1A

than in movies depicting clowns creeping in sewers. Zieman keeps an eye out for clown memorabilia in every store she enters from antique stores, flea markets, thrift stores, and even Halloween novelty stores. "It's like treasure hunting, but with clowns," said Zieman, who has even painted some clowns on canvas for her grandmother.

The largest collection of clown-related items is 4,348 and was achieved by F.M. Kahn (Germany)

Nokomia Joyner (right) holds her first clown named Peewee. She now has more than 5,000 clowns (below).



in Hoogvliet, Netherlands, in April 2017, according to Guinness World Records.

Aside from clowns, she also collects Barbie dolls, but Joyner's collections are not the only thing she is known for around Barnwell County.

"People know that she collects clowns, but she's known for cooking," said Zieman. "Everyone knows if Comy cooked it, it's good."

Joyner worked on eight-hour shifts during her 15-year career at SRS and would always cook breakfast for her coworkers.

She would cook three pans of 30 biscuits, for the 16 people on her shift, and not one of the 90 biscuits would be left by the time breakfast was over.

"I always want to make things better," said Joyner.

A comfort in cooking is something that has been passed from Joyner to

Zieman, who revels in compliments comparing her cooking to that of her grandmother's. However, the fate of the thousands of clowns are yet to be determined.

"Right now, I'm going through radiation treatments. But I can't leave my family, I have to be here to fuss at them," said Joyner laughingly.

Zieman hopes she and her family can move Joyner's collection to a brick and mortar location if deemed a record by the Guinness World Records. They hope this will serve as a spot for tourism and give Barnwell County another unique namesake.

Joyner is always looking to grow her collection and with help breaking the world record. If you have clown memorabilia in need of a good home, contact Tiffany Zieman at tippyfay@gmail.com.

Officer: City of Barnwell hires animal control/code enforcement officer

FROM PAGE 1A

by dogs running at large.

Thompson finds this position with BPD to be a "change of pace" that he is looking forward to.

"Having someone available to take animal calls when needed is a big plus," said Thompson.

He hopes to "do what the community needs as far as stray animals, and take care of complaints," said Thompson.

Thompson will be handling animal complaints as well as code enforcement. While animal complaint calls make up a portion of those received by dispatch, the

"Having someone to take animal calls when needed is a big plus."

- Andrew Thompson,

the City of Barnwell's new animal control and code enforcement officer

total call volume covers a variety of matters.

Thompson's position was created to allow the officer to handle both animal-related calls and any others pertaining to code enforcement in the city.

"When it comes to animal control, we're all on a learning curve," said BPD Chief Lamaz Robinson.

With Thompson's addition to the BPD,

comes an effort to create a system to track animal-related offenders.

"Right now, we don't really have a tracking system in place," said Chief Robinson. "We have to go by somebody digging through all these reports."

Currently, the BPD has no way of tracking habitual offenders whose dogs are continually the source of complaint calls.

"With Andrew, we're

going to try and establish something, even if it's a binder in alphabetical order, we're going to have to come up with some type of tracking system so we can better track incidents," said Chief Robinson.

"We need a better way to manage these incidents," said Chief Robinson.

The dogs who attacked Hartzog were reported to BPD over ten times before they were trapped after the incident. Current city ordinances allow for three incidents to occur with an animal(s) before repercussions are taken on

the owner. Repercussions can happen in the form of a citation.

However, city ordinances are currently being revised after Barnwell County Council restructured their animal control ordinances.

"We're trying to get remotely close to it so there is no confusion in the laws," said Chief Robinson. "The city is still in the process of redoing their animal ordinances."

"We are working on them and will get something out within the next month or so," said City Administrator Lynn

McEwen.

With updated ordinances, Chief Robinson and Officer Thompson will still consider the many other factors that consist of animal control.

"When we talk about the totality of the circumstances, we can't just go get these animals without considering the shelter staff, shelter conditions, and improvement," said Chief Robinson, who hopes all aspects of animal control improve in years to come.

Although hiring an officer to handle animal control will not alleviate all of the issues animals face in the City of Barnwell, it demonstrates a start.

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AG-0003364030-01

Grateful: Business owner embraced by community after serious fall

me," said Sunil. They didn't expect to stay forever, but they now know God placed them in the small town for a reason. "Barnwell is not a little town to me anymore; it's my family," said Sunil. "I feel I'm no longer just a good citizen but am now Barnwell's son." That's because the Barnwell community has been a surrogate family to Sunil, who lost both of his parents about 15 years ago. Never making them feel like outsiders, Barnwell embraced the entire family, which was only solidified during Sunil's recent health scare. "We are blessed to be surrounded with such loving people and a great community! What better place to live and serve," said Supreethi. Sunil was raised to help other people. He's someone who many people seek out for work, advice, or help. This experience reversed that role as he was now the one in need. "This has humbled me as a person," he said.

