

4 BHS players sign to play college ball, Sports, B1

Pizza chain celebrates 25th anniversary Business, A10



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Deadline set for Red Oak Fire Dept.

Alexandra Whitbeck
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"None of them have had physicals. I gave all of them the paper to take to their doctor to get a physical, and I haven't gotten the first one back yet."

- Barnwell County Fire Coordinator Wesley Gatlin on the Red Oak Fire Department

The Red Oak Volunteer Fire Department was merged with Snelling Volunteer Fire Department in December 2022 after the county became aware none of the members were certified.

On January 31, the county Health and Safety Committee met to discuss the next steps volunteers must take to become a stand alone department again.

"We've got several classes scheduled in Barnwell County for them to take," said Wesley Gatlin, Barnwell County Fire Coordinator.

Gatlin arranged for an Emergency Vehicle Driver Training class to be offered from February 6 to February 26, a Hazmat Operations class in March, and a Firefighter I course set for early April or May.

Before volunteer firefighters can take the Hazmat Operations course, they must complete the prerequisite online

training.

"They've got to take Hazmat Awareness, which is an online class. They can take it anytime, I told them about it two months ago and none of them took it," said Gatlin of the Red Oak volunteers.

Gatlin is able to check the progress of these courses or see who has registered via the Fire Portal operated by

the South Carolina Division of Fire and Life Safety.

Another requirement of volunteer firefighters set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is having an annual physical examination performed by a certified medical examiner. This is detailed in NFPA standard 1582.

"None of them have had physicals," said Gatlin. "I gave all of them the paper to take to their doctor to get a physical, and I haven't gotten the first one back yet."

"Every year, we actually do two different sessions. We get North Greenville Fitness to come down and do our

See FIREFIGHTERS, 11A



The cast of Circle Theatre's production of "Clown Car" includes (from left): Jeff Miller, Dan Anderson, Virginia Nettles, Lyn Palm, Donna Creech, Jacob Sanders, and Rachel Hair. The play opens Friday, Feb. 17.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Leaders shift at Barnwell District 45

Jonathan Vickery
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Barnwell School District 45 has made some mid-year administrative changes.

The promotion of Guinyard-Butler Middle School's (GBMS) principal to a district-level job is leading to a series of other changes. All transitions were official as of Monday, February 6.

"Our district is so fortunate to have so many wonderful administrators and aspiring administrators preparing for future leadership positions. As recent moves happened, it necessitated other moves within the district. It is the dedication and commitment of these amazing administrators that make us able to adjust during the year to provide even greater opportunities across the district. We have no doubt each of these individuals will be dynamic in their new roles," said Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

Guinyard-Butler Middle School

GBMS Principal Mike Beasley has moved to a new district-level position as Director of Operations.

Since coming to GBMS at the start of the 2022-23 school year, Beasley has also served as the district's energy auditor and facilities project manager.

These roles will be expanding with the recent approval of several large facility projects scheduled to begin immediately, as well as projects the district continues to implement. Timing is now right to fill this position, which was previously left open while the district waited for the commencement of these large projects.

"In addition to facilities and energy auditing, Beasley will also have oversight of the district's grounds and building maintenance, transportation program, alternative program, safety, and truancy," said Stapleton.

This is Beasley's 26th year in education, including his fifth at District 45. He previously worked 21 years at Blackville-Hilda Public Schools, including as Blackville-Hilda High principal and athletic director. He

See LEADERS, 2A

Whodunit brings laughs, clowns to Circle Theatre

Jonathan Vickery
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Murders abound as the circus comes to town for Circle Theatre's new play, a comedy whodunit called "Clown Car".

Marion Young, a veteran of the Circle Theatre stage, is making his directorial debut. As he searched for a light-hearted, fun play, "Clown Car" jumped out to him as something the community would connect with. He also knew he could find the right actors from Barnwell County's talent pool.

"It's a wholesome show for the whole family to watch and enjoy. It checks all the boxes for what I think our audience comes to see. Loads of laughs? Check. A clever whodunit mystery? Check. The chance to see your friends dressed like a clown on stage? Big check! So come on down to Circle Theatre, where the circus is in town and murders abound. Step right up and we'll send in the clowns!" said Young.

The play, which opens Friday, Feb. 17, centers around eight clowns getting into a clown car but only seven getting out.

"It's up to our two detectives to

figure out who murdered Bubbles the Clown without letting the suspects drive them completely out of their minds," said Young.

The first-time director said he couldn't have asked for a better cast to bring these funny characters to life.

