



Barnwell native  
invited to NFL  
Combine,  
Sports, B2

Doreatha Gillis-  
Bishop celebrates  
108th birthday  
Society, A6



# The People • Sentinel

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## Murder suspect denied bond

Alexandra Whitbeck &  
Jonathan Vickery  
Staff

Many individuals were sentenced at the Barnwell County Courthouse during general sessions court for charges like murder, disseminating harmful material to a minor, and possession of a stolen vehicle.

Here is a recap of the cases seen between Monday, January 23, and Thursday, January 26.

### Shooter denied bond

**Brandon Jamar Davis**, 34,

of Salley, was denied bond for charges in the June 2022 shooting of Trevor Sumpter, 25, of Barnwell.

In the days following the shooting and Sumpter's death, Davis turned himself in to the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) and was charged with murder, unlawful carrying of a pistol, and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

"We are asking you to consider a bond not only on the circumstances, but on the fact that Mr. Davis has been incarcerated since shortly after this

happened," said Chief Public Defender Wallis April Alves to presiding Judge Courtney Clyburn Pope.

At the bond hearing held at the Barnwell County Courthouse on January 25, the factual basis of the case was presented by the prosecution and defense.

Around 3 a.m. the night of the shooting, an argument broke out on Bomba Street in Barnwell after a party. The argument originated between others at the party but both Davis and Sumpter became involved.

According to witness state-

ments presented by the prosecution, a handful of witnesses saw Davis shoot Sumpter multiple times after the two men began arguing.

Some witness statements detail Sumpter leaning over to set his drink down and as he rose Davis began firing. Other witness statements detail Sumpter placing a hand on his gun before being shot by Davis in self defense.

Second Circuit Deputy Solicitor David Miller and Chief Public Defender Alves detailed the many witness statements and

the other individuals involved such as Garry Floyd, who was charged with obstruction of justice for leaving the scene of the crime with Sumpter's gun after he was shot.

In 2013, Davis was sentenced



**Brandon Jamar Davis**

See COURT, 12A



The S.C. Regional Housing Authority #3 was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the S.C. Department of Labor to bring YouthBuild: A New Direction to Barnwell and Bamberg counties. The YouthBuild team from left to right: Bartel Boone, Jorge Jimenez, Shanice Willingham, Melinda Hernandez, and Donna Roberts.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

## New program seeks to build local youth

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
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The South Carolina Regional Housing Authority #3 was awarded a \$1.5 million grant by the Department of Labor to bring the Youth Build program to Barnwell and Bamberg counties.

YouthBuild is a program with an international reach focused on serving out of school youth from ages 16 to 24 who aspire to better their lives and communities through education, career development, learning transferable skills, and much more.

The program in Barnwell and Bamberg counties is called A New Direction, and the team brought together to run the program hopes it can be just that for the region's future leaders.

"We believe that this is a life changing event, and that is where the name comes from; A New Direction to Build a Better Tomorrow. We want to help them to make a change in their lives so they can take direction," said Melinda Hernandez, YouthBuild director.

For six months, participants will be working toward obtaining a GED, a National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) certification,

becoming a certified nursing assistant (CNA), becoming forklift certified, gaining an entrepreneurial mindset, learning practical skills, and eventually building affordable housing. Participants will receive a stipend during this program.

For two weeks, participants will go through mental toughness to determine if they are fit for the YouthBuild program by showing up on time, participating, and being actively engaged.

The next six to ten weeks will be understanding the NCCER construction manual, learning safety skills, and how to use the tools and equipment. For the rest of the program, participants will be on construction sites in the county building affordable housing units.

According to Hernandez, the education component of this program will take up to 60% of a participant's time whether it is working on their GED or construction training.

The grant will sustain the program for three years and aims to serve a total of 84 individuals at minimum. Although A New Direction only needs five participants to begin the six-month program, they hope to enter their first session with 21.

Interested applicants must have a form of identification to apply. The candidates considered

first are those low income and/or without a GED or high school diploma. Applicants may also have an income barrier, an incarcerated parent, be an ex-offender, in the foster care system, a migrant farm worker, or be deficient in basic skills to be eligible.

"This program, A New Direction, is going to help the person develop themselves and make them a viable part of the community," said YouthBuild Career Navigator Bartel Boone.

Two buildings were put together to create an intuitive and comfortable space that would allow participants to get the most out of the program.

Even the navy blue and deep orange painted on the walls were chosen specifically as these colors are found to promote positivity and productivity respectively in studies of color theory.

"Shanice had picked out the colors because she does color theory to make it live, bright, and visible," said Hernandez.

Although the Ellenton St. location in Barnwell is not yet fully furnished, the dedicated team is already hard at work making a program and developing a culture that will cultivate young leaders.

"The difference between our

See YOUTHBUILD, 11A

## 'Modified' school calendar includes early start, more breaks

Jonathan Vickery  
Publisher  
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Barnwell County's public schools could operate on a modified calendar next year.

The Barnwell School District (BCCSD) boards approved the shared calendar during their January meetings. The 2023-24 school year calendar will include an earlier start date, more breaks, and extra remediation days for students.

"Part of the argument for a modified calendar is the impact it will have on student achievement," said District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

State law states school districts are not supposed to start classes before the third Monday in August, unless operating on a year-round modified calendar. That's why Barnwell County's two districts are seeking approval from the S.C. Department of Education for students to return on the first Monday - August 7.

"We are hoping for approval," said Dr. Stapleton. "There's a shift in how people are looking at calendars. More modified ones are being approved."

Dr. Marcella Shaw, interim superintendent for BCCSD, said 21 districts across the state are currently operating on some type of modified calendar with 11 more starting next year. Some of these districts are going year-round, but all are modified in some form to include an earlier start date and intercessional breaks.

One motivation to start earlier is so students finish the first semester before Christmas.

Under the modified calendar, the 90th day for Barnwell County's students next year would be Tuesday, Dec. 19, which would be the last day of classes before the two-week Christmas break. Traditionally, the first semester wraps up in early January, which means students must retain everything they learned before Christmas

"Part of the argument for a modified calendar is the impact it will have on student achievement."

- District 45 Superintendent  
**Dr. Crissie Stapleton**

once they return from break to take exams.

"This will allow scholars to have a fresh start," said Dr. Shaw.

The modified calendar also includes more breaks scattered throughout the year, which was a suggestion of the District 45 Teacher Forum.

"That will have a big impact on staff morale and students too," said Dr. Stapleton.

With October being a rough month and COVID causing many teachers to feel burned out, Dr. Shaw said a two-day fall break from Oct. 19-20 will be a "good retention tool and boost for morale."

A winter break is scheduled for Feb. 20-21, following the President's Day holiday on Feb. 19. Some students and employees will also be off Feb. 22-23, which are scheduled as intercession days.

"We will look at students who need the most help," said Dr. Stapleton of the two intercession days that will provide "intense small group instruction."

"During our intercession days, scholars will be invited to attend for attendance recovery, credit recovery, content recovery, remediation, small group instruction, individualized learning, etc. based upon our January 2024 data sets," said Dr. Shaw.

Once the districts determine how many students will attend the intercession days, the superintendents said they will determine how many employees are needed. Since these two days are outside of the required 180 days of instruction, employees will not be mandated to work. Those who choose to work will be paid extra.

See CALENDAR, 2A

### WHAT'S INSIDE

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Sports      | 1-2B   |
| Education   | 8A     |
| Kid Scoop   | 8A, 6B |
| Calendar    | 3B     |
| Classifieds | 4-5B   |
| Puzzles     | 7A, 3B |

### OBITUARIES, 7A

**William C. "WC" Collins** - Barnwell  
**Jared Scott Ferguson** - Aiken  
**Mary Alice Jones** - Barnwell  
**Mrs. Thelma Murray** - Williston  
**Adam MicKensie Scott** - Myrtle Beach  
**Conrad Lenny Starke** - Jackson



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# BCSO lieutenant nationally recognized for outreach

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com



Barnwell County Sheriff Steve Griffith (right) presents Lt. Eric Kirkland (left) the Excellence in Community Engagement Award that he received from LAW Publications for his efforts with the 2022 Law Expo.

Contributed Photo

Lieutenant of Community Relations Eric Kirkland of the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has been awarded by a nationally recognized publication for orchestrating the 2022 BCSO Law Expo at Veterans Memorial Park.

"To be recognized or acknowledged for doing something you absolutely love is a feeling I cannot describe, but to know your efforts have, from our little town of Barnwell, gained you such a huge honor is absolutely wonderful," said Lt. Kirkland.

The Excellence in Community Engagement Award presented to Lt. Kirkland by LAW Publications is given to a law enforcement officer who continuously and relentlessly goes above and beyond to serve their community.

"I'm just proud of him, very, very proud," said Sheriff Steve Griffith.

In 2021, BCSO was awarded with Community Event of the Year for that year's Law Expo as a department, but Lt. Kirkland was personally recognized for his role in bringing it to fruition this past year.

"The creation of Expo in year one was to give the community an opportunity to engage with law enforcement and view the equipment used. It was also a unique way of letting the community see law enforcement in a positive way instead of categorizing all of us by the actions of some," said Lt. Kirkland.

"The second year, we expanded our expo to include community or-

ganizations, churches, businesses from far and near, colleges/universities, and nonprofits," said Lt. Kirkland. "This gave the community an opportunity to engage with law enforcement and take advantage of resources right then and there."

After the Law Expo received the Community Event of the Year award, Lt. Kirkland sat down with LAW Publications' Megan Drye who writes, "1st Sergeant Kirkland, and the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office clearly represent a force that is built with levels of respect, strength, empathy, loyalty, and a never-ending pursuit of excellence."

The Law Expo is a large, annual event of the BCSO, but Lt. Kirkland and Sheriff Griffith are creating innovative ways to connect with the community year-round.

Storytimes in McDonald's, Stuff-a-Bus toy giveaways, and Dessert with a Deputy are only a few of the events Lt. Kirkland has orchestrated for the benefit of the community.

December 2022's Stuff-a-Bus event stands out to Lt. Kirkland due to all the families who were able to celebrate Christmas because of it.

"We were able to help so many people that really needed it and the community supported our efforts with awesome participation," said Lt. Kirkland.

Sheriff Griffith and Lt. Kirkland have known each other since early in their law enforcement careers and share a passion for developing the best possible relationship with the community.

"I've known him since he was a young man," said Sheriff Griffith. "When I first started in

law enforcement a long, long time ago. His uncle was actually one of my first supervisors on the road, and of course Eric would come around to see his uncle."

Although he grew up around Barnwell County's law enforcement, Lt. Kirkland went on to serve in Orangeburg and as an investigator in Lexington.

"He and I always talk when he'd come home, and I always tried to get him to come back, door was always open," said Sheriff Griffith. "He called me one day and he said, 'I'm ready to come home.'"

At the time Sheriff Griffith was Chief Deputy, and Lt. Kirkland began sharing his ideas of how the department can better engage with the community with events such as the Law Expo.

"When I got elected, my three goals were to

work on the drugs and the gangs, to start a public relations unit, and to try to get the people back with law enforcement like it used to be," said Sheriff Griffith, who then approached Barnwell County Council asking for a permanent public relations unit which was approved.

"That's when we pulled him off the road, put him in public relations, and the rest is what it is," said Sheriff Griffith. "I'm just proud of the overall job that he's done, and nobody is more deserving of that award than Lieutenant Kirkland. He is just like family to me. I just hope as long as I'm around, I hope he stays with me."

"This honor that has been bestowed on me is awesome, but I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Barnwell County and our community partners for

supporting our events and programs," said Lt. Kirkland. "Sheriff Steve 'Grits' Griffith for having enough faith and trust in me to allow me daily to engage with this community and neighboring everyday with 100 percent support."

Lt. Kirkland continues to thank "the BCSO team for their hard work and efforts in ensuring that in their perspective roles, they place the citizens of this county first."

"Lastly, my mother (Peggy) for her long struggle that came with many sacrifices and bumps along the way," said Lt. Kirkland. "I thank God daily for many things including allowing her to see her work was not in vain."

Lt. Kirkland is planning this year's Law Expo with the help of the criminal justice students at the Barnwell County Career Center and the entire BCSO team.

"We are fortunate and making great strides in creating positive relations with our youth. They are eager and desiring to work with us and we absolutely love working with them," said Lt. Kirkland.

Lt. Kirkland leads each day in this community remembering a quote from Muhammad Ali: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

"Serving the citizens of this county in the role that I was given allows me to do just that and I consider that an esteemed honor," said Lt. Kirkland.

To read more about BCSO's dedication to their relationship with the community, visit [www.lawpublications.net/post/barnwell-county-sheriffs-office-leading-with-heart](http://www.lawpublications.net/post/barnwell-county-sheriffs-office-leading-with-heart).



## Secret Santa helps over 300 children

Volunteers sort donated toys in the Hagood Gym. The Rotary Club of Barnwell County's 2022 Secret Santa program served more than 300 children countywide thanks to the generous support of the community who purchased toys totaling over \$23,000.



## CORDER'S CREATIVE CORNER

### Poems from a hopeful romantic

David B. Corder  
Contributing Writer

Goddess of the spellbound night.

Let me kiss the nymph by the burbling brook.

Let me feel the beating of this long dead heart.

For Romance has died, The curtain fallen on the tragedienne Like the shroud of night.

Cold zephyr awakened my senses

To a forgotten dream of sanity

Left next to the grave of black roses.