DON'T WORRY

After he regained consciousness at the hospital, his first question was if he could go home. He knew his employees, family, and others were depending on him. "My responsibility kicked in as husband, father, and boss to my employees," said Sunil. But he had no reason to worry because everyone stepped up in his absence. "You've got to trust God to take care of things. Never doubt it, just do it," he said. The restaurant was only closed the day after the accident. The employees stepped up by taking on

extra roles in the absence of Sunil and his family, who all help out. "I'm very proud of the staff. They made sure there was no deficit," said Sunil. Mike and Amy Patel, the owners of the Winton Inn and Sunil's partners in the restaurant, also came from Charleston to help out while Sunil was out. Several other people also volunteered to work, if needed, to help ensure the restaurant stayed open. Supreethi also stepped up as Sunil's caregiver. The two have been married for 16 years but have known each other since first grade. "Most of time I've been the man of the house taking care of everything. But the last few weeks she took care of everything for me," said Sunil of his lifetime friend and partner. During his time in the hospital, someone attempted to steal items from his house, but they were not successful. The family thanks the Barnwell Police Department for their quick response. Several pipes burst at their house and also at the hotel during the freezing weather a couple weeks ago. However, his neighbors helped fix the pipe at his house while a community member helped with the hotel. "I want Jesus Christ's name, Barnwell County, and the people in the community who helped me to get the glory," said Sunil. He's also grateful to every person who prayed for him. Sunil, who is a Christian, attends First Baptist Church of Barnwell, which fervently prayed for his healing and was there for his family.



Sunil Tch and his family are grateful to God and the community for their help and love after his recent fall sent him to the hospital. He's shown with daughter Sarah, son Sam, and wife Supreethi on New Year's Day.

However, he's heard from many other churches who said they were praying for him. **WALKING MIRACLE** Sunil and his family know his medical issues could have been much worse, but they saw God's providence every step of the way. Though he can't remember exactly what he was doing at the time of the fall, Sunil thinks he was climbing a ladder to inspect something on his two-story house. He believes the ladder slipped, causing him to hit his head on the concrete. He was able to go inside where he laid down on the couch. His family soon found him bleeding and called 911. "God not only saved him during the fall but also made him get up and come inside, which

is another miracle," said Supreethi. Supreethi said she will always be grateful to everyone who reached out, especially Rebecca Jones who left her job and followed Supreethi to the hospital plus Rev. Bart Kelley for staying with her until Sunil was airlifted and then following her to the hospital. Sunil arrived at the hospital with severe head trauma. Doctors monitored him closely, worrying about brain clots and bleeding. "The medical team's job was to take care of my health, but they also made sure they were available to my family," said Sunil, who thanks all the medical team. Showing gradual improvement day after day, he eventually moved out of the ICU into a private

room. The neurologist released him from his services on Dec. 15 after a CT scan showed everything to be stable. He held long conversations with visitors Dec. 18. He is now healing at home as he works to get back to normal. On Dec. 29, Sunil returned to Augusta for three back-to-back check-ups. A hearing test revealed there was no hearing loss while a visit with the neurologist showed progress. Another specialist evaluated his facial paralysis and tests showed significant improvement. Now only three of his six nodes are impacted, whereas all six were impacted when he arrived at the hospital. "I have no control over the right side of my face, but it is better," he said. He's grateful blood-

work showed no issues or infections. He goes back in a few months for another follow-up and plans to take physical therapy. "Our God is awesome! I have witnessed God working in Sunil's life physically, spiritually and emotionally. He changed him for an even better person. God is still in miracle working business," said Supreethi. They now see the rainbow after the storm. **BACK TO BUSINESS** As his body continues to heal, Sunil is taking it easy as he returns to work to guide his team. One task that was important to him was honoring his commitment to the Cascades paper plant to host a catered meal for 85 employees on Christmas Day. The company wanted to show appreciation to employees who had to work on the holiday, and Sunil was not about to let them down. The meal went on as planned. Even from his hospital bed, Sunil was sharing plans about enlarging the restaurant and motel. Supreethi suggested he get well first before he plans anything else. Though Sunil is a business owner, he said God is the owner of his life. "Whatever I have is His - physically, mentally, and financially," he said. "All praises to God alone who confirmed with me that He has plans for Sunil and He was not done yet with Sunil. Whatever has happened, it was not meant to harm him but give him hope and future," said Supreethi, referencing Jeremiah 29:11. That future includes Barnwell's newest son working to better his community.