"They have put in the hard work of learning their lines and knowing the characters to bring them life, to the point that once they are in costume they can't even be recognized. Off stage they put in the work helping each other with lines, building props and set, and especially words of encouragement to get through long rehearsals. Theatre, like with most things, is a team sport and when we don't work together things can fall apart but with this team I know that won't be an issue.

The experience has also been a fun one for the cast, who are excited to return to the stage.

"For me, this is more than a performance. It's an opportunity to make people laugh. Even during rehearsals, we sometimes burst into laughter from our antics. Playing a clown gives me an excuse to deliver an over-the-top performance and try new things to entertain people," said Jacob Sanders, who plays two clowns.

See CLOWNS, 11A

Clown Car
A Murder Mystery Comedy
by Mark Kenneally
Directed by: Marion Young
Produced by: Beth Miller
Who's Laughing Now?

IF YOU GO

WHAT: "Clown Car" play
WHEN: Feb. 17, 18, 24 & 25 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 19 & 26 at 3 p.m.
WHERE: Circle Theatre (325 Academy St., Barnwell)
COST: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

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- Barbara Ann Kinard Dresko
- George Franklin Harris - Barnwell
- Quency "Johnny" David Holmes - Orangeburg
- Adam McKensie Scott - Myrtle Beach
- Harvey Spire - Cope



\$1.00 Retail
For home delivery pricing, 4A

Museum hosting Black History Month event Feb. 19



Alexandra Whitbeck
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The Barnwell County Museum is inviting the community to their first Black History Month program in three years due to limitations of the COVID pandemic.

On Sunday, February 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. doors will be open to the Effie Mae Fuller Building located adjacent to the museum.

"We're hoping that we

will be able to see people coming in the door again," said Barbara Harber, director and acting curator of the Barnwell County Museum.

Guests are welcome to enjoy refreshments, hear the insights of guest speaker Dr. Walter Curry, and visit the displays located in the lower level of the museum.

"I have numerous items all over the bottom floor of the museum on Black History Month, anything to do with military, teachers, schools,

anything that has to do with Black history in Barnwell County," said Harber.

Guest speaker and Orangeburg native, Dr. Curry, will be sharing highlights from his recent book, "The Awakening: The Seawright-Ellison Family Saga, Vol 1, A Narrative History," and first book, "The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past."

Dr. Curry's publications tell the sagas of notable relatives and enslaved ancestors in

Aiken, Orangeburg, and Richland counties.

"This book provides thoughtful insight on how family stories of hard life in servitude as slaves to achieving personal successes, personal/civic responsibility, sacrifice, ultimate freedom, overcoming adversity, and redemption gives us all a greater appreciation of how the past helps shape our narrative today," states The Independent Author Network.

Harber, alongside mu-

seum office manager Virginia Geter and board of directors chairman Milton Harden, made efforts in prior years to bring Dr. Curry to share his writings but an event never came to fruition due to the fluctuation of COVID numbers.

"I've never heard Dr. Curry speak myself, but I've had several people reach out and say that he was an excellent speaker," said Harber.

The public is encouraged to attend the event and visit the museum.

SRNS establishes location to destroy outdated media



Tyler Gleaton of Barnwell, SRNS property specialist, loads discs into the LM-1 Degausser, which destroys all data stored on electronic media by removing its magnetism.

Contributed
Savannah River Site

a significant backlog of obsolete media has accumulated, including: hard drives, thumb drives, CD/DVD/floppy disks, circuit boards, VHS tapes and more without a defined disposition path.

Securely destroying outdated media sources is a necessary practice to ensure the protection of confidential information and avoid potential damages that could be caused by data breaches.

This media destruction location is now available to personnel across the Site and is staffed by SRNS Property Management, who will assume

responsibility for media collection, storage and disposition.

"The successful completion of this long-needed project was a direct result of applying what I call the Keys (C's) to Success: communication, collaboration, cooperation and commitment in an always changing environment," said Ron Bielewicz, SCM Program Support Manager, who led the cross-functional project team. "Because of the project team's efforts, we are now able to meet customer expectations while being good stewards of government resources."

LEADERS: District 45 shifts administrators

FROM PAGE 1A

was assistant principal at Barnwell High prior to moving to GBMS.

Henrietta Williams, an educator with 30 years of experience, has moved into the principal position.



Henrietta Williams is the principal of GBMS.