But let the dream die, and have my heart beat again.

#### Awakening Dawn

Can you feel this cold chill Of an awakening dawn?

As its alpenglow light beams through the trees Onto these frosty fields.

I place the memory in your hand.

It's the season of love. In two weeks' time, lovers will be exchanging chocolates, roses will be falling from the sky, and I'll be celebrating Single's Awareness Day. But being the Hope(ful) romantic that I am, I wanted to use this time to share some love poems that I have written.

However, don't expect to see hearts blooming in a halo around your head as you read these. Love can be a painful endeavor after all. However, that's one of the reasons it's so worth celebrating.

I hope you enjoy the poems.

#### Give Me Ardency

Eros! You have eluded me for so long. Oh, witness my frailty For I have no one to love me.

Nyx! Give me ardency!

The one you told me that you couldn't stand

For me To keep.

And keep it, I wish I would, For it would be all that remained

Of our love.

But you deny me even the remembrance Of what we had.

So with newborn sunlight On your eyes

I relinquish all I have Left of you

Under the apricity Of the Winter Sun.

To learn more about David, visit his website at [cordersbookcorner.blogspot.com](http://cordersbookcorner.blogspot.com) to read short stories and other articles, as well as sign up for his monthly newsletter! Or email at [dbcorderwriter@gmail.com](mailto:dbcorderwriter@gmail.com).

## Calendar: Barnwell County's schools seek early start for 2023-24 year

FROM PAGE 1A

District leaders also hope employees will use the extra breaks to schedule their medical appointments, rather than on regular school days. This will help with the substitute shortage, said Dr. Shaw.

Spring break is April 1-5, following the Good Friday holiday March 29.

The last day of classes will be Friday, May 24, meaning the year is finished before Memorial Day. This will also be graduation day for all three public high schools.

Both districts met with various stakeholders prior to the boards voting.

"We met with the District Teacher of the Year, the Teachers of the Year, the school level Teacher Advisory Council members, and Parent Advisory members to fully explain the calendar. Overwhelmingly, teachers gave this a thumbs up," said Dr. Shaw.

"I don't know any teacher who would not like this calendar. I might want to go back to work," said D45 Board Chair Rosey Anderson, a retired educator and coach.

Many districts across the state are moving to year-round calendars, but Barnwell County's districts

are not ready to do so.

"We don't want to jump into that," said Dr. Stapleton.

D45 board member Rhett Richardson said he thinks most people favor year-round school, but he opposes it because he thinks teens should work during the summer. However, he is in favor of this modified calendar.

"We would like to be somewhere in the mix," said Dr. Shaw. She believes having a balance will make them more competitive for prospective employees.

Now, the districts wait for approval from the state.

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# 2023

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## Homemaker's Column

### Discard Spoiled Canned Foods Safely



Christine Patrick

County Extension Agent

were not used for the size of the jar, style of pack, or kind of food processed.

- The proportions of ingredients were changed from the original approved recipe.
- The processing time and pressure were not correct for the altitude at which the food was canned.

Contact with botulinum toxin can be fatal whether it is ingested or enters through the skin. Be extremely careful not to splash or come in contact with the suspect food or liquid. Wear disposable rubber or heavy plastic gloves. Wear clothes and aprons that can be bleached or thrown out if contaminated.

#### Step-by-Step Instructions for Detoxification:

- Carefully place the jars, with their lids, on their sides in an 8-quart, or larger pot or canner.
- Wash your gloved hands thoroughly.
- Carefully, without splashing, add enough hot water to the pot to completely cover the jars with at least 1 inch of water above the containers.
- Place a lid on the pot and heat the water to boiling. Boil for 30 minutes to make sure the food and containers are detoxified.
- Cool and discard the containers, their lids, and food in the trash or dispose of them in a nearby landfill.

#### How to Clean Contaminated Surfaces:

- Wear rubber or heavy plastic gloves to clean up contaminated work surfaces and equipment, including can openers and clothing that may have come in contact with suspect foods or liquids.
- Use a fresh solution of 1 part unscented, liquid, household, chlorine bleach (5 to 6% sodium hypochlorite) to 5 parts clean water.
- Spray or wet contaminated surfaces with the bleach solution and let stand for 30 minutes. Avoid inhaling bleach or contact with skin.
- Wipe treated spills with paper towels and place paper towels in a plastic bag before putting them in the trash.
- Apply the bleach solution to all surfaces and equipment again, let stand for 30 minutes and rinse.
- Wash all detoxified counters, containers, equipment, clothing, etc.
- Discard gloves when the cleaning process is complete.

If you plan to freeze or can any vegetables this summer, contact your local Clemson University Extension Office for the most up to date methods of preservation.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, and is an equal opportunity employer.

Home food preservers need to know what to do if a jar of food spoils or was improperly processed. Foods must be processed properly to kill bacteria that cause foodborne illness. High-acid foods like fruits and jams must be processed in a water bath canner to prevent molds and yeasts from spoiling them. Low-acid foods, such as vegetables, meats, and seafood, must be processed in a pressure canner to prevent the formation of the deadly toxin that can cause botulism.

Don't taste or use canned foods that show any sign of spoilage! Look closely at all jars before opening them. A bulging lid or leaking jar is a sign of spoilage. When you open the jar, look for other signs such as spurting liquid, an off odor, or mold. Spoiled canned foods should be discarded in a place where they will not be eaten by humans or pets.

All suspect containers of spoiled, low-acid foods, including vegetables, meat, seafood, and tomatoes, must be treated as having produced the toxin that causes botulism and handled carefully in one of two ways:

- If the jars or cans are still sealed, place them in a heavy garbage bag. Close and place the bag in a regular trash container or bury it in a nearby landfill.
- If the jars or cans are unsealed, open, or leaking, they should be detoxified before disposal.

Improperly canned, low-acid foods can contain the toxin that causes botulism without showing signs of spoilage. For this reason, jars of foods that have not been properly processed must be discarded, or if they are unsealed, open, or leaking, they must be detoxified and discarded as explained above, even if there are no signs of spoilage. Low-acid foods are considered improperly canned if any of the following are true:

- The food was not processed in a pressure canner. (Make sure you have a pressure canner and not a pressure cooker. Small pressure cookers are not intended for use as pressure canners and may not process foods safely.)
- The gauge of the canner was inaccurate. (Dial gauge canners must be checked for accuracy every year. Contact your local Extension office to have your gauge checked.)
- Up-to-date researched processing times and pressures

## 2022 in Review and a Preview into 2023



Congressman Joe Wilson  
January 23, 2023

Last year continued to be a hardship on American families. Under the irresponsible policies of Biden and the Democrat-led Congress, the country experienced 40 year high inflation affecting prices on everyday goods and services, dramatic rises in illegal aliens crossing the Southern border, greater threats to national security from foreign adversaries, a lack of energy independence due to an intentional war on domestic production, and other areas of concern.

However, as troubling as 2022 was, there were many positive and welcomed Congressional achievements that I am grateful to have either introduced or supported that became reality. Here are some highlights:

- Rescinded the COVID 19 vaccination mandate on all active and reserve component servicemembers.
- Passed the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Improvement Act to help ensure military children receive seamless educational opportunities when transferring between states.
- Reversed Biden's disastrous cuts to military readiness and

modernization priorities preventing our military from being shortchanged as they balance the Global War on Terrorism with increased threats from war criminal Putin and the Chinese Communist Party.

- Accelerated support for the modernization of our nuclear triad by providing full funding for the missions of the Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility.

- Reauthorized authority for the Department of Defense to support U.S. law enforcement to counter the flow of narcotics, human trafficking, and transnational criminal organizations including cartels.

- Passed school choice funding, including for the Charter Schools Program, making a meaningful educational difference in children's lives across the country.

- Authorized \$91.6M for South Carolina military construction projects at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Shaw Air Force Base, and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

- Continued funding for the deployment of the National Guard to the Southern U.S. border.

The country needs to return to a position of strength and families need relief.

Therefore, with the knowledge that the new Congress will now have a House Republican majority, I was particularly grateful to have begun the new year by touring the district and

promoting the legislative agenda for 2023.

Joined by city and county officials along the way, with stops in West Columbia, Aiken, North Augusta, Barnwell, and Orangeburg, I shared my key areas of focus that will help deliver results for South Carolinians and the American people.

The following is a sampling of my priorities this year:

- Promote fiscal responsibility by reducing government spending and frivolous programs.
- Limit IRS overreach targeting families and businesses by eliminating funding for 87,000 agents.
- Boost domestic manufacturing to help small businesses grow and create jobs.
- Encourage domestic energy production and independence.
- Continue to advocate for current and future missions at the Savannah River Site.
- Protect TRICARE benefits and sustain the quality of life for military families and retirees.
- Deter economic and military threats from Putin, the Chinese Communist Party, the Iranian regime, international terrorists, and other aggressors.

Much remains to be done and I will continue to work hard to keep us all safe, promote jobs, and help make our lives and communities stronger.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of South Carolina's Second District.

Joe Wilson is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives serving South Carolina's 2nd District.

## Better Business Bureau

### Tips for Trusting Your Tax Preparer



Kelvin Collins  
Better Business Bureau

Most people get help filing their taxes, either from computer software or a professional tax preparer. In addition, some filers may have questions regarding new tax laws and their impact on their personal taxes. But horror stories in the media about tax service rip offs and scams have some consumers concerned about who they can trust with their financial data and private information.

A paid tax return preparer is primarily responsible for the overall, substantive accuracy of your tax return(s). If there is a problem with your return or you are audited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the tax preparer can help you address the issue and can often represent you. The preparer is required to sign your tax forms (paper or electronic) and provide their preparer tax identification number (PTIN), a number assigned by the IRS.

Better Business Bureau advises taxpayers to be extra cautious when choosing a tax preparer, since that person or company will have access to your personally identifiable information (PII). Here are some BBB tips to help you find a tax preparer you can trust.

**Get Referrals.** To find a tax preparer, start by asking friends

and family for recommendations, then check BBB Business Reviews at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). Look beyond the letter grade; complaint details and Customer Reviews will tell you about others' experiences.

**Make sure they are properly registered.** A tax preparer must obtain a PTIN from the IRS. Never let someone work on your taxes unless they have this number. Don't be afraid to ask about this or other qualifications; a capable professional does not mind questions.

**Look for credentials.** Anyone with a PTIN can prepare your tax forms for you, but some tax preparers have more training and qualifications than others. Enrolled agents, certified public accountants (CPAs) and attorneys have unlimited rights to represent their clients to the IRS on all matters. Other preparers can help you with forms and simple IRS matters, but are limited otherwise, and they can't help you if they didn't prepare your form. Learn more about tax preparer credentials on the IRS website.

**Keep a watchful eye for promises.** Be wary of any tax preparation service that promises larger refunds than their competition and avoid tax preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the refund. Also be wary of "refund anticipation loans," which can take a hefty chunk of your refund in commission. Refunds are processed quickly these days, so it's a better bet to just wait for the real thing rather than pay a premium to get it now. Refund Anticipation Loans also created some delays for many individuals receiving stimulus payments within the last year.

**Search for free tax programs.** There are several free government programs that prepare taxes free of charge if you meet an income requirement; go to the IRS's Free File page for more information. Most will also file your state return as well. If not, check with your state's Department of Revenue to find out about their programs.

**Tax Software and Apps.** If you plan to file yourself, use tax software or an app that provides both excellent data security and good customer service. Some of the top names in tax prep software are BBB Accredited Businesses, so check with [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) first.

New tax laws can help create confusion that dishonest preparers will capitalize on, so taxpayers should always review their return before signing, ask questions on entries they do not understand. Also be sure to get a copy of the return for your records. Finally, do not ever sign a blank tax form or one filled out in pencil!

For more trustworthy consumer tips, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).

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 local BBBs 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 clarity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4777, Web site: [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) or E-mail: [info@central-georgia.bbb.org](mailto:info@central-georgia.bbb.org)

## DEAR EDITOR

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN ABOUT BARNWELL COUNTY?

MAIL TO:  
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P.O. BOX 1255  
BARNWELL, SC 29812

THE PEOPLE-SENTINEL 803.259.3501

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Letters, limited to 800 words, may be sent to:

Letters to the Editor  
The People-Sentinel

P.O. Box 1255, Barnwell, SC 29812

by Fax: (803) 259-2703

by E-mail: [news@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:news@thepeoplesentinel.com)

or by form e-mail on: [www.thepeoplesentinel.com](http://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.

**Carlissia Monique Austin**, 27, of 245 Brooks Pine Drive, Apt. 10207,

Columbia, was arrested on January 20, 2023 by Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Furnishing Contraband to a Prisoner. Austin was booked and released to Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

**Tyrese Badger**, 23, of 265 Walnut Street, Allendale, was arrested on January 29, 2023 by BCSO for Unlawful Carry of a Pistol and Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute. Badger was booked and released to BCDC.

**Keyona Jackson Bostic**, 34, of 2688 Patterson Mill Road, Barnwell, was arrested on January 25, 2023 by the BCSO for Unlawful

Conduct to a Child. Bostic was booked and released on bond.

**Jarvis Devonte Brown**, 21, of 53 Dry Branch Road, Aiken, was arrested on January 6, 2023 by Barnwell Police Department (BPD) for Unlawful Carrying of Weapons. Brown was booked and released to BCDC.