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Barnwell competes in Rumble on the River wrestling tournament

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

Barnwell wrestling has returned to the mats after a three-year absence. Coach William Barnes and assistant coach Rob Roth have restarted the program and have a squad that is hitting the mats hard and are ready to compete.

The Warhorses traveled to North Augusta to compete in the Rumble on the River tournament December 20-21. Barnwell was represented by Peyton Wood 106 lbs., Josh Carillo 152, Kaleb Wilson 170, Lakota Scott 195, Zah'Narie Garrett 285, and Tagan Youngblood 285.

Josh Carillo started the tournament off right for Barnwell, recording a pin just one minute into his match against a wrestler from New Hampstead High School. Lakota Scott also found an early win by pinning a wrestler from Dutch Fork High School one minute and 23 seconds into their match. Lakota lost a close battle on points 10-8, but won three straight matches defeating Aiken (F 1:00), North Augusta (F 1:00) and A.C. Flora (F 5:54) to advance to the finals of the consolation bracket.

Barnwell coach William Barnes described the amazing victory Lakota recorded to advance to the consolation finals. "The A.C. Flora

match-up was crazy because Lakota and the other guy were going back and forth. He would take Lakota down, then Lakota would escape, get him down and they were both neck-in-neck. At the end Flora was able to get some back points that put them away and separated the score to where Lakota needed a pin to win. The crazy part was the last seven seconds when Flora was in position and Lakota somehow moved his head out and found himself in a great half pinning combo and squeezed for dear life to pin the guy with three seconds left on the clock to win and advance to the consolation finals."

Lakota would lose against Airport but earned a fourth-place medal. Lakota's record was 4-2 and Josh's was 1-2. This was Peyton and Tagan's first live wrestling match.

Barnwell will travel to Edisto this Friday, January 6 and then to Pelion on Tuesday, January 10. Good luck to the Warhorse wrestling team!



Barnwell's Lakota Scott (far right) earned a 4th place medal at the Rumble on the River tournament in North Augusta.

Photo by William Barnes

Blackville-Hilda, Williston-Elko collaborate for new wrestling team

Story Contributed: BCCSD
Photos Courtesy: James Kelly

With the creation of the Barnwell County Consolidated School District, there has also been many changes to the student activities and sports that are now available for students to participate in, one of these being a brand-new wrestling team that is a collaboration between Blackville-Hilda and Williston-Elko.

According to Coach James Kelly, who is also a social studies teacher at WEMS, what brought about the team was the consolidation itself.

"It gave us the numbers and funding needed to get a wrestling program off the ground," Kelly said. "Coach Mason, Coach Lipsey, and Dr. Shaw have all been amazing and extremely receptive to the idea of a wrestling team being brought into reality."

Kelly has enough students for both a varsity and JV team. Eighteen students have formed the ranks of the BCCSD wrestling team. With the exception of one student, every member on the wrestling team is new to the sport.

"It's made the transition into the sport that much more surreal," Kelly said. "A first-year program all around, to be able to grow together with new athletes ready to learn

and grow with the program."

Indeed, students coming to the sport are having to grow and adapt, as wrestling is a unique school sport.

"Wrestling heavily relies on the individual athlete and their ability to adapt and perform under pressure, without a team to aid them," Kelly pointed out. However, he is encouraged by the prowess displayed by his team. "I have witnessed tremendous growth in the team as a whole from day one to now and they will continue to grow as the season continues on."

Kelly is optimistic about the competitions his team will face.

Their first official scrimmage was against Wagener-Salley High School and C.A. Johnson. The team "completely beat Wagener-Salley across the board in various weight classes" and won a few matches against C.A. Johnson. The BCCSD wrestling team had back-to-back matches on January 3 (after press time) with Aiken High/Bamberg/A.C. Flora at Aiken High at 6 p.m. On January 4, they will have matches against South Aiken/North Augusta/Brookland Cayce at South Aiken at 6 p.m. Kelly is adamant that his team will "...be ready for the challenge."

For the coach and middle school teacher, he is excited to be part of this piece of BCCSD's history. "I have

always been passionate about wrestling," Kelly said. "Since I myself was on a wrestling team at school and even after middle and high school and in combatives in the Army... It's been a great experience

and opportunity to start this program up and I'm looking forward to the years to come. Next year we will be looking to host home matches as well at Blackville-Hilda High School."



The Barnwell County Consolidated School District's wrestling team had a great day at Greenwood Christian School during a mock scrimmage. The two schools (Williston & Blackville) partnered together to have a group practice and hone their skills for the upcoming wrestling season.