She was assistant principal of GBMS during the first half of the 2022-2023 school year. She is in her seventh year amongst the staff at the middle school, but previously worked as an English language arts teacher in Barnwell and Williston.

"Williams has a strong passion for helping students be successful and assisting staff in providing the best possible environment for the district's middle school students. Her dedication and commitment to making GBMS its best has shone throughout her time as a teacher leader and now as an administrator," said Stapleton.

Beasley described Williams as "an outstanding leader who will continue to work with our families, students, and staff to ensure Guinyard-Butler Middle School is an inviting and supportive place to learn, as well as fostering a learning environment that enhances students' physical and emotional

well-being and ensures that our district's mission and core values are achieved."

He also expressed in a letter to families on January 23 that Williams embodies the vision, "Where hearts are big and opportunities are great."

Barnwell High School The district has also filled the assistant principal's position at Barnwell High School (BHS) that was vacated by Beasley's move to GBMS last summer.



Derek Youngblood (left) is interim assistant principal at GBMS while Jared Thrasher (right) is assistant principal at BHS.

BHS Athletic Director **Derek Youngblood** filled in as interim assistant principal during the first semester of the 2022-23 school year until the position was ready to be filled permanently. **Jared Thrasher** has transferred to BHS to take this position full-time after serving the past three years as assistant principal at Barnwell Elementary School (BES).

"While this role is new, being at the high school is not, as Thrasher served as a high school teacher at BHS for five

years prior to moving into administration at the elementary school," said Stapleton.

Youngblood will now serve as interim assistant principal at GBMS for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year, while continuing to fill his duties as the district's athletic director.

Barnwell Elementary Thrasher's move to BHS left the BES assistant principal's position vacant.

"The elementary school had previously interviewed candidates for the assistant principal position and was able to hire a strong candidate to serve in this role," said Stapleton.

Mark Carson will begin serving as interim assistant principal at BES. He is familiar with BES, where he served as a classroom teacher for three years before moving to Barnwell Primary School for the past two years.



Mark Carson is interim assistant principal at BES.

"Having experience at multiple grade levels will be an asset for Carson as he steps into this new role, as well as the many certifications and trainings he has completed as an aspiring administrator," Stapleton said.

Corder's Creative Corner: Gothic love poems

David B. Corder
Contributing Writer

This is where I kneel
And whisper your name.

With a gentle kiss.

Despair

I still wanted to keep
with the theme of romance
since we're still in the midst
of the Valentine season.
However, love is not all
hearts and bliss. Love is
hard, and sometimes, it
can be tragic. In fact, tragic
love often makes great
fodder for the best poems.

Sarah Fair

Sarah Fair, Sarah Fair
Where can you be?
Are you in the green
grove
Where we kissed
At the age of fifteen?

Sarah Fair, Sarah Fair
Where have you gone?
It's been fifty years
Since I've heard your
song.

You died near the church
Your fairness untouched.
Your heart was so weak
The wedding bells
hushed.

Sarah Fair, Sarah Fair
Where have you gone?
Are you in Heaven
Where all angels belong?

By your grave I rest my
head
And hope for sweeter
dreams
Where you and I are
together
Under the stars that
beam.

One More Life to Live

Wake

Gloom has come to
blanket
The cheerless angels of
stone
That stand as sentries
In this wasteland of
bones.

When the blue of your
eye
Entranced my heart
When my fingers
Toyed with your hair
Locks long and dark.

Sarah Fair, Sarah Fair
Where can you be?
Are you at the church
Where we wed
At the age of twenty-
three?

While the spring air
Whispered promises of
bliss
Where we sealed our vows

If you'd like to learn more about David, visit his website at cordersbookcorner.blogspot.com. There you can read short stories and other articles as well as sign up for his monthly newsletter to receive writing updates, exclusive snippets of current projects, and more! Email him at dbcorderwriter@gmail.com.

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Homemaker's Column

Healthful snacks for every day and Super Bowl Sunday



Christine Patrick
County Extension Agent

Are you one of the millions of Americans who made a New Year's resolution to adopt a healthier lifestyle and lose weight? Then you must develop a game plan for snacking on Super Bowl Sunday. A typical party menu includes beer, soft drinks, sandwiches, pizza, wings, potato chips, nachos and cheese sauce, potato salad, and other fatty foods.

Whether you're hosting a party or preparing food to take to someone else's party, choose snacks that are minimally processed, high in fiber, and low in fat and added sugars. This includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins (e.g. white breast meat of poultry without skin, beans, and seafood), and fat-free or low-fat milk and dairy products.