**Daylan Terrell Dickerson**, 21, of 13364 Hwy. 3, Blackville, was arrested on January 19, 2023 by BCSO for Unlawful Carry of a Pistol, Possession of Marijuana, and Open Container. Dickerson was booked and released to BCDC.

**Travis Ryan Downs**, 38, of 1408 Sensation Road,

Rock Hill, was arrested on January 17, 2023 by BCSO for Possession of Meth. Downs was booked and released to BCDC.

**Kimberly Bianca Dyches**, 21, of 375 Beech Road, Olar, was arrested on January 6, 2023 by the BPD for Shoplifting. Dyches was booked and released to BCDC.

**Justin Lamont Green**, 28, of 43 McKenzie Lane, Barnwell, was arrested on January 25, 2023 by BCSO for Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute. Green was booked and released to BCDC.

**Tyler Jamal Harden**, 21, of 11135 Burlon Ferry Hwy., Allendale, was ar-

rested on January 29, 2023 by BCSO for Unlawful Carry of a Pistol and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Violent Felon. Harden was booked and released to BCDC.

**Larry Priestler**, 21, of 245 Canna Street, Barnwell, was arrested on January 13, 2023 by BPD for Simple Assault. Priestler was booked and released to BCDC.

**Randy Sanders**, 45, of 4570 Easy Street, Orangeburg, was arrested on January 20, 2023 by BCSO for Unlawful Communications and Harassment. Sanders was booked and released to BCDC.

**Bleese Murray Stan-**

ley, 71, of 2989 Hwy. 278, Barnwell, was arrested on January 16, 2023 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Child Support. Stanley was booked and released to BCDC.

**John Henry Williams Jr.**, 55, of 2675 Red Oak Road, Barnwell, was arrested on January 29, 2023 by BCSO for Malicious Injury to Property. Williams was booked and released to BCDC.

**Nicholas Lashawn Worthy**, 44, of 255 Corley Avenue, Barnwell, was arrested on January 17, 2023 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Child Support. Worthy was booked and released to BCDC.

### Notice



**SOUTHEASTERN**  
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**Holly Hill Complex** at Cribb Street, Holly Hill, SC

**North Complex** at Palmello Ave., North, SC

**Allendale Complex** at Bluff Road, Allendale, SC

**Blackville Complex** at Hampton Ave., Blackville, SC

**Branchville Villa complex** at Branchville Lane, Branchville, SC

**Denmark Gardens Complex** at Milmosa Avenue, Denmark, SC

**Fairfax Boundary Complex** at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

**Williston West Main Complex** at West Main Street, Williston, SC

**Barnwell Arms Complex** at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

**Bamberg Villa Complex** at Race Street, Bamberg, SC

**Hampton Gardens Complex** at W. Holly Street, Hampton, SC

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## Mind Matters: Seeing red? Reach out for help



**Dr. Greg Smith**

Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health

I picked out a capsule for the coffee flavor I wanted that morning before work, inserted it in the machine my wife had bought as a gift for me, and waited for the light to turn solid white so that I could push the button to begin the brewing process.

I had done this dozens of times, it was always reliable, and I had every expectation that soon I would have a nice hot cup of coffee as I always did. I was surprised this time to see that the light did not turn reassuringly solid white, but a menacing, pulsing, flashing red.

What is this, I thought to myself, annoyed. What is this disruption in my routine, and how do I fix it and move on? I checked the water reservoir and filled it up, I took out one pod and replaced it with another, and I even

unplugged the machine and plugged it in again, all to no avail. There it was, flashing red, telling me that something was wrong, but I could not figure it out on my own. Off I went, resolving to ask my wife for help in figuring out this problem when she returned.

Switch gears to a book I'm currently reading called "The Good Life" by Robert Waldinger MD and Marc Schulz PhD, which discusses in detail the longest-running study of happiness anywhere. This study was started in 1938 at Harvard University and has added participants from the initial group's families and has been a gold mine of data on what makes and keeps us happy. A vignette in that book talked about two women, both of whom found small lumps in their breasts. The first woman, frightened by what the finding might mean, decided to deny the issue, not mention it to her husband or her children or friends, and did not go to the doctor to have this finding evaluated. The second woman, feeling the same unease about what she had felt, decided to speak with her husband and her children, and then decided to immediately book an appointment with her doctor for diagnostic testing. Both women had cancer. The second woman embarked on a long but suc-

cessful course of therapy that ultimately saved her life. The first woman, who waited until she felt ill to seek medical attention, developed more advanced cancer and died.

We often get small clues, red lights if you will, letting us know that something is wrong with our coffee makers, our physical health, or our mental health. Sometimes these clues are mere annoyances. Sometimes they can literally put us on a course of action that will save our lives. Sad mood, irritability, changes in appetite or sleep, difficulty concentrating, problems at work, isolation from others, suicidal thoughts, all can be flashing red lights that let us know that we need to pay attention to something that is not going well and that may get worse. We ignore these warning lights at our peril. Now I realize that not everyone needs formal mental health evaluation and treatment but consider this.

The 1938 Harvard happiness study has found that the one specific thing that we can change or encourage or pay attention to that will make our lives better across the board is to foster, encourage, and nurture our relationships. That's it.

If, no, when your life hands you a problem that is trivial or insurmountable and you simply cannot handle it on

your own, reach out to family, friends, coworkers or whoever is in your social support system. Express your concerns and fears, no matter how much you fear that you will be a burden or a nuisance. Test reality against a trusted advisor's take on the problem. Should you act, or are you overreacting? Should you see a counselor, your family doctor, a psychiatrist?

For trivial problems like my malfunctioning coffee maker, it is merely a matter of solving the problem and moving on. My wife figured out that I had inadvertently thrown an inner plastic storage bin in the machine away as I was emptying the spent pod receptacle. She retrieved it, put it back in its place, and voila, white light and perfect coffee. For the two ladies above, one used her support networks, got good advice, entered treatment, and lived. The other was not nearly so fortunate, as she died from a potentially treatable cancer.

For you, continuing to see a red flashing warning sign could mean months of depression, anxiety, or even a feeling that life is no longer worth living if you do not seek help. If you experience any of these warning signs of physical or mental illness, do not stare at the red flashing light wondering what is wrong.

Reach out. Get help. Live.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration & Elections will conduct a Special Election for the City of Barnwell on **Tuesday, March 21, 2023** to fill an unexpired term of City Council District #5. This is a nonpartisan election and no party affiliation shall be placed on the ballot.

The early voting period for this election begins Monday, March 6, 2023 and ends on Friday, March 17, 2023. The following early voting center will be open during the early voting period from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed on Saturday, Sunday, and any holiday).

**Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office,  
367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC**

Precincts involved in this election are Barnwell #1, and Barnwell #2. Polling places for this Special Election will be held at the National Guard Armory, 10233 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell, SC.

Persons desiring to be candidates for the above listed office may file with the **Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections Office** located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC. Books will be open for filing on January 23, 2023 at Noon and remain open until February 3, 2023 at Noon. There will be a filing fee of \$25.00 for the office of City Council. Persons desiring to vote in this election must be duly registered on the County Books of Registration as an elector and a resident of the municipality, not less than 30 days prior to the date of election. The last day to register to vote for this municipal election will be **February 21, 2023**.

To register to vote in Barnwell County or update your address and/or other voter registration information, please visit the office of the Barnwell County Registration & Elections at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Citizens with a current and valid S.C. Driver's License or DMV ID Card can register to vote and update their address online at sevotex.gov.

The polls shall open at 7:00 a.m. on Election Day and close at 7:00 p.m. At 9:00 a.m. on Election Day, the Barnwell County Election Commission will begin examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes. This examination will be held at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC.

On Thursday, **March 23, 2023** at 10:00 a.m., the Barnwell County Election Commission will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all ballots challenged in this election at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC.

Any run-off will be held two weeks after the election on Tuesday, **April 4, 2023**.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BARNWELL

Notice is hereby given that the School Trustee Election will be held on April 11, 2023. Two seats will be filled in Barnwell School District #45. Any person wishing to register to vote in this election must do so no later than March 11, 2023. Districts #19 and #29 have been consolidated and will **not** be included in this election.

The early voting period for this election begins Monday, March 27, 2023 and ends on Friday, April 7, 2023. The following early voting center will be open during the early voting period from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed Saturday, Sunday, and any holiday).

**Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office  
367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC**

Citizens desiring to be a candidate for the above listed offices must file a Statement of Intention of Candidacy with the Barnwell School District, 770 Hagood Avenue. Books will open for filing Friday, January 20, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. and close Friday, February 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the locations designated below.

At 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 2023 the County Board of Canvassers will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes from the School Trustee Election at the Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Road, Barnwell, SC.

On Friday, April 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all ballots challenged in this election. The hearing will be held at the Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Road, Barnwell, SC.

The following precincts and polling places will be involved in this election:

- Barnwell #1, #2, #3, and #4 will vote at the National Guard Armory, 10233 Marlboro Ave.
- Elko will vote at the Elko Fire Station, 10077 Hwy. 78
- Friendship will vote at the Friendship Fire Department, 3391 Green Branch Rd.
- Kline will vote at the Kline Town Hall, 1031 Kings Ave.
- Ililda will vote at Ililda Town Hall, 35 Railroad Ave.
- Snelling will vote at Snelling Town Hall, 30 Morris St.
- Williston #2 will vote at Williston Town Hall, 13112 Main St.

Subscribe to the newspaper. 803-259-3501

## BIRTH



Asher William Griffith was born on December 4, 2022.

### Asher William Griffith

Dylan and Alexis Griffith of Martin are proud to announce the birth of their son, Asher William Griffith.

He was born on December 4, 2022 at 5:48 p.m. at Piedmont Hospital in Augusta, Ga. He weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Ms. Michelle Bozard and Mr. Michael Schumpert of Elko and Mr. and Mrs. Jamey and Elizabeth Bozard of Denmark.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Melanie Griffith of Barnwell.

Great-grandparents are Ms. Becky Bozard, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby and Patricia Chavis, Mrs. Iris C. Powers and the late Ed Powers, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Charles "Charlie" and Dorothy J. Griffith, the late Mr. William H. Thigpen Sr., and the late Mr. James "Jimmy" Allen Bozard Sr.

## PruittHealth Barnwell earns U.S. News & World Report's Best Nursing Homes Award

PruittHealth - Barnwell was recently recognized as a Best Nursing Home for 2022-23 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The center earned this designation by achieving a rating of "High Performing," the highest possible rating, for Long-Term Care.

*U.S. News* only gives the designation of Best Nursing Home to centers that satisfy the publication's assessment of the appropriate use of key services and consistent performance in quality measures.

"I am incredibly proud of our team's work to deliver exceptional service to our patients. We are honored to be recognized by *U.S. News and World Report*," said Mary Anne Jamison, administrator at PruittHealth - Barnwell.

The Long-Term Care designation is based on *U.S. News*' assessment of nine quality measures focusing on staffing, medical outcomes, and care processes, to name a few. Out of the more than 15,000 nursing homes *U.S. News* evaluated, PruittHealth - Barnwell was one of 1,103 homes to meet the criteria for the prestigious "High Performing" rating in the Long-Term Care category.

For more information about PruittHealth, visit [PruittHealth.com](http://PruittHealth.com).



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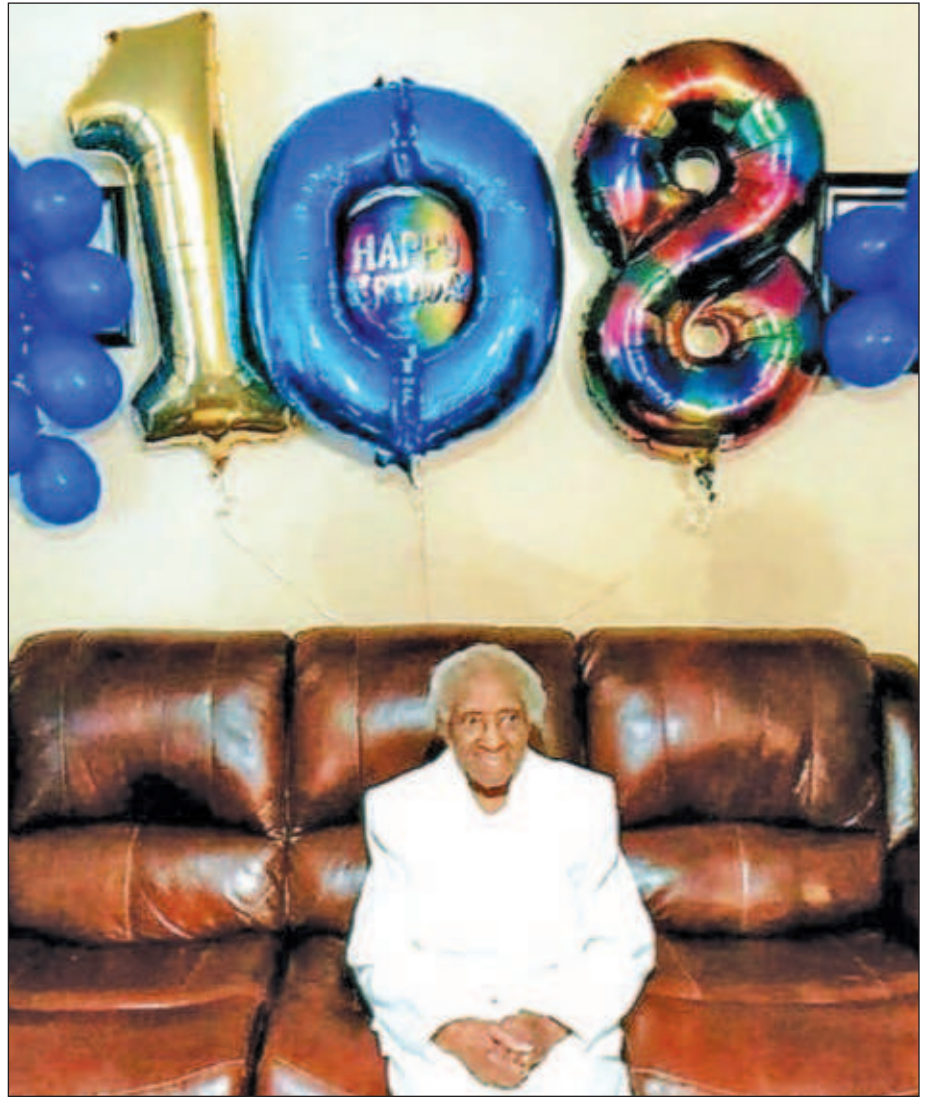
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**RNs, LPNs  
& CNAs  
NEEDED**



## BIRTHDAY



Doreatha Gillis-Bishop smiles for her photo on her 108th birthday on Dec. 20, 2022.