WRESTLING SCHEDULE



Friday, Jan. 6

- Barnwell at Edisto - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

- Barnwell at Pelion - 6:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE (Boys & Girls)



Thursday, Jan. 5

- JDA at Charleston Collegiate - 6 p.m.
- Barnwell at Aiken - 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 6

- Blackville-Hilda at Wagener-Salley - 6:30 p.m.
- Denmark-Olar at Williston-Elko - 6 p.m.
- Dorchester Academy at JDA - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

- Edisto at Barnwell - 6 p.m.
- Blackville-Hilda at Denmark-Olar - 6:30 p.m.
- Wagener-Salley at Williston-Elko - 6 p.m.
- JDA at Community Christian - 5 p.m.

GA/SC BORDER BOWL X PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Jaden James, Barnwell TE/LB



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- * Versatile 2-way player
- * Big Playmaker
- * 2nd on team in tackles

BORDER BOWL X

YOU CAN COUNT ON

Barnwell Coach Dwayne Garrick- "Jaden James does more for this football team than people realize. He is a workhorse who rarely comes off the field. His value to both sides of the ball is immeasurable. He will be playing in the Border Bowl. He is wide open at practice and demands a lot from his teammates."

(Editor's Note: We will feature a different Georgia/SC Border Bowl area player each week.)



Barnwell High's Clay Pender and the South Carolina team defeated North Carolina 27-24 in the Carolina Bowl All-Star Game on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 in Gastonia, N.C.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 22 No. 5 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Elf Laundry

Help the elves sort their laundry! Draw a line from each item of laundry to the correct basket.

My Rhyme Time

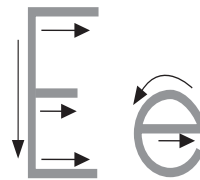
Three little kittens,
They washed their mittens,
And hung them out to dry.

My name:

Learning Buddies: Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

My Letters

E is for Elf
e is for elf



Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter E. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound that the letter E makes in the word elf?

My Numbers

How many  ?

How many  ?

How many  ?



Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.



The elf rings the



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Letter Identification With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter E in elf.	Math Play Point to the number 3 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.	Sort the News Draw three baskets – the Sports Basket, the People Basket, and the Toy Basket. Have your child look through the newspaper and find pictures for each of the three imaginary baskets. Then, try three new themes and search again.	It All Adds Up Count the pictures on one page of the newspaper. Count the pictures on another page of the newspaper. Write the numbers on another sheet of paper as an addition problem. Count how many pictures in all.	E is for Elbow Cut out lots of examples of upper and lower case Es. Have your child glue these to a blank piece of paper. Then find pictures of elbows. Glue these onto the piece of paper.	Holiday Shopping The pages of the newspaper can take you and your child on a pretend gift shopping trip. Look through the newspaper and pick out a pretend gift for your child's loved ones.	Mystery Wrap Find some objects in your house and wrap them in newspaper. Ask your child to figure out what is inside by feeling the package. Ask what clues your child used. Unwrapping solves the mystery!

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature

Date



Kid Scoop Junior comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill.

Step by Step Success 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Future welders at state's only historically Black technical college tour SRS facility

Contributed
Denmark Technical College

The Savannah River Site's liquid waste contractor has forged a partnership with South Carolina's only historically black technical college to help prepare the next generation of welders.

Students and faculty of Denmark Technical College's (DTC) welding program recently toured Savannah River Mission Completion's (SRMC) welding facilities. DTC then hosted an SRMC welding inspector at the school to speak to students and faculty in the welding program. These tours are a result of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between the organizations in July.

SRMC hosted weld-

ing program instructors and students at the welding shop in the H Tank Farm, which is a grouping of large underground waste-storage tanks at SRS. The welding shop is where all welders must be tested and certified before starting work for the Liquid Waste Program at SRS.

This onsite tour provided students the opportunity to learn more about job opportunities within SRMC, as well as networking opportunities with leadership such as SRMC President and Program Manager Dave Olson, SRMC Project and Construction Director Brandon Will, and SRMC Welding Engineer Randy Rimes.

According to Olson, the MOU is an important part of SRMC's community commitment to regional education



Savannah River Mission Completion President and Program Manager Dave Olson (right) meets with students and faculty from Denmark Technical College as they tour H Tank Farm's welding facility.

Contributed Photos

outreach.

"The partnership between Denmark Technical College and Savannah River Mission Completion benefits both organizations," Olson said. "DTC students are able

to gain real-world experience through internships supporting SRMC's welding facility."

During his visit to DTC's welding facility, Rimes reviewed curriculum with faculty,

discussed opportunities for internships and jobs with students, and examined the school's equipment to ensure the students are working on equipment that would help them at SRS.

"After more than 30 years in this trade, I'm more than happy to pass on any knowledge I can to students considering pursuing welding," Rimes said. "Working at the Savannah River Site is a great opportunity for any early-career welder. There is a lot to be learned from the way we work."