Small plates are a mealtime tradition among many Mediterranean countries, where a heart-healthy eating plan consists primarily of plant-based foods (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts, seeds, herbs, and spices), and olive oil and canola oil replace butter, margarine, and other unhealthy fats.

Here are some advantages to downsizing from a dinner plate to a salad plate at parties and buffets.

- You can eat less and save about half the calories.
- A small plate looks full so you don't feel cheated.
- It encourages portion control. You take smaller portions and eat only the foods you like.
- You can clean your plate and feel satisfied without overeating.

Eat slowly and take time to enjoy the taste and textures of foods. Pay attention to how you feel. Instead of mindlessly eating hundreds—even thousands—of calories while watching the football game, use hunger and fullness cues to recognize when you've had enough. Before going back for seconds, wait 20 minutes for your food to "settle." It takes that long for your stomach to tell your brain that you're full.

Although it seems messy and unappetizing, you may want to let empty beverage containers, chicken bones, etc. accumulate on the table to remind you of how much you have

consumed. Researchers at Cornell University noted that people might eat and drink much more when there are no visual clues about how much they have consumed. Researchers also observed that people take less food from a smaller bowl.

Here are some snacks that you can make a day ahead of time and store covered in the refrigerator:

Dips & Fresh Veggie Plates

Choose six or seven fresh vegetables and two low-fat dips. Serve them on a variety of small dishes placed around the room to generate interest and encourage people to eat more of them.

Chips & Homemade Salsa

If you are going to serve chips, choose baked, whole-grain, or pita chips. Offer the chips with salsa so that more vegetables will be eaten. You can make a quick homemade salsa by blending no-salt-added canned tomatoes with a little hot pepper sauce. This salsa also is delicious with fresh veggies or warm rolled corn tortillas.

Baked Tortilla Chips

To save money, make your baked chips. Cut flour or corn tortillas into quarters. Mist with water or cooking sprays and sprinkle with the seasoning of your choice (e.g. paprika, onion powder, or cumin). Bake tortilla wedges in a single layer on a baking pan at 350 °F for about 15 minutes or until crisp. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Enjoy with your favorite salsa or bean dip.

Boneless Wings

Baked, boneless chicken breast strips are a healthier alternative to chicken wings. Make your boneless wings by dredging chicken strips in buttermilk (fat-free) and hot sauce to taste. Coat chicken strips in whole-wheat flour, to which a small amount of cornmeal has been added. Bake in the oven instead of frying. Serve with fat-free barbecue sauce.

Shrimp Cocktail

Chill cooked shrimp and serve with a spicy cocktail sauce. One large shrimp contains about 1 gram of protein and only 5 calories. Proteins take longer to digest, which keeps you satisfied longer.

Fruit & Cheese Plate

Serve fruit with cube-size amounts of low-fat cheeses instead of the full-fat versions. And, skip the crackers!

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing to thank Barnwell-area residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Generosity throughout contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected over 9.3 million shoebox gifts in 2022. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2022, the ministry is now sending nearly 10.6 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes packed with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items Barnwell-area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to

children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Samaritan's Purse delivered its milestone 200 millionth shoebox, which was packed on a country-wide tour and then hand-delivered to a young girl in Ukraine.

Across SC, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanispurse.org/occ or by calling 770-777-9342.

Although local drop-off locations for gifts are closed until Nov. 13-20, 2023, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanispurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,
Lizette Miller
SAMARITAN'S PURSE

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Better Business Bureau

Tips For Avoiding Romance Scams



Kelvin Collins
Better Business Bureau

Many have turned to online dating and social media over the past few years to find love and meet new people. Unfortunately, these platforms have not only made it easier than ever to meet new people and find dates but have also made it easier to be scammed as well. Con artists create compelling backstories and full-fledged identities, then trick you into falling for someone who doesn't exist. This form of deception is known as "catfishing." Better Business Bureau (BBB) has witnessed a growth in romance scams in recent years.

In 2021, BBBs across North America received 276 reports on romance scams, a 13% increase from 2020. In 2022, the number of reported romance scam cases more than doubled in the first two months of the year when compared to the same period last year. Victims were befriended and tricked into relationships with fraudsters whose sole aim was to get money and/or credit card information from them.

With Valentine's Day around the corner and the pandemic still a part of our lives, BBB encourages those looking for love to be wary of fraudsters. Don't let your quest for love blind you to the realities of romance scams.