### Doreatha Gillis-Bishop celebrates 108th birthday

A lot has changed in 108 years, but Doreatha Gillis-Bishop's love for God and family has never wavered.

The long-time Barnwell resident celebrated her 108th birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 with friends and family at her daughter's home in Barnwell. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner and birthday cake. She was entertained with Christmas carols.

She is a member of Great Cypress Missionary Baptist Church of Barnwell where she is mother of the church and the oldest member. She is also the oldest member of Pride of Barnwell, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter #77 (Prince Hall affiliation) in Barnwell, as well as the St. John Benevolent Society in Barnwell.

Bishop was born on Dec. 20, 1914 to the proud parents of Lucy Ellen Davis-Gillis and Daniel Alexander Gillis in Old Ellenton (Aiken County). She was so small at birth her father nicknamed her "Doll Baby".

Her siblings called her "Kisser". She was the eighth born of ten children. She is the only sibling living.

As a child growing up, she picked peas, beans, peaches, and cotton, and cut asparagus. She



Doreatha Gillis-Bishop

also watered the cows, mules, and hogs, and fed the chickens, guineas, ducks, and turkeys. She would bring in firewood and water for her mother to cook. They did not have running water, an indoor bathroom, or electric lights.

She attended Butler School, which was a small board school lo-



Family and friends enjoyed birthday cake during a celebration of Doreatha Gillis-Bishop's 108th birthday on December 20, 2022 in Barnwell.

cated on the same site it is today. The principal was Mr. James Butler. She walked five miles in the cold and rain to go to school. Her parents wanted their children to get a good education. She married Blake

Bishop Sr. on December 5, 1936. They had seven children: Richard, William, Annie Mae "Anne", Blake Jr., Willie Lee, Willie Mae, and Maryann. Richard, Blake Jr., and Willie Mae are deceased.

Blake and Doreatha worked very hard on the farm for many years until their children graduated from Butler High School. Some of the siblings left for better work in the north, some went to college, and some joined the military.

After they stopped farming, she worked at Barnwell County Nursing Home for many years as a nursing assistant.

When she was younger, Doreatha enjoyed cooking, gardening, making lye soap, quilting, canning vegetables, and entertaining her family that

came down from Jersey City, N.J., Brooklyn, N.Y., Temple, Texas, Boston, Massachusetts, and Augusta, Ga. She loves cats and flowers. Her favorite color is blue. She loves mankind and believes in sharing. She believes in the finish work

that Jesus Christ did at the cross for all mankind.

She still lives in the same home that she and her late husband built in 1963 on Turner Street in Barnwell. She reads *The People-Sentinel* newspaper every week.

Her motto: "Have faith in God. It is better to give than to receive. You can change your friends, but not your family."

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# Obituaries

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

The People-Sentinel

7A



## Mary Alice Jones

on January 16, 2023 at her residence.

Mary Alice joined the Jordan Baptist Church at an early age and remained there as a faithful member until her health failed.

Mary attended Butler High School and retired from Barnwell County Hospital after working 38 years. She was a quiet, mild tempered, caring person and went above and beyond for those she loved. Mary was a devoted and beloved mother, grandmother, and sister. She had a love for cooking and shopping.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, James Edward Jones and Joe Nathan Jones; and one sister, Ellen Jones.

She leaves to cherish her loving memories: one son – Charles Jones Sr.

(Olenphia) and one daughter – Shashonda Jones, both of Atlanta, Ga.; eight sisters – Louise Jacobs, Dorothy Devoe, Ethel Odom (John Thomas), Helen Jones, Lovette Love (Tommy), Gloria Brown, Rose Mckethan (Edward) and Doris Green, all of Barnwell, S.C.; two sisters-in-law – Carolinda Underwood Jones and Emma Jones; three grandchildren – Tiffany Jones, Charles Jones Jr., and Taylor Jones; three great-grandchildren – Ethan Pullins, Madison Jones and Carter Kemp; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and sorrowing friends.

Guinyard and Sons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

The People-Sentinel  
2/1/23



## Mrs. Thelma Murray

Center, Aiken.

The Home Going Celebration for Mrs. Thelma Jean Murray was conducted on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 1 p.m. at St. Peter Baptist Church, 7110 Bay Street, Elko, S.C. 29826, with Reverend Anthony Gadson officiating. Burial was in the St. Peter Memorial Garden. Visitation was on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service. Masks

were required.

Family and friends may call the residence of her husband, Mr. August Murray, 128 Bing Section Road, Williston, S.C. 29853, or Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service, 13188 Main Street, Williston, S.C. 29853, (803) 266-7808.

Sign the online guestbook at [www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com](http://www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com).

The People-Sentinel  
2/1/23

BARNWELL - A memorial service for Mary Alice Jones of Barnwell was held at 12 p.m., Saturday, January 21, 2023 at Jordan Baptist Church, Barnwell. Due to the pandemic and CDC regulations, social distancing and other guidelines were in place.

Mary Alice Jones was born on April 26, 1942 to the late Rosa and Willie Jones in Barnwell. She transitioned from this life, into the presence of God,

WILLISTON - Mrs. Thelma Jean Murray, 56, entered into eternal rest on Monday, January 23, 2023, at Aiken Reginal Medical



## William C. "WC" Collins

Beaufort spending time on the water; boating, fishing, and shrimping. He loved to cook for people! WC and Emily also enjoyed motorcycling with friends and spending time at the lake in Santee. He was a generous friend, always ready to lend a helping hand, and many times an extra helping to their plate.

Funeral services for WC were held on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 2 p.m. in the Mole Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Bart Kelley officiating. The family received guests for visitation at 1 p.m. and the service began at 2 p.m. Burial followed in Barnwell County Memory Gardens, located at 2728 Reynolds Road.

WC is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years,

Emily Goodwin Collins of Barnwell; and his two children, Chad Goodwin Collins of Bluffton and Amy (Guy) Caskey of Columbia; and one grandson, Boone Edens Caskey. He is also survived by his brother, Benny (Melanie) Collins of Williston, as well as many nieces and nephews.

WC was predeceased by two sisters, Polly Sanders and Peggy Collins, as well as one brother, Danny Collins.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial contribution can be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell assisted the family. Sign the online guestbook at [molefh.com](http://molefh.com).

The People-Sentinel  
2/1/23



## Conrad Lenny Starke

ginia, he was a son of the late Willie Leonard Starke Jr. and Irene Hatch Starke. He attended True North Church in North Augusta and was an absolute 100 percent Christian man. He graduated in 1985 with a Master Construction Craftsman degree. Lenny worked for University Hospital as a project foreman for 34 years. He had his HVAC certification, was a certified electrician, and a good mechanic.

Survivors include his sons, Jeffrey D. Faircloth (Amber Furr) of Swansea, S.C. and James Callan of Grand Rapids, MI.; daughters, Cynthia Callan of Grand Rapids, MI, and Nicole Otten of Heyward, Calif.; grandchildren, Jordan Callan, Jeremiah Callan, Earline Callan, Elijah Moxley, Emanuel Otten, Ella Otten, Neo Faircloth,

Marina Faircloth, Lucas Callan and Natalii Callan; sisters, Karrene (Greg) Hindman of Williston, S.C., Leah (Steve) Moseley of Aiken, S.C. and Ruth (Nolan) Woodfin of Powhatan, VA; brothers, Willie Leonard (Denise) Starke III of Gum Spring, VA, and John (Susan) Starke of Lawrenceville, VA; a number of nieces and nephews; and a close friend, Deborah Hourdin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Isaac Starke Sr., a sister, Sarah Lynette Starke, and a nephew, Sergio Villalobos.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc. and Crematory is assisted the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at [www.folkfuneralhome.com](http://www.folkfuneralhome.com).

The People-Sentinel  
2/1/23

BARNWELL - William C. "WC" Collins, 70, passed away early Sunday morning, January 22, 2023.

WC was born in Orangeburg County on March 14, 1952 to the late LC and Gladys Collins. WC retired from Savannah River Site after nearly forty years. As a young man he was very athletic and enjoyed football and baseball. He had many hobbies, including golf, fishing, and riding motorcycles. Most family outings were spent in

JACKSON - Funeral services for Conrad Lenny Starke, 62, of Jackson, were held at twelve o'clock noon, Saturday January 28, 2023, in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston, with the Reverend Steve Davis officiating; burial followed in the Williston Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Saturday.

Lenny passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Born in Richmond Vir-



## Jared Scott Ferguson

Medical Center. Jared was born at 9:16 p.m. and met the eyes of Jesus at 10:46 p.m. the same day.

Jared was the son of Aaron and Rebecca Ferguson of Aiken. He is survived by his brothers, Jesse and Jacob Grubbs of the home; his paternal grandfather, John Ferguson of Augusta, GA; maternal grandparents, Gregory and Martha Shugerts of Blackville, S.C.; his aunt, Kimberly (Blake) Ellis of Clayton, N.C.; his uncle, Jason Ferguson of Grovetown, GA; first cousins, Morgan and Luke Ellis and Kayley and Isabelle Ayer.

He was preceded in

death by his grandmother, Donna Ferguson.

Jared gave us a lifetime of love during his short time on earth. He will forever be missed.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Springfield Cemetery, Springfield, S.C. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Folk Funeral Home, P.O. Box 367, Williston, S.C. 29853.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc. and Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at [www.folkfuneralhome.com](http://www.folkfuneralhome.com).

The People-Sentinel  
2/1/23

AIKEN - Jared Scott Ferguson, a handsome baby boy with blue eyes and reddish-brown hair, weighing 2.8 lbs. and measuring 13.5 inches. Jared passed peacefully surrounded by his parents, brothers and family on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at Augusta University

## Adam Mickensie Scott

Adam Mickensie Scott, 23, of Myrtle Beach, died on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

A celebration of Adam's life will be held at 1 p.m.

on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 at Burroughs Funeral Home, 3558 Old Kings Hwy., Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576. The family will re-

ceive friends at the funeral home Friday, Feb. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Full obit will be published Feb. 8.

| CROSSWORD |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- Without further \_\_\_\_\_, pl.
- Sweet 16 gift
- Steps to the river, in India
- \*Michael Bublé's "\_\_\_\_\_ the Last Dance for Me"
- Bigger than big
- Nonkosher
- Big-ticket one
- October birthstone
- \*#5 Down's target
- \*Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine's Day predecessor
- Make over
- Omit
- Hexagonal fastener
- December birthstone, pl.
- Most gemütlich
- Ed.'s request
- Two dots above a letter
- Brussels org.
- Church recesses
- \_\_\_\_\_ or chicken?
- Encourage (2 words)
- What hoarders do
- He crossed the Rubicon
- Jet follower
- English county courts, in the olden days

**DOWN**

- "Clueless" catch phrase
- \*Get-together
- End of a break-up phrase
- Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
- \*Winged one
- September stone
- Bank on
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ card
- Not tails
- '70s hairdo
- Sylvester, to Tweety

**THEME: Valentine's Day**

- Wholism, alt. sp.
- Monotonous hum
- Intestinal obstruction
- "Wayne's World" catchphrase
- Japanese port
- Necklace clasp location, pl.
- Affirmatives
- \*Kisses' partners
- National emblem
- Type of weasel
- BBQ tool
- Pasturelands
- Accompanies wisdom?
- \*a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady
- \*Muse of love poetry
- Large edible mushroom
- Long-legged shore bird
- Regions
- Bummed about
- Bell's invention
- Laurels
- Homesteader's measure
- Active one
- Soap block
- Hokkaido language
- Small amounts
- Formerly, formerly
- \*Romantic destination

## Three WEHS students graduate early



Williston-Elko High School Principal Tony Flowers congratulates (from left) Drevonia White, Christian Peeples, and Mary Bryant for graduating early.

Contributed Photos

In January 2023, Williston-Elko High School had three seniors that graduated early - Mary Bryant, Christian Peeples,

and Drevonia White. "These students have worked hard from the time they entered as freshmen until they graduated as

seniors. It is because of their diligence and the help of the faculty and staff of the high school that these students were

able to succeed. While there were bumps along the way, these students stuck it out and became graduates of Williston-

Elko High School," stated a press release from the school. "We know that you will go on to bigger and better things!"