The MOU between SRMC and DTC is effective until June 30, 2023, and can be renewed.

SRMC comprises parent company BWX Technologies, Inc. with partners Amentum and Fluor. Its team brings the capabilities necessary to accelerate cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site through safe nuclear operations, optimized and integrated mission execution, and strong corporate governance.

GBMS awarded Walmart Community Grant

Contributed
Barnwell School District #45

Guinyard-Butler Middle School (GBMS) was selected to receive a \$1,000 Walmart grant for a new Warpony Printing Press.

The grant funding will go to purchasing a laser printer, toner, a thermal laminator, and other supplies for the Warpony Printing Press to implement this project. Thanks go to Ms. Henrietta Youmans-Williams, assistant principal at GBMS, for creating this proposal.

"The Printing Press allows our students and

teachers to collaborate while completing scientific investigations," shared Williams. "This grant makes it possible to create opportunities for greater future options in science and language arts."

According to the project guidelines, 8th Grade Science and English Language Arts classes will collaborate to conduct, test, and research a STEM hypothesis aligned with the 8th grade South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards. For example, they may pose the question, "How does varying the amount of force or mass of an object affect the motion (speed and direction), shape, or



Barnwell District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton and GBMS Assistant Principal Henrietta Youmans-Williams accept a check from Andrew with Walmart.

orientation of an object?" The students will then write, edit, and revise

their research findings in the Stall Wall. The Stall Wall will be placed in the restroom stalls and throughout the community for students, community members, and the faculty and staff to learn fascinating facts about their science investigations.

According to Walmart executives, "By receiving this grant, you are part of a long history of Walmart's commitment to giving back to the communities where we operate. In fact, Mrs. Helen Walton used to say 'It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.'"



"WEHS Breakfast Lady" recognized

Mrs. Chabela Washington was awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" in November 2022 for food services she provides for students at Willis-ton-Elko High School.

Her tasks include driving to the high school, unloading food to a cart, and keeping a tally of how many meals are distributed.

"Everyday she greets the students with love and makes everyone feel important. I believe the numbers of students eating breakfast has increased because of the love and concern she displays," stated the school.

Congratulations and well-deserved, Mrs. Washington!

Learning grows at MEMS

Contributed
Barnwell County Consolidated Schools

At Macedonia Elementary-Middle School, we're committed to educational excellence of our students. All students are afforded the opportunity to engage the following programs in place at MEMS to enhance their educational skills.

Save The Children Day/Evening Program

Save the Children is the leading independent nonprofit organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. Save the Children works in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure the well-being of children. Save the Children, U.S. Programs and Advocacy (USPA) has two overarching goals that go hand in hand to support children's academic success.

We want to ensure that children in rural communities where we work are socially, emotionally, and cognitively ready to enter Kindergarten and achieve proficiency in math and reading by the end of third grade. In order to



ABOVE & AT RIGHT: The Savannah River Ecology Lab visited MEMS recently to work with 21st Century Afterschool students in the school's garden.

achieve these goals, we have a continuum of services and programs in place to support children across the early childhood continuum from birth through the elementary years.

Community Partnership

The Savannah River Ecology Lab visited MEMS to work with the 21st Century Afterschool students in the school garden. The students cleaned up the garden beds and prepared them for winter harvest. They planted seeds of broccoli, kale, and cabbage.



Barnwell School District 45 named EPA Clean School Bus Program award winner

Contributed
Barnwell School
District #45

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded South Carolina funding to purchase electric buses, as part of its Clean School Bus Program rebate competition.

With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the EPA's new Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over the next five years to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models across the country. Statewide, South Carolina was awarded nearly \$59 million for clean school bus rebates which was used to award school districts

the opportunity to apply for a portion of the funding. This funding provided to South Carolina was the third highest of any state in the country. In all, the State Department awarded 16 school districts in South Carolina over 148 clean school buses. As part of the application award process, Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45) sought funding and was awarded five buses valuing \$1,975,000.

According to a recent press release from the EPA Region 4 Press Office, "EPA's investment in zero-emission school buses highlights how districts will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save schools money, and better protect children's health.



The investment will also drive demand for American-made batteries and vehicles, boost domestic manufacturing, and create good-paying jobs."

According to BSD45 Transportation Supervisor John Hilton, these new buses will help with the cost of fuel and maintenance and will also replace all of the district's remaining state buses that don't have an air conditioning

system. He also shared, "The district's Transportation Department will now have one of the most up to date fleet of buses in our area and the state."

The EPA highlights the following benefits of having electric school buses in operation:

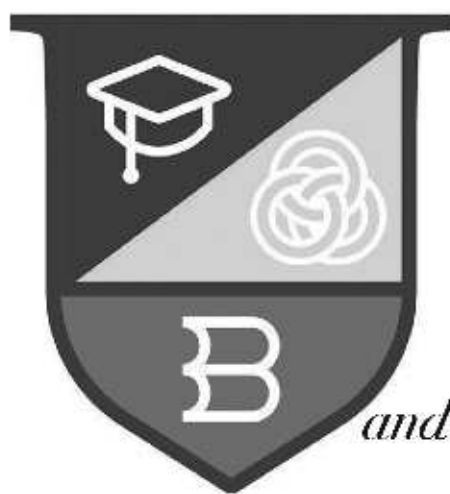
- Zero tailpipe pollution -- students, drivers, and members of the community will be exposed to significantly

less harmful diesel emissions like PM and NOX

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to diesel school buses
- Reduced maintenance costs because of less brake wear due to regenerative braking and no engine or exhaust system maintenance
- Potential for reduced fuel costs compared to diesel depending on electricity costs
- Quiet, clean operation
- Potential for fleets to partner with local utilities to feed power back into the grid when buses are not in use and electricity demand is high

"BSD45 is grateful for this award and to be a part of this new bus program. It is exciting to see what this means for students in our district and the impact it will have

statewide. It is remarkable that South Carolina received the third highest state award amount in the country, and we thank our state leaders for making this possible," shared BSD45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton. "Our Transportation Department, led by Mr. John Hilton, is an incredible team of hard working and dedicated employees. We are so grateful for what they do every day to safely transport our students to and from school, as well as many other places for field experiences and athletic events. They are absolutely amazing, and this is another step in the many improvements and additions we have made to our bus fleet in the past year."



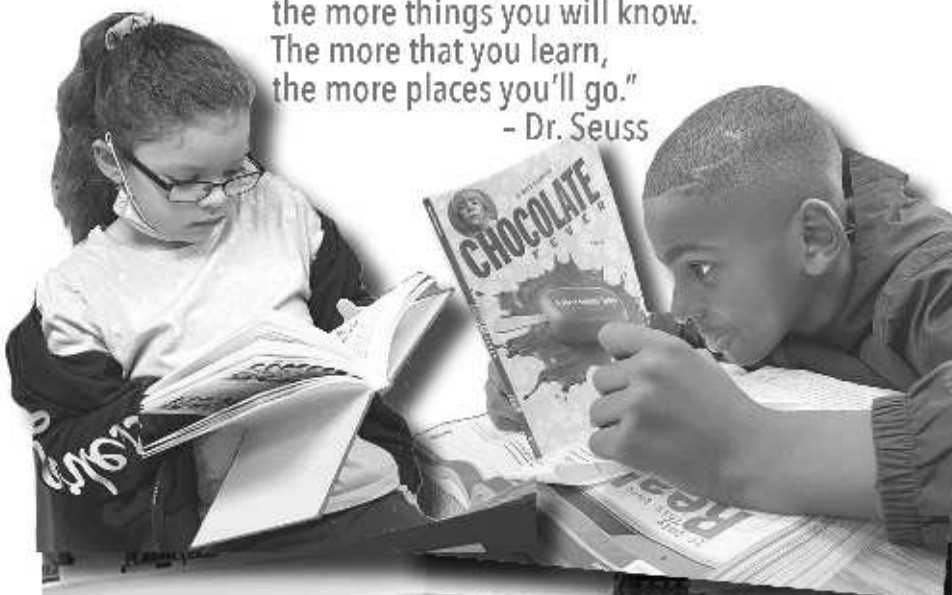
Barnwell County Consolidated SCHOOL DISTRICT

and the **The People-Sentinel**

SINCE 1852

Local News. Local People. Locally Owned.

"The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss



The People-Sentinel and the Barnwell County Consolidated School District are pleased to partner together to promote literacy.

Utilizing funding designed to enhance literacy, the school district will fund a limited number of one-year subscriptions to Barnwell County's hometown newspaper. Subscriptions will be fully funded to the first 125 BCCSD families who sign up.

Reading the newspaper is a great way for BCCSD scholars to learn the importance of reading, which will empower them for the rest of their lives. The newspaper is also a great way for scholars and their families to stay informed about important community news and events. After all, knowledge is power.

Eligibility: This offer is for current BCCSD scholars only. This is for new subscriptions only and cannot be applied to existing subscriptions. Sign up must be done by the scholar's parent or legal guardian. Subscription should be sent to the house where the scholar resides.

The deadline to sign up is January 13, 2023.

Subscriptions will run January 1, 2023 through December 20, 2023.



Sign up for your FREE one-year subscription by contacting Melissa Sanders at (803) 266-7878 or msanders@bccsd.net

Please include the scholar's name, school, address, and phone number when contacting Melissa Sanders.