These scholars will have the opportunity to return in the spring to march at graduation with the Class of 2023.

## 'Angels' make Christmas bright at MEMS

Macedonia Elementary-Middle School celebrated the Christmas season with a variety of activities.

Students in Pre-K-8th participated in the virtual Christmas program under the direction of music teacher Xavier Whitfield. Christmas Spirit Week happened the week December 12-16.

The Angel Tree Project sponsored by the school counselor department and office staff was once again a great success.

"Thanks to all our community partners and staff. There were many smiling faces on Christmas morning in several homes," stated the school.

The parenting department is elated to report that several families were gifted with full



"Santa Smalls", aka Macedonia Elementary-Middle School Principal Eryl Smalls, took photos with students before Christmas.

Christmas meals from very dedicated Blackville-Hilda alumni. Also,

several students will be rewarded for their level of significant gains on

the iReady assessment by dedicated Blackville-Hilda alumni.

## WEHS announces 1st semester honors

### A/B Honor Roll:

**12th:** Quadre Anderson, Rebecca Bolen, Tamara Corley, Jason Edwards, Morgan Givens, Aurora Helsley, Gabriel Hosey, Valerie Hutto, Gabriel Nieto, Christian Peeples, Brittney Savage, Brian Sexton, Katilyn Simmons, Jarrett Wootten

**11th:** Janeli Allen, Ayden Curtis, Laney Fox, Riley Jefcoat, Na'Kiya Mercado, Peyton Rimes, Tyra Stroman

**10th:** Namair Anderson, George Barrett, Seth Dorn, Emily Harvey, Kayleigh Heath, Abigale Joyce, Alissia Sims, Avery Trottie

**9th:** Samelea Baxley, Jaretzy Cortez, Jakeran Cuthbertson, Jayden Dash, Natalya Dulyea, Jaida Houston, Faith Norton, Tylan Parker, Steven Reed, Annelise Sanders, Landyn Sims

### Principal's List (All A's):

**12th:** Cadence Brown, Samantha Cannon, Sahra Ditto-Williams, Adrianna Houston, Alexis James, Jada Sims

**11th:** Nathan Causey, Reese Collins, Jondalyn Dunbar, Tatum Miller, Kaitlyn Redd, Clifford Still, Emerson Turner, Crystaisha Williams, Gracyn Williams

**10th:** Z'Naira Brabham, Sidney Mason, Aiden Moses, Gage Perry, Markasia Reed, and Jada Wilson

**9th:** Timothy Jameson, Tra'Niya Josey, Hailey O'Neal, and I'Yana Robinson

### Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

### My name:



Vol. 22 No. 9

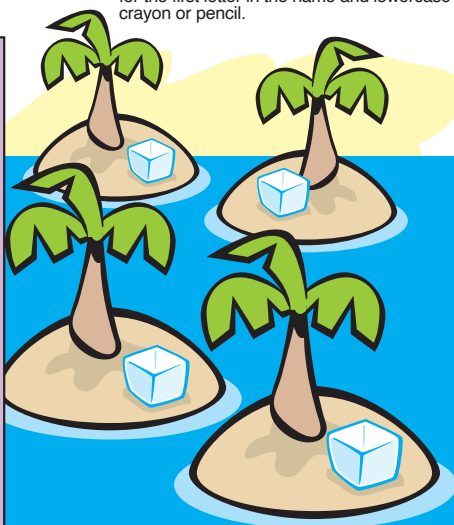
© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor

Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

**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.

### What's between?

Write the number that comes between.



### My Rhyme Time

If all of the sunbeams  
Were bubble gum and ice cream,  
Oh what a life I would lead!  
I'd stand outside  
With my mouth opened wide;  
Oh what a life I would lead!

### My Letters

I is for Ice Cream

i is for ice cream

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

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the I sound like the word ice cream?

### My Numbers

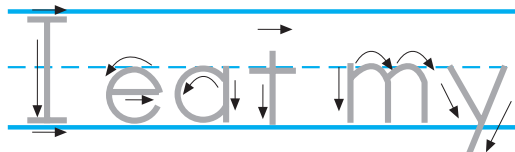
How many ice cubes?

How many islands?

**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.



### Sunday

**Letter Identification**  
With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter I in the word ice cream.

### Monday

**Math Play**  
Point to the number 4 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

### Tuesday

**Classifying**  
Ask your child, "What color is chocolate ice cream? Strawberry? Vanilla?" With your child, find pictures of things in the newspaper that are the same color as these flavors of ice cream.

### Wednesday

**Big I, Little i**  
With your child, find every uppercase letter I on one page of the newspaper. Draw a small circle around each one. Then try to find a lowercase letter i for each uppercase letter I. Draw a line to connect the letters.

### Thursday

**What's between?**  
Show your child the page numbers on the pages of the newspaper. Point out the numbers on two pages that are only one page apart, for example, pages 3 and 5. Ask your child, "Which page comes between page 3 and page 5?"

### Friday

**Find Four**  
Look through the newspaper to count and circle:  
• 4 noses  
• 4 eyes  
• 4 mouths  
• 4 tummies  
• 4 knees

### Saturday

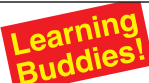
**Ice Cream Cone Toss**  
Roll a section of the newspaper into a cone shape and tape it. Then wad another sheet of paper into a ball. Put tape around the ball so that it holds its shape. Have your child try to catch the ball in the cone.

**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.



**BLACK RESILIENCE: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

# BLACK HISTORY

## TELLING HERstory

DEANNA DELOACH COHEN | LILLIAN CARTER LAWTON | HELEN AIKEN STONEY | EVA MAE FIELDS | MATTIE BERRY DRAYTON | ANNIE MAE JONES BUTLER | MATTYE L. THOMPSON

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

JAMES BRANDT BUILDING, 398 BARNWELL ROAD  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

SPONSORED BY ALLENDALE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## “Black Resilience - Past, Present, and Future: Telling HERstory”

**Anne Rice**  
Allendale County  
Historical Society

Join the Allendale County Historical Society for its annual meeting to celebrate Black History on Monday, February 13 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the James Brandt Building (398 Barnwell Road, Allendale).

The event will showcase the unique voices of seven extraordinary Allendale County women - their profession, contribution, personal drive, and impact on the Allendale community at large.

“Black Resilience has

taken many forms throughout history, and what better way to recognize such strength, than through the eyes of individuals from our own community who have not only walked the walk, talked the talk, and exhibited action that clearly attest to their significance,” said Anne Rice, president of the Allendale County Historical Society.

Sarah Bing, chairperson for the event, explains that *Telling HERstory* is relatable and a wonderful tribute to women of our community who helped shaped many lives through their

commitment to education, entrepreneurship, workforce, civil and human rights, and equity”. She further stated that, “*Telling HERstory* may not include women of national notoriety, yet their mark on the history of Allendale is profound. Celebrating their contribution honors my history, your history, our history, Allendale’s history, and America’s History.”

*Telling HERstory* chronicles the life of seven extraordinary women of Allendale County - educators Lillian Carter Lawton, Eva Mae Fields, Mattie Berry Drayton, Deanna Deloach Cohen,

Mattye L. Thompson; entrepreneur Annie Mae Jones Butler; and nurse Helen Aiken Stoney. The event will highlight their remarkable journey and time spent serving the residents of Allendale. Each determined to be the difference that was effective in each young life they touched. *Telling HERstory* features role play exercises intended to engage participants in actual situations and scenarios of each woman, assuming their character and acting out real-life circumstances that are often considered stressful, unfamiliar, complex, and controversial.

“*Telling HERstory* defied expectations during a time of limited resources, access, and conformity. Fortunately, the women featured did not adapt, nor abandon their pursuit of excellence, and for that, we are all the better,” proclaimed committee member Nora Bassett.

The role play will be followed by a dynamic discussion panel on what committee members are calling “The Allendale Effect.” The discussion gives voice to a variety of educational and enrichment activities planned throughout the month of February, and all year

long, to integrate and further explore significant historical figures and associated events of Allendale County, led by LaKonda Bing, local radio personality and co-founder of L&A Entertainment. All are invited to participate in this lively discussion as we acknowledge the contributions of Allendale residents throughout history.

To learn more about the event and the Allendale County Historical Society, contact Anne Rice at (803) 259-6147 or [annerice47@icloud.com](mailto:annerice47@icloud.com) or Rachael Sharp at [rachaelsharp@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelsharp@gmail.com).

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Council for Allendale County will conduct a public hearing relating to “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ALLENDALE COUNTY AND PROJECT TREAD; THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN ALLENDALE COUNTY IN A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK; THE PROVISION OF CREDITS AGAINST FEE IN LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS; THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SUCH DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE INTENT OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

The hearing will be held at the Allendale County Courthouse, J.W. Wall, Jr. Council Chambers, 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, SC 29810, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on February 16, 2023. At the time and place fixed for this public hearing, all taxpayers, residents or other interested persons who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the matters contemplated by the Ordinance. Any persons wishing to submit written comments may submit them to PO Box 190, Allendale, South Carolina 29810, no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 10, 2023.

In compliance with ADA/ Section 504, Allendale County is prepared to make accommodations for handicapped individuals needing special assistance. Special assistance requests should be made to the County Council Office at (803) 584-3438 seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

## Jason Lee Cook to perform February 18 in Allendale

**Laura J. McKenzie**  
Contributing Reporter

Jason Lee Cook will be in concert in Allendale in February sponsored by the Allendale Rural Arts Team (ART).

The country music artist and his band will perform at the Carolina Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 18. Admission is free but a \$5 donation at the door will be appreciated to support the arts in Allendale County.

Cook considers his music as “southern rock, gospel, folk and a little bit of rock and roll.”

Cook is the recipient for “Tour of the Year” by the Carolina Country Music Awards. He is also a gold winner for “U.S. Male Vocalist of the

Year” from the International Singer Songwriters Association.

“My mission as a singer/songwriter is to provide an escape for the world we live in,” said Cook. “I want to sing and write songs that speak to your heart and take you on a soulful journey.”

“My hope is, that in the end, you will feel enlightened by the message and be reminded that life is truly a blessing.”

The event is being supported in part by USC Salkehatchie and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

The Allendale Rural Arts Team is a non-profit organization supporting the arts in Allendale County.

The Carolina Theatre is located at 425 Main Street North in Allendale.



Jason Lee Cook will perform a concert in Allendale on February 18.

Contributed Photo

## Longing for your voices, just one more time

**Weesie Fickling**  
History Correspondent

Isn't it something how time has a way of simply slipping right on by?

Growing up in Barnwell more often than not, the old ladies (most likely in their early forties) would say over and over, "The older you get, the faster time passes." Mercy, but they were telling the truth! Now at eight decades plus one year, life's slope has become a reality in comparison to an Olympic skier having launched from the hillsides of Lillehammer. 2022 took flight all too soon; far too quickly.

Interestingly enough, this quote from Billy Graham suffices: "I was speaking at a university, and afterward the students were invited to ask questions. I'll never forget the question one student asked: 'What has been the biggest surprise of your life?' Almost without thinking, I replied, 'The brevity of life.'"

So here we are January 2023, refusing to accept the fact that the count of our birthday candles will curtail some of our adventures going forward. Let's be positive while leaning heavily upon our faith and taking one day at a time. I choose to pray without ceasing, giving thanks for almost everything. William Lyon Phelps captured my personal zest for life when writing: "Grow old eagerly, triumphantly."

Ever so recently, far too many of my personal family/friends have made their exits from this place. Their absence has taken a toll upon my heart. You see... we were so close that we actually took the time to call one another and talk on our phones. The very sound of their voices afforded me a certain level of comfort as if I had been handed a huge dose of warmth, of caring, of understanding and of love all rolled into one. Our voices



Betty Ann Brown



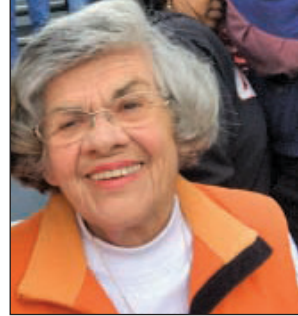
Taylor Bernard Jr.



Jane Bradley was a people-person. Here she chats with Stanley Ross of Blackville in 2012.



Tommy Burton



Etta Holland Mixon

talked, our ears listened while our hearts were soothed knowing full well someone cared. They cared enough to pick up that phone and call.

What I wouldn't give to hear the voices of these loved ones just one more time. For instance:

**ETTA HOLLAND MIXON**  
(November 17, 1939 - October 13, 2021)  
BHS Class of '57

Whenever my phone rang close to midnight, I felt certain that my older sister was on the line. You see, our Mama, Hettie Holland, must've gifted both of us with her sleep habits: no more than six hours of sleep per night unless sick. Oh, we did talk pronto when something important occurred during the daylight hours; however, most of our conversations took place at that bewitching hour.

We eagerly covered Barnwell's news of the day much like the morning dew. Our chats were personal while sharing childhood memories that only we two sisters would know: the time Mama and Daddy took us to Columbia to pick up two Boston bull puppies which we promptly named Spick 'N' span; swimming at the river and catching

turtles to send to Epworth Orphanage in Columbia plus Etta's forever rehashing of the highlights of her beloved Clemson football games while I listened patiently refusing to comment one way or the other. How she enjoyed seeing her former first grade students who had entered the workforce and still loved "Miss Mixon"! Mostly, our conversations made me think of the game show Jeopardy: "What was the girl's name?", "Where did that take place?"