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Tuesday, January 10, 2023 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games (SC1389) CAROLINA GOLD 10X (SC1354) HIT \$250

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

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LEGALS Notice to Creditors of Estates All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is Barnwell County Courthouse, Probate Court Room 108, Barnwell, SC 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Kathryn Sandifer McCormick Date of Death: October 3, 2022 Case Number: 2022 ES 06 00208 Personal Representative: Timothy L. McCormick Address: P.O. Box 513, Blackville, S.C. 29817 2022-255 3tp 1-4-23

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LEGALS Attorney: J. Christopher Wilson Address: P.O. Box 1130, Bamberg, S.C. 29003 2022-253 3tp 1-4-23

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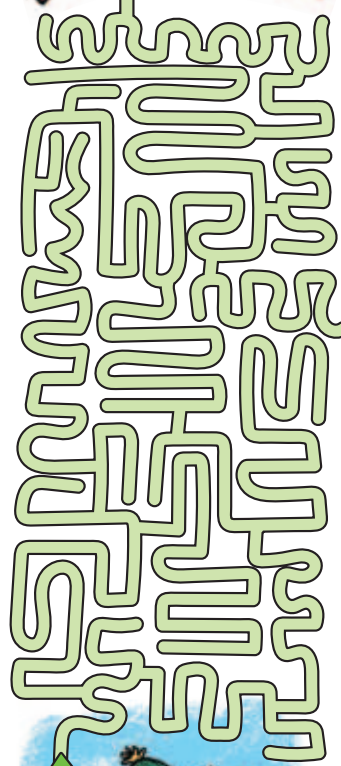
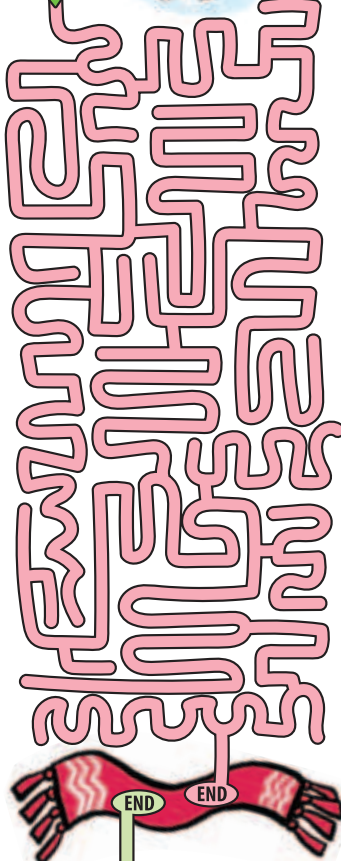


Barnwell School District 45 is hiring substitute teachers, bus drivers, and educational support professionals! Apply at: barnwell45.tedk12.com/hire or call (803) 541-3579 for more information.

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You choose one snowman. A family member chooses the other. Who can race through their maze to reach the scarf first?

SNOWMAN A



SNOWMAN B

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: PREDICTION

The noun **prediction** is a statement that something might happen in the future.

The weatherman made a **prediction** that it would rain today.

Try to use the word **prediction** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

DR. I. CICLE'S WEATHER SCHOOL

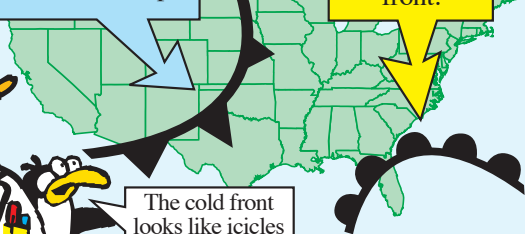
I'm puzzled, Dr. Cicle. What are cold fronts and warm fronts?



Good question, Paula! Cold fronts and warm fronts are something meteorologists—scientists who study the weather—watch to make predictions about the weather.

Here's how meteorologists show a cold front on a map.

This is how they show a warm front.



The cold front looks like icicles on a string!

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students understand how to read a weather map.

Oh no! A cold wind blew my display about weather fronts all apart! Luckily, I numbered each sentence. Do the math problem on each piece. Then use the answers to put the sentences in order from the smallest number to the largest.

8+7=
Cold fronts move quickly and can bring storms and even hail. But the storms won't last long.

4+3=
The sun's heat warms the air. Some parts of the world get warmer than others. These differences in temperature make the air move, causing weather to change.

20-8=
This cools the warm air, and if there is moisture in that air, it condenses and forms drops that fall as rain or snow.