I do miss the sound of her southern drawl especially after midnight followed by her Tibby Plyler signoff, "Tootles."

**JANE OWENS BRADLEY**  
(February 28, 1933 - September 13, 2022)  
BHS Class of '52

And what a pal she was! When our friend departed this world, she took way too many secrets with her.

Early on, Jane knew how to make everyone else feel welcome, especially children. In later years we became sidekicks who truly loved life while enjoying it together ...to the hilt! Oh, it wasn't always "what" she said simply because this lady had a way of rolling her eyes which sized-up her opinions to a tee without cracking her

teeth. This one gesture was a tell-all talent that everyone anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed unless you were the brunt of the joke! Then wide grins were followed by uncontrollable giggles!

Some of our phone talks may begin on a heavy note, but forever ended in bursts of wicked laughter. Both of us could always joke about our own selves which reminded us not to take life itself too seriously. Our closeness made life happier for both. My heart actually tugs at the mention of her name.

Sometimes I briefly forget her absence while reaching for the phone to call her. I long to hear Jane's voice just one more time. Don't you?

**TOMMY "TOOMIE" BURTON**  
(September 5, 1940 - October 10, 2022)  
BHS Class of '60

We were classmates and his closest friend in school was Richard Strange, an avid golfer. It was our Toomie who would caddy for him at Sweetwater Country Club while rendering sound advice and calming his friend's anxieties during the stresses of the game.

Toomie told me years ago that he prayed for our classmates every day of his life. At this point, I began to follow

his lead.

Our phone conversations centered around our classmates, our families, our Young at Heart traveling group and certainly our Lord. His uplifting and reassuring voice would be appreciated right about now, wouldn't it? How I miss my "Toomie".

**TAYLOR BERNARD JR.**  
(December 13, 1938 - July 2, 2022)  
BHS Class of '57

His booming, smiling voice over the phone would snatch anyone out of the dumps and set their pulse racing while he recalled his heartwarming Barnwell days. In doing so, he never failed to express his devoted love for our dear friend, Tommie Richardson.

Taylor was always good-natured, an excellent dancer, and a gentleman who forever made his partner shine. (He would shimmy those big broad shoulders while wearing the broadest grin you ever laid your eyes on. Did this make me blush? Sho' nuff!) What I wouldn't give to hear his Barnwell tales repeated once again regarding our excellent school system including those dedicated coaches and teachers.

Taylor's conversations always ended on a happy

positive note. Do yours?

**BETTY ANN SMITH BROWN**

(October 12, 1927 - November 16, 2022)

A teacher at BHS before becoming their attendance teacher for many years.

Last, but certainly not least, phone calls from Betty Ann Brown after 8:30 p.m. (following her nightly talks with son, Forrest) were always delightful. When her name appeared on my phone, anticipation reached an all-time high. For a 95-year-old lady, her memory and alertness made me eager to spend time with her on the phone or when visiting at Anchor in Aiken. Her voice sounded strong and deliberate, and once she said something, you knew that she meant it. Her opinions were forever honest and sometimes too honest!

This former teacher's sense of humor was always current and upbeat. She chose to look on the bright side, thus leading her listeners to follow suit. As our friend Jim McNeely, BHS Class of '58, asked, "Was there ever anyone who did not love Betty Ann Brown?"

Could there ever be a finer note to end on? She is dearly missed.

As you have possibly surmised, there was a common thread connecting all of the above friendships. It was our Barnwell school days linking one to the other; however, it was no run-of-the-mill thread. Oh no. It was a golden thread which would last each of us an entire lifetime.

If you aren't jealous because you did not grow up in Barnwell, I don't know why.

The next time you decide to contact your friends or family, please consider placing a phone call instead of texting. This will make us all feel more loved, more appreciated.

Besides, someday you, too, will long for the sound of our voices ... just one more time.

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Cell. (803) 300-2941

**B & B Ford Inc.**  
10476 Dunbarton Blvd.  
Barnwell, SC 29812  
jennybbford@yahoo.com  
Eleanor's Corner

## YouthBuild: New program for youth funded through \$1.5 million grant

FROM PAGE 1A

program and other programs is going to be the culture," said Donna Roberts, YouthBuild Success Coach. "It's not just one part of the person we're working on, it's the whole person, because the whole person needs help."

The workshops and events in the mental toughness portion in the first two weeks of the program will be led by Roberts with all staff involved.

This consists of team building skills, workforce development, and focusing on self awareness, according to Roberts, who plans to focus on all elements of an individual.

By "focusing on the individual and their lives, and how they interact with each other and people they work with," Roberts hopes to change the mindset of the participants in the YouthBuild program.

"When you're working with someone to get a job there's more than one reason they don't have a job," said Roberts, who plans to meet participants where they are at in their lives and understands what she considers to be general knowledge to some may not be the same for all.

Roberts along with the whole team plan to explain how to interact with others in spaces such as the workplace or an interview compared to at home or with friends. She also hopes to break down how to professionally incorporate entrepreneurial work into social media and how to socialize online with the future in mind.

The two-week mental toughness portion will also get participants active in nature and partaking in community service—which there is a 30-hour program requirement for.

YouthBuild ultimately wants to change how participants view themselves and show them the many opportunities within their reach with a shift of perspective, practical skills, professional guidance, and support.

"That's what I really applaud about my team, is that they understand that each person is different and our perceptions of a

person's situation does not mean that they are ready to take that particular pathway and our job is to continuously provide those opportunities toward different pathways," said Shanice Willingham, Director of Supportive Services at SC Regional Housing Authority #3.

*"This program will provide a variety of pathways for our youth to fill a gap within our local workforce by helping to create a strong foundation of qualified, trained workers."*

**- Beth Overton, S.C. Regional Housing Authority #3 Deputy Director**

YouthBuild falls under the umbrella of Willingham's programs in addition to the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program and others.

"We want to make sure that we are always being mindful to honor everything that a young person is going to bring to the table," said Willingham.

After the mental toughness portion is completed, participants are interviewed to determine if they are ready to move into the construction phase. If not, they can try again.

Once NCCER certified, participants will begin working on one of two construction sites on Apple Street in Barnwell or on Oak Street in Blackville.

"One of them is going to be a single-family housing unit for home ownership and the other is going to be a duplex for affordable housing rental," said Willingham.

"The inventory of affordable housing is quite low, so what better opportunity than to help the community in terms of building up the community housing inventory as well as teach some very meaningful skills to the young people in this area," said Willingham.

Jorge Jimenez, YouthBuild Construction Manager/Instructor, is excited to teach the next generation the skills that he has acquired throughout his career in the construction industry.

"It's a good feeling when you help somebody and you can see this person on the right track," said Jimenez. "It's something I love to teach and train

these participants."

Jimenez will not only be guiding participants through the NCCER certification, but teach them the basic skills to the more advanced as well as be alongside them on the build sites.

"Mr. Jimenez, he is more than qualified for the work he is going to be doing,"

said Willingham. "I know he will take them beyond that hammer and nail and provide that mentoring."

Jimenez hopes to transform the warehouse on the lot into a multi-use space for participants to explore welding, plumbing, and electrical work. The YouthBuild team recognizes the value of trade skills, and hopes to open the door for anyone interested.

If a participant feels they may be more suited to a different path, they are encouraged to take the CNA track.

In their partnership with Denmark Technical College, YouthBuild participants can attend the college's CNA program to embark on a path in healthcare.

Through YouthBuild's involvement with the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)—a federal program administered through the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce and a part of SC Works, participants can then pursue training to obtain a patient care technician certification (PCT).

After completing YouthBuild, participants can also be directed through WIOA to aid with secondary education if desired.

These partnerships and many more were a vital part of bringing YouthBuild to Barnwell and Bamberg counties.

"One of the major pieces that was important I believe for the second application round is that we were able to really build some meaningful, intentional partnerships in the community," said Willingham.

When Willingham first

joined the S.C. Regional Housing Authority #3 almost three years ago, the organization had already applied for this grant and been denied.

She and S.C. Regional Housing Authority #3 Deputy Director Elizabeth Overton applied again, and still was not awarded

the federal grant to bring YouthBuild to this region.

However, they kept trying and brought together key community partners and leaders the next time around.

"We are so excited about the opportunities that YouthBuild will bring to Barnwell and Bamberg Counties. This program will provide a variety of pathways for our youth to fill a gap within our local workforce by helping to create a strong foundation of qualified, trained workers. Our hope is through collaboration and partnerships that this program will continue to grow year after year," said Overton.

"They're such great advocates on our behalf because they are more than willing to offer whatever support they can," said Willingham on partners like Denmark Tech, Bamberg Barnwell Adult Education, and Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

"Once they graduate, we want to make sure they are well aware of all the pathways they can pursue," said Willingham. "We want to make sure that we are building a culture so that whichever way they fall [in a career sense] someone is there to pick them up."

Whether that be pursuing secondary education, entering the workforce, or developing entrepreneurial aspirations, YouthBuild students will have a wealth of support in their desired path through these community partners.

Each member of the YouthBuild: A New Directions team joined it to be a part of changing the trajectory of the lives of young

people and helping them reach their full potential, whatever that may be.

"God opened the door, and we just walked through," said Hernandez, who worked with WIOA and SC Works since 2003 as a career coach, lead career coach, program manager, and then area

program manager.

When the opportunity arose, Hernandez was nervous to leave her 20-year career for something just being developed. She had been working with Roberts since 2008, and Boone since 2016 at WIOA, and the three referred to themselves as the 'dream team' in regional workforce development.

When the grant was awarded and Willingham proposed the idea of bringing the three of them on board, she mentioned they were like a dream team in a phone conversation. This was enough of a sign to make Hernandez take the leap.

"I wanted to be able to touch lives," said Hernandez, who felt her prior position limited her ability to do so in the way she desired.

"It's exciting to be a part of this team," said Jimenez, who joined in December 2022. "I can't wait until we start."

When he moved to the U.S. from Costa Rica 37 years ago, he only planned to work here for one year and return home. However, Jimenez saw the opportunity to follow his passions in the construction industry and he hopes to do the same for YouthBuild participants.

"I love what I'm doing, I think God has us here for a reason," said Boone, who has been working in this field since 2009 with the Employment Security Commission stationed with SC Works located at Denmark Tech at the time.

Boone questions whether he should still be in this area, but his doubts are eased when he sees the successes of past individuals he has worked with locally throughout his career.

Roberts shares a similar sentiment and can connect with youth who may want to leave Barnwell or Bamberg County because she left too.

Upon her return, she got involved with workforce development through WIOA in 2008 and after a long career felt she needed to branch out.

"I loved the job that I was doing, but the last three years... I was ready to move on," said Roberts. As a single mother, she was worried similarly to Hernandez about leaving a long term career, but was ready to reinvigorate her passion.

"We want our young people, like my son, I want him to stay, I want him to want to stay, I want him to build a business here instead of leaving and not coming back," said Roberts.

"I am very grateful they took that scary leap into the dark, because honestly I didn't have all the answers," said Willingham.

YouthBuild is fairly new to the region and the implementation of this grant was a major undertaking. While up to the task, the team is still developing certain aspects to show the youth that Barnwell and Bamberg are worth building a life in.

Willingham too left Barnwell County and had plans of never returning, but wanted to be closer to family once she had her child. Her background with AmeriCorps doing youth development and capacity building led her to starting the workforce development department at S.C. Regional Housing Authority #3.

She knows what it is like to want to leave when you're young, and hopes to be a part of the changes that make young people want to stay.

Although the program is new to the counties it serves, YouthBuild has been successfully implemented in areas across the nation.

YouthBuild was born in Harlem, N.Y. 45 years ago when founder and former president, Dorothy Stone-man, began asking the disenfranchised youth she worked with "how they would change their community if they had adult support," according to their website.

They responded with requests to renovate the abandoned and dilapidated buildings to bring affordable housing units to their community.

These programs historically took off in larger cities, but the team at the A New Direction program is excited to make it work in a rural setting although there have been some challenges.

"We've been out in the community, we've been talking to people, we're just not getting the response," said Hernandez.

So far, they have received two applications and are in need of three more to get the program started. YouthBuild is also looking to become more engaged with community partners from restaurants to nonprofit organizations.

To apply, visit YouthBuild at 10984 New Ellenton St. in Barnwell, located between the SC Regional Housing Authority #3 and Barnwell Early Learning Academy from Monday to Thursday during business hours. To receive more info, call Donna Roberts at (803) 450-6508 or Bartel Boone at (803) 450-6484.

For more information about the program YouthBuild, visit <https://youthbuild.org/>.


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**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2023**  
5PM-8PM

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\*PER PERSON \*\$10 FOR EACH SIBLING  
**REGISTER ONLINE/FRONT DESK**

the 

**NOTICE TO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BARNWELL**

The City of Barnwell is joining the State of South Carolina insurance benefits program, the State Health Plan.

If you were eligible for retirement and left employment with the City of Barnwell and your last five years of employment were served consecutively in a full-time, permanent position or you are the surviving dependent of a former employee or retiree of the City of Barnwell you may be eligible to enroll in the group insurance program.

To determine eligibility for enrollment, you must contact **Sharon Gould** at (803) 259-3266, Ext. 1014 or 130 Main St. (PO Box 776), Barnwell, SC 29812 by February 28, 2023, for enrollment information.

**Enrollment deadline is April 30, 2023.**

# Light show ending season with toy drive

**Jonathan Vickery**  
*Publisher*  
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Christmas season is over, but it's always a good time to give. That's the meaning behind the Jenna's Toy Drive Lightshow happening this Saturday, Feb. 4 starting at 6 p.m. at 20 Rookery Row, Barnwell. Dentist Craig Wix has transformed his family's home into a colorful display featuring nearly 19,000 lights that come to life with music.

"We are going to stick with lighthearted Disney music and contemporary praise and worship," said Wix, who owns Palmetto Dentistry.

Hagood Avenue Baptist Church is bringing hot chocolate and their HIM interpretive movement group to perform. Wix also



has two snow machines.

"We want all the kids to have a good time," he said.

While the Wixes want the community to have a good time, they hope the community will be generous by donating new toys.

"The toy drive is the center of the whole thing," said Wix.

Toys will go to the Children's Hospital in Augusta, Ga. They especially need rattles for babies and Fisher Price learning toys for toddlers; however, toys for all ages and cash donations are welcome.

Brett Bodiford of Barnwell built a manger for people to place their toy

donations. His daughter, the late Jenna Bodiford, is the inspiration for the light display and the toy drive. Jenna died from cancer in 2018 at the age of 14.

"Brett has been a good friend and Jenna was a patient," said Wix. "She was someone who feared me (as a dentist), but then

she went fearless during her cancer battle. I saw her transform into an inspiration who led others to Christ."

Jenna's legacy lives on through an annual toy drive hosted by former classmate Emma Hodge. The toy drive started in 2018 and continues to col-

lect hundreds of toys annually. In 2020, the toy drive was a huge help for the hospital when many other toy drives did not happen due to COVID.

"Jenna loved people and Jenna loved God, and what Jenna has done through her story is empower young people like Emma to not only stand up for God but also to love others," said Brett Bodiford in a newspaper story after the 2018 toy drive.

Though toys from the Christmas 2022 toy drive have been collected and delivered to the hospital, this weekend's event is one final opportunity for locals to donate. The Wixes have 100 synchronized light up bracelets to give to children who bring a toy.

Wix hopes the light show and toy drive will continue to grow in the future.

## Court: General Sessions Court hears multiple criminal cases

FROM PAGE 1A

to five years after being charged in the July 14, 2012 death of Ronnie Rashawn Thomas, 20, who was shot several times on Bellinger Street in Blackville. Thomas was shot after an argument, similarly to Sumpter, according to various news reports.

This conviction nine years prior means Davis was illegally carrying a gun at the time he shot Sumpter, according to the prosecution. However, in a case of self defense, "just because you have an illegal gun does not negate self defense," said Alves at the bond hearing.

Miller also stated the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) confirmed Sumpter had a concealed weapons permit and a receipt for the gun he purchased legally.

"Mr. Davis should not have had a gun in the first place because when Mr. Davis has a gun and gets into an argument, people get killed. We feel he is an extreme danger to the community," said Miller.

Ultimately, Judge Pope denied Davis' bond the following day.

### Baker must register as sex offender after pleading guilty

**James Dean Baker Jr.**, 38, of Martin, pleaded guilty on Jan. 23 to disseminating harmful material to a minor.

In November 2018, the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) was requested to help a sheriff's office in Arizona investigate Baker for sending a nude photo to a 12-year-old female victim online, said assistant solicitor Leigh Staggs. She said Baker has prior arrests, including indecent exposure, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, shoplifting, and driving under the influence.

"Mr. Baker has had transgressions in the past, but none of a violent nature," said defense attorney Tim Moore, adding how alcohol has been an issue for his client.

Moore asked the judge for leniency in the form of

a probationary sentence so Baker could keep working.

Judge Pope also heard from the victim's mother, Tonia Frickling, who joined the court proceedings virtually.

"My daughter asked the judge if she (Judge Pope) could do less than 10 years because she feels it would be hard on his mother to go without her son. We lost my brother recently and that was why she asked, she sees my mother's pain," said Frickling.

Judge Pope sentenced Baker to eight years in the S.C. Department of Corrections but suspended that to five years of probation. He also must attend and complete alcohol use counseling and is subject to random drug/alcohol tests. Baker must also register for the sex offender and child abuse/neglect registries. He is also barred from having any contact with the victim.

### Barnes sentenced to 10 years for drug charges & hit and run



**Rick Lebroris Barnes**

What began as a jury trial at the Barnwell County Courthouse on the morning of January 25 turned into an accepted plea deal and jurors being sent home.

**Rick Lebroris Barnes**, 40, of Barnwell, pleaded guilty to a 2021 drug trafficking charge and pleaded guilty under offer for a 2019 hit and run.

Before the jury was brought out, Barnes made a motion for a continuation on the grounds he was unable to find the representation he desired because he could not afford it due to paying roughly \$300 per month for the ankle monitor he was wearing.

Barnes is represented by Chief Public Defender Alves.

This motion was denied by presiding Judge Pope.

Barnes was sentenced to serve 10 years for each indictment running concurrently and a \$50,000 fine after pleading guilty.

When an individual is sentenced concurrently, it means they will serve the sentences for each charge at the same time rather than consecutively. Pleading guilty under offer means Barnes pleaded guilty under the circumstances of the negotiated plea.

The time Barnes has already served for these crimes, whether in jail or wearing an ankle monitor, will be deducted from his sentence. He has a 642-day credit for the hit and run charge and a 659-day credit for the drug trafficking charge.

On April 23, 2021, the BCSO and the SLED executed a search warrant at a Canna Street home in Barnwell.

According to the factual basis of the case provided by the solicitor, law enforcement located Barnes in the living room of this home with over \$1,000 on his person.

A search warrant was granted for Barnes' vehicle after an alert by Ruby the K-9 which resulted in investigators finding a plethora of drugs; four bags of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana, a bag of hard, rock like substance believed to be crack cocaine, two bags believed to be cocaine, and a bag of miscellaneous pills. This is according to the factual basis of the case provided by the solicitor's office at the Jan. 25 court proceedings.

SLED results later came

back identifying these substances as 23.38 grams of crack cocaine, 56.11 grams of cocaine (specific to this indictment), and 30.1 grams of meth, according to the solicitor.

This incident resulted in the drug trafficking charge while the hit and run Barnes was sentenced for happened over a year earlier on December 26, 2019.

According to the factual basis provided by the solicitor's office, an Allendale County sheriff's deputy was patrolling Barnwell Highway near Appleton Road when he saw a vehicle traveling 75 m.p.h. in an area marked with a 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

Once stopped the deputy identified Barnes and smelt the odor of marijuana in the vehicle alongside a glimpse of a bag with white powder in the glove box when Barnes went to retrieve needed identification documents from the glove box.

A search on the vehicle was conducted and law enforcement attempted to arrest Barnes when he resisted, jumped back into the vehicle, and drove off.

A chase ensued reaching 150 m.p.h. on Highway 278 between Allendale County and Kline.

As the chase continued, Barnes rear-ended the vehicle of a woman who lost control of her vehicle, went into a ditch, hit a tree, and overturned. According to the solicitor's office, she was laying halfway through the window of the backseat after the wreck.

Barnes bailed on foot after hitting the victim, who was airlifted to Georgia Regents Medical Center in Augusta, Ga. She suffered from a subdural

hematoma and a \$75,000 hospital bill, according to the solicitor's office.

In the defense, Alves explained Barnes fled and then ran after getting into an accident because he was scared for his life due to the climate of police and Black men at the time.

### Here are the other criminal cases that were seen in general sessions court last week:

- **Levi Burger**, 35, of Barnwell, was charged with shoplifting in September 2022 and was remanded to another court on January 23.
- **Donna Sue Dyches**, 52, of Olar, pleaded guilty on January 26 to June 2021 charge of possession of drugs. Dyches was sentenced to 30 days and a \$100 fine.
- **Steven Gerold Goodwin**, 42, of Blackville, pleaded guilty on January 26 to a August 2022 charge of larceny. Goodwin was sentenced to 169 days with credit for time already served.
- **Kenneth Wayne Henry**, 41, of Lancaster, pleaded guilty on January 25 to August 2022 charges of possession of a stolen vehicle and resisting arrest. Henry was sentenced to 179 days with credit for time already served.
- **Anthony Patrick Kelly**, 41, of West Columbia, pleaded guilty on January 25 to a September 2022 charge of possession of a stolen vehicle. Kelly was sentenced to 124 days.
- **Nicholas Andrew Matuszak**, 30, of Newberry, pleaded guilty on January

23 to a March 2022 charge of failure to stop for a blue light. Matuszak was sentenced to 30 days and a \$500 fine.

- **Eddie Louis Park Jr.**, 55, of Enterprise, Ala., pleaded guilty to a August 2022 charge of unlawful carrying of a pistol. Park was sentenced to one day.
- **Lamant Antonio Robinson**, 38, of Barnwell, pleaded guilty on January 23 to an April 2021 charge of schedule I narcotics drugs. Robinson was sentenced to five years suspended to five years probation and random drug tests.
- **Ralph Edward Simmons**, 38, of Martin, was charged with third degree burglary in October 2022. Simmons' charges were dismissed on January 26 at the preliminary hearing.
- **Courtney Lynn Spires**, 30, of Lexington, was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle in September 2022. Spires' charges were dismissed on January 26 at the preliminary hearing.
- **Alvin Lee Walling**, 47, of Walterboro, pleaded guilty on January 23 to a June 2021 charge of possession of drugs. Walling was sentenced to two days with credit for time already served.
- **Wendell Maurice Williams**, 42, of Blackville, pleaded guilty on January 23 to July 2021 charges of assault & battery in the second degree. Williams was sentenced to 45 days.

### Solution to Sudoku puzzle found on page B3.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 |

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PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

J'Niyia Carree  
Barnwell High School



Grade: 11th

Sport: Basketball

Favorites...

- **Food:** Macaroni and Meatballs
- **Movie/TV shows:** *Love and Basketball*
- **Coaches:** Coaches Hammonds, Davis, Creech
- **Free time activity:** Cooking
- **Musicians:** Lil Baby, Nardo Wick

Goal for this season:

"My goal for the season is to make it far in the playoffs and hopefully win a ring."

Joshua Carrillo  
Barnwell High School



Grade: 11th

Sports: Wrestling, Cross Country, Soccer

Favorites...

- **Food:** Pizza and Chicken Tenders
- **Movie/TV shows:** *Fast and the Furious*, *SpongeBob*
- **Snack:** Reese's
- **Coaches:** William Barnes and Luke Catoe
- **Free time activity:** Hang out with friends
- **Musician:** Luke Combs and Zach Bryan

Goal for this season:

"To finish with a winning record."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE (Boys & Girls)



Friday, Feb. 3

- JDA @ Holly Hill Academy - 6:00
- Denmark-Olar @ Blackville-Hilda - 6:30

Tuesday, Feb. 7

- Barnwell @ Woodland - 6:30
- HKT @ Williston-Elko - 6:00
- North @ Blackville-Hilda

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING



Individual Qualifiers  
Fri., Feb. 17-Sat., Feb. 18

State Individual Qualifiers  
Fri., Feb. 24-Sat., Feb. 25

# Sports

1B

The People-Sentinel

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

## Warhorse wrestling continues to improve as post-season approaches

Jeff Miller  
Sports Writer

Barnwell wrestling is heading in the right direction under the leadership of head coach William Barnes and assistant coach Rob Roth.

The regular season is coming to a close on the return of Barnwell to the wrestling world after not having a team for the previous three years. The individual state tournament is just around the corner, and Barnwell has several wrestlers who have put together solid seasons and some others who continue to improve as the season winds down.

Last week, Barnwell traveled to Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School for a quad-meet against Bamberg, Bridges Prep, and Whale Branch.

Against Whale Branch, Josh Carrillo (152 lbs.) pinned his opponent in the first period. Coehn Kinard (160 lbs.) earned the first pin of his career, quickly, defeating his opponent 49 seconds into the first period.

Against Bridges Prep, heavyweight Tagan Youngblood would earn his second pin of the season within the first period. Maurice Odom (220 lbs.) also pinned his man midway through the second while leading by an impressive score of 15-2.

Against Bamberg, Josh Carrillo would pin his man finishing 2-1 on the night and LaKota Scott (195 lbs.) would win his match, as well.

Barnwell's final regular season match was Tuesday, Jan. 31 at Pelion, then Barnwell will have several wrestlers turning their attention to the State Individual Tournament.

"We had a goal as a first-year program to have some of our guys make it at least to the second day of the individual tournament. I think we have a shot to get at least two and maybe even more to accomplish that goal," said Coach Barnes. "LaKota Scott is probably the guy on our team that will get most of the hype and attention going into the tournament and rightfully so. I know he's aiming for more than just making it to the second day. It'll be exciting to see how far he and the rest of these guys go."

When asked how the first season has gone, Barnes said, "They've definitely gotten better since our first meet back in December. Most of them have been able to find the specific shots and moves that they feel the most comfortable with and have used them to win, pin and get to the third period. We're recognizing when we're in trouble, when to let go of bad holds and work back up as the bottom man. Still a long way to go, but they have come a long way in our first year back."

Coach Barnes went on to talk about a few wrestlers. "LaKota Scott (195 lbs.) is having a great year. LaKota leads the team with a 19-2



Coach Barnes talks to Peyton Wood and Kaleb Wilson at Bamberg match.