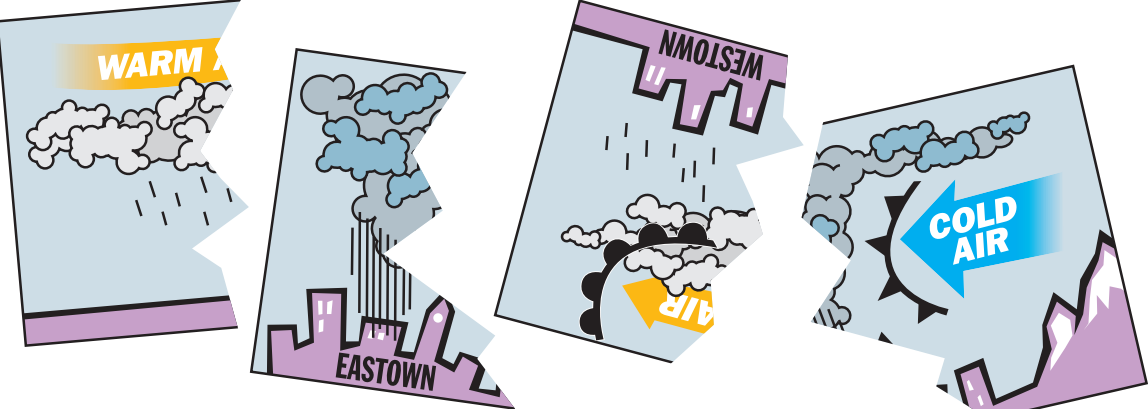


19-3=
A "warm front" moves slowly. If the air is moist, dark clouds will form and it may rain or snow for days.

6+3=
A "cold front" happens when a cold air mass pushes the warm air up.

17-9=
When cold and warm air masses meet, they don't mix. They form a front.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Students compute sums and differences, order numbers from least to greatest.



Extra! Extra!
Cool Division
Search through the newspaper for the following numbers:
• Numbers divisible by 2
• Numbers divisible by 3
• Numbers divisible by 5

Standards Link: Number Sense: Students know rules of divisibility.

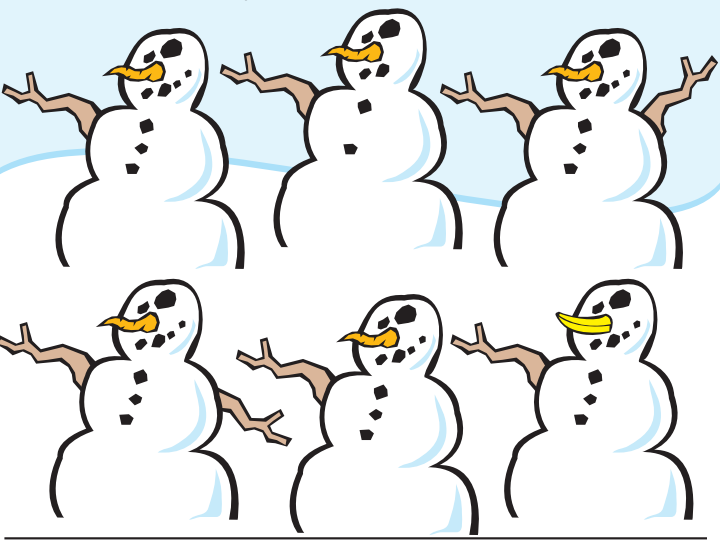
Help Paula Predict the Weather

Look at the two weather puzzles. Which town is most likely to have stormy weather? Use the cold front and warm front symbols to help you predict.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students understand that weather can be observed and predicted; different conditions affect different results.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Chill out while you find the two identical snowmen.

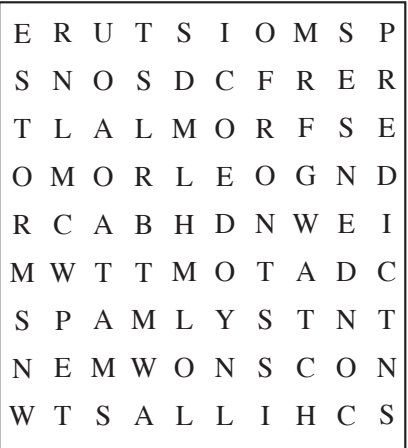


Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Double Double Word Search

- WEATHER
- FRONTS
- SYMBOLS
- CONDENSES
- STORMS
- SNOWMEN
- WARM
- WATCH
- MOISTURE
- CHILL
- COLD
- MASS
- LAST
- LONG
- PREDICT

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Weather Watchers

Look through the newspaper for three people and/or companies who need to watch the weather to make decisions. For example, outdoor games can be canceled if the weather is bad. Tell how the weather can affect each of the weather watchers you selected.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know the effects of changes in the weather.

What song do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?

ANSWER: Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow.

Write On! Crazy Weather

What would you do if it started raining cats and dogs?



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