Photos By: Kelley Wood



Coehn Kinard defeats his Whale Branch opponent in the 160 lb. contest.



Josh Carrillo, a steady middleweight for Barnwell, pins an opponent at a recent match held in Bamberg.

record for the season . . . and most of his wins are from pins. Josh Carrillo has been a steady middleweight guy for us this year and Tagan Youngblood seems to have separated himself as our top heavyweight wrestler." He also mentioned that Kaleb Wilson has steadily improved throughout the year.



Barnwell's Tagan Youngblood is his team's top heavyweight wrestler.

"We had a goal as a first-year program to have some of our guys make it at least to the second day of the individual tournament. I think we have a shot to get at least two and maybe even more to accomplish that goal."

—BHS Wrestling Coach William Barnes

# Earl Bostick Jr. invited to NFL Combine

Jeff Miller  
Sports Writer

He is a big part of helping turn that program around," said Garrick.

Former Barnwell Warhorse and Kansas Jayhawk, Earl Bostick Jr., has accepted an invitation to the 2023 NFL Combine to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, February 27-March 6.

The Combine will have top executives, coaching staffs, player personnel representatives, and medical personnel from all 32 NFL teams. They will evaluate the nation's top college football players that could be eligible for the upcoming NFL draft. The combine is a crucial step in helping a player realize that dream of playing in the NFL.

Bostick was a star player for Barnwell High School and coach Dwayne Garrick.

"Earl Bostick is one of my favorite former players. He has tons of talent and is very athletic. I feel strongly that he will get a chance to play on Sundays. He is as good a person as he is player and I am proud of his leadership at Kansas.

Kansas really has made quite a turnaround, making their first bowl game in 15 years. Bostick helped anchor the left side of the offensive line that protected Kansas QB Jalon Daniels who threw for 544 yards and five touchdowns in the Liberty Bowl. Kansas head football coach Lance Leipold said of Bostick, "He's a very intelligent young man." Leipold referred to "...the interest he is getting from the next level because guys his size, with his athleticism are hard to find."

Bostick was an honors student at Barnwell High School and was one of three Jayhawks that were named Second Team Academic All-American. His intelligence, his athleticism, along with his size and wing span should gain lots of interest from NFL scouts at the Combine.

The Combine schedule for Offensive Linemen runs from Wednesday, March 1 through Monday, March 6.



{Above} Earl Bostick Jr. has accepted an invitation to the 2023 NFL Combine. {Above right} Earl Bostick Jr. anchored the left side of the Kansas offensive line. {Below right} Bostick was one of three Kansas players selected as 2nd Team Academic All-American.



**March 1st**-Orientation and team interviews

**March 2nd**-Pre-Exam, NFL Players Association meetings, and team interviews

**March 3rd**-Medical exams, pre-ordered studies, and broadcast interviews

**March 4th**-Ortho ex-

ams, media interviews, and team interviews

**March 5th**-Measurements and on field workouts

**March 6th**-Bench press then departure

Good luck to Earl Bostick Jr. for a good showing at the NFL Combine!

# JDA boys basketball wins 3, including Coach Reitenour's 100th

Jeff Miller  
Sports Writer

nant wins for the team. We've been battling a few injuries and off the court issues that lead us to being shorthanded most of the week, but the guys really stepped up. Over the course of the three wins last week, we had a win margin average of 45 points per game," said JDA Coach Anthony Reitenour.

Tuesday's huge win over Colleton Prep Academy also marked a milestone for Coach Reitenour. Tuesday's victory was Reitenour's 100th win. Coach Reitenour said, "Tuesday's win over Colleton Prep marked my 100th varsity boys win, so it was a special week to have them step up and play as hard

as they did."

Reitenour continued saying that "Kole Lawson and Kaleb Lee really are starting to step up and get more involved which is helping build the chemistry of the team. We have to continue to improve and build on what we've started. The playoffs are right around the corner, and we are planning to make a hard push, but we still have a lot of important region games left over the next two weeks to prepare for first.

Congratulations Coach Reitenour on win number 100 and best wishes as the season winds down and the playoffs begin!

The Jefferson Davis Academy boys basketball team had a great week last week, going 3-0 for the week.

With a 74-20 pounding of Crown Leadership Academy on Monday, January 23, followed by a 66-20 thrashing of Colleton Prep Academy the next day, and a Thursday 58-23 domination over Community Christian Academy, the Raiders reached 13 wins on the season and counting.


"We picked up three wins to get to 13-6 on the season and 3-2 in the region. All three games were very domi-



JDA seniors Kole Lawson, Garrison Hiers, and Kaleb Lee are hoping to finish the season with a strong playoff run. Photo By: Kathy Googe



Coach Anthony Reitenour communicates with his team during their game on January 30. The team's victory over Colleton Prep Academy on Jan. 24 marked the coach's 100th win. Photo By: Kathy Googe



**Barnwell School District 45  
Office of Special Services**

Barnwell School District 45 presently provides programs/services for children 3 to 21 who attend public or private school with the following categories of disabilities:

- ◆ Developmental Delay
- ◆ Intellectual Disability
- ◆ Specific Learning Disability
  - ◆ Emotional Disability
- ◆ Speech or Language Impairment
- ◆ Deafness and Hearing Impairment
  - ◆ Visual Impairment
  - ◆ Deaf-Blindness
- ◆ Orthopedic Impairment
- ◆ Other Health Impairment
- ◆ Traumatic Brain Injury
  - ◆ Autism
- ◆ Multiple Disabilities

**Should you be aware of any such children who are in need of services, please contact Kim A. Rhoad at 541-1300 on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. All names of referred persons will remain confidential.**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Events

### Feb. 4 Blackville Community Yard Sale

Get great deals on clothes, furniture, toys, household goods, and more. Everyone is welcome to buy or sell. Cost is \$25 to set up a table. Downtown Blackville across from Enterprise Bank. For more info: Ann Pernell 803-645-8166. **Saturday, 8am-1pm**

### Feb. 4 Fairfax Community Coalition Drop-In

Refreshments, door prizes, giveaways. The Smart Box (246 Hampton Avenue N., Fairfax). 803-508-5837 **3-6pm**

### Feb. 10 Daddy/Daughter Dance

Hosted by the City of Barnwell's Parks & Recreation Dept. Barnwell Elementary School (10524 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell). Cost: \$30 per couple, \$10 for each additional child (includes meal). Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Register online at [www.cityofbarnwell.com/parks-](http://www.cityofbarnwell.com/parks-)

and-recreation/special-events or Barnwell City Hall. **Friday, 6-8pm**

### Feb. 10 Pancake Fundraiser

All you can eat pancake supper benefiting the Williston-Elko High School Lady Blue Devils softball team. Winfield Heights Baptist Church gym. Adults \$10, Children 12 & under \$5 **Friday, 6-8pm**

### Feb. 11 Williston Basketball Camp

The Williston Recreation and Activities Committee will host a free basketball camp for boys and girls (ages 5-11) featuring former WEHS and Virginia State player Tierra Richberg. Williston-Elko High School gym. For more info and to pre-register: email [alynsonhcollins@gmail.com](mailto:alynsonhcollins@gmail.com). **Friday, 11am-3pm**

### Feb. 15-17 & 20 Williston Spring Sports Registration

Registration for the Town of Williston's recreation department will take place

at Coach Hewitt's office at Williston Town Hall. Cost is \$35. Birth certificate required. Ages: T-Ball, ages 4-6 (cannot turn 7 before May 1); Coaches Pitch, ages 7-9 (cannot turn 10 before May 1); Williston Majors (baseball), ages 10-12 (cannot be 13 before May 1) **4-6pm**

### Feb. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 "Clown Car" Play

Circle Theatre of Barnwell 325 Academy St., Barnwell A murder mystery comedy. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Tickets will be on sale at *The People-Sentinel* office (222 Main Street, Barnwell) starting Feb. 6. **February 17, 18, 24 & 25 at 7pm** **Feb. 19 & 26 at 3pm**

### March 11 Varina Beauvoir Gun Raffle

Two winners. Only 200 tickets to be sold. Drawing on March 11. Donation of \$50. Proceeds benefit Jefferson Davis Academy.

To promote your event, email the information to [drichardson@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:drichardson@thepeoplesentinel.com) or fax it to (803) 259-2703.

## Barnwell Library Events

### Feb. 6 Barnwell County Library Board Meeting

Barnwell County Public Library Community Room **Monday, 3:30pm**

### Feb. 9 Friends of the Libraries of Barnwell County Meeting

Barnwell County Public Library Community Room **Thursday, 1pm**

### ADULTS Adult Craft Night

**Thurs., Feb. 2** Heart Door Hanger Decorate a cute heart for your front door. **5:30pm-6:30 pm**

### Potluck Book Club

**Tues., Feb. 28** We will be discussing *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. **4pm**

### TWEENS/TEENS Black Panther Trivia Night

**Thurs., Feb. 16** Bring a friend or a cool parent and show how much you know about Black

Panther and the kingdom he rules. The top two teams will win a prize. Play as a group of two or on your own. Register between Feb. 1st and Feb. 13th at the front desk. **5pm-6pm**

### CHILDREN Ages 3 and Up Valentine Light Craft

**Wed., Feb. 8** Paint a wooden light up table decoration for your favorite valentine. **4pm-5pm**

### Ages 3 and Up African Inspired Pasta Jewelry

**Wed., Feb. 22** Paint and make your own pasta jewelry with African inspired colors and designs. **4:30pm-5:30pm**

### VIRTUAL STORY TIME

**Thurs., Feb. 9 & 23** Videos will be posted on Facebook at 11am

### STORY TIME at the Library

**Thurs., Feb. 2 & 16** Children's Room 11am

## Local Directory

### Barnwell Library

40 Burr St., Barnwell (803) 259-3612  
Hours of Operation  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10am-6pm  
Thurs 10am-7pm  
Sat 10am-2pm

### Blackville Library

Hours of Operation  
19420 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville (803) 284-2295  
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am-1pm  
2pm-6pm

### Williston Library

Hours of Operation  
5121 Springfield Rd., Williston (803) 621-6000  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am-1pm  
2pm-6pm

## MUSEUMS

### Barnwell Museum

9426 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell  
Tues, Wed, Thurs Noon-4pm  
Self-guided tours are offered  
Register at the office building (803) 259-1916

### Blackville Museum

655 Main Street, Blackville  
Open by appointment only until further notice.  
Please call (803) 284-3267 to schedule a visit.

## BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

Mondays-Fridays  
Golden Retreat Activity Center (59 Callahan Circle, Blackville) 803-219-7056

**HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2023 FROM 10AM - 1PM  
BLACKVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER  
19464 SOLOMON BLATT AVE, BLACKVILLE, SC 29817  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

- Diapers & wipes
- Legal Advice
- FoodShare produce boxes - 100 boxes available
- Register for Free Diabetes Classes

**HEALTH SCREENINGS AND VACCINATIONS**

- Blood pressure
- Blood Glucose
- Mammograms
- HPV vaccines
- Tdap vaccines
- Meningitis vaccines
- COVID vaccines
  - 1st & 2nd doses booster shots available
  - Initial dose - \$50 incentive
  - Booster - \$25 incentive

MAAMMOGRAMS, CALL 843-792-0878 TO PRE-REGISTER

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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## COMMUNITY BENEFITS DAY

|                            |               |  |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Drug & Alcohol Prevention  | <b>FEB 7</b>  | Winfield Heights Baptist Church EYB<br>315 Chester Street<br>Williston, SC 29853<br>3PM - 7PM  | FREE EVENT                            |
| Home Energy Check Ups      | <b>FEB 9</b>  | Brandt Building<br>398 Barnwell Road<br>Allendale, SC 29810<br>3PM - 7PM                       | FREE TAX FILING                       |
| Fatherhood Initiative      | <b>FEB 10</b> | Blackville Community Center<br>19464 Solomon Blatt Ave.<br>Blackville, SC 29817<br>9AM - 12 PM | APPLY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS             |
| Early Childhood Services   | <b>FEB 11</b> | Barnwell National Guard Armory<br>10233 Marlboro Ave.<br>Barnwell, SC 29812<br>9AM - 12 PM     | APPLY FOR MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE         |
| Housing Counseling & Rehab | <b>FEB 16</b> | Santee Family Development Center<br>210 Municipal Way<br>Santee, SC 29142<br>3PM - 7PM         | Child Care Scholarship                |
| Nutrition Education        | <b>FEB 17</b> | Old Denmark Middle School Gymnasium<br>45 Green Street<br>Denmark, SC 29042<br>9AM - 12PM      | LEARN ABOUT OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES |
|                            | <b>FEB 18</b> | St. Matthews Christian Center<br>791 St. Matthews Road<br>St. Matthews, SC 29135<br>9AM - 12PM |                                       |
|                            | <b>FEB 23</b> | James "Pete" Hagood Learning Center<br>719 Magnolia Street<br>Hampton, SC 29924<br>3PM - 7PM   |                                       |

## Savannah River Nuclear Solutions HIRING EVENT

Blackville Community Center  
**Thursday, February 23, 2023**  
2pm-6:30 pm

Registration required; to register contact [HRRecruiting@srs.gov](mailto:HRRecruiting@srs.gov)

**SKILLS NEEDED:** •Electronic & Instrumentation Mechanics  
•Maintenance Mechanics •Radiological Control Inspectors  
•Production Operators •Apprentices •And anyone else with hands-on industrial, facility, or operations experience