Online dating sites are popular, as many singles use technology to find a match. But behind many dating profiles lurk scammers who are ready to dup users into believing they have found love. But often, it is the first step in a phishing scheme to steal personal information or to trick you out of money. In some cases, victims have been tricked into moving illegal money from other scams ("money mule"), which is potentially a crime.

Most romance scams start with fake profiles on online dating sites created by stealing photos and text from real accounts or elsewhere. Scammers often claim to be in the military or working overseas to explain why they can't meet you in person. Over a short period of time, the scammer builds a fake relationship with you, exchanging photos and romantic messages, even talking on the phone or through a webcam.

Just when the relationship seems to be getting serious, your new sweetheart has a health issue or family emergency or wants to plan a visit. No matter the story, the request is the same: they need money. But after you send money, there's another request, and then another. Or the scammer stops communicating altogether.

Tips to spot this scam:

Too hot to be true. Scammers offer up good-looking photos and tales of financial success. Be honest with yourself about who would be genuinely interested. If they seem "too perfect," your alarm bells should ring.

In a hurry to get off the site. "Catfishers" will try very quickly to get you to move to communicate through email, messenger, or phone.

Moving fast. A "catfisher" will begin speaking of a future together and tell you they love you quickly. They often say they've never felt this way before.

Talk about trust. "Catfishers" will start manipulating you with talk

about trust and its importance. This will often be the first step to asking you for money.

Don't want to meet. Be wary of someone who always has an excuse to postpone a meeting because they say they are traveling or live overseas or are in the military.

Suspect language. If the person you are communicating with claims to be from your hometown but has poor spelling or grammar, uses overly flowery language or uses phrases that don't make sense, that's a red flag.

Hard luck stories. Before moving on to asking you for money, the scammer may hint at financial troubles like heat being cut off or a stolen car, or a sick relative, or they may share a sad story from their past (death of parents or spouse, etc.).

Protect yourself from this scam:

- Never send money or personal information that can be used for identity theft to someone you've never met in person. Never give someone your credit card information to book a ticket to visit you. Cut off contact if someone starts asking you for information like credit card, bank, or government ID numbers.
- Ask specific questions about

details given in a profile. A scammer may stumble over remembering details or making a story fit.

• Do your research. Many scammers steal photos from the web to use in their profiles. You can do a reverse image lookup using a website like tinEye.com or images.google.com to see if the photos on a profile are stolen from somewhere else. You can also search online for a profile name, email, or phone number to see what adds up and what doesn't.

To read more on romance scams, visit bbb.org/all/romance scams, to report a scam, go bbb.org/scam tracker.

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 charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4272, Web site: BBB.org or e-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org

Don't Forget Your Valentine! Shop Local

Pardon me, ma'am; may I count your syllables for a second?



Phil Hudgins
Contributor

It was bound to happen. We've seen this nation's states compared every way you can think of: which state has the most obese people, which state has the most impoverished, which state has the most homeless, the most lakes, the most tornadoes, the most dogs, the most bad teeth.

Well, now we know — if you believe an analysis done by Preply, an online language learning platform which state has the slowest-talking people. Before you start guessing, I'll tell you. It's Louisiana. South Carolina is second. Floridians lead the South as the fastest-talking, assuming there was a way to separate the snowbirds of Ohio.

Residents of Minnesota, the study says, talk the fastest. Oregon is second.

Okay, you're no doubt asking: how did the study determine these breath-taking statistics? YouTube videos, of course, along with call recordings.

I have my doubts about the validity of the study. Several years ago, a crew from Louisiana installed a TV cable line in our neighborhood, and I could barely understand them, they talked so fast. The fact that they were Cajuns might have had something to do with it. How did the study separate fast-talking Cajuns from the others?

In determining the rate of speech speed, the researchers apparently counted syllables. For example, Georgia, my home state, ranked fifth

in the top 10 slow-talking states, and its rate was 4.89 syllables per second. But everybody knows that a true Southerner can easily turn a one-syllable word — the exclamation "shool" or its colorful equivalent is a good example — into two syllables, if not three. That would throw off the study, wouldn't it?

The average rate of speech in the U.S. is 5.09 syllables per second, in case you're wondering. Minnesotans are way up there with 5.34 syllables per second.

Our next-door neighbor grew up in Minnesota, but her speech might have slowed down a syllable or two since she's been enjoying southern climates for a number of years. Looking at the temperatures up there the last few days, I don't think she'll be moving back.

Slow-talking or not, we Southerners are adaptable. As long as we have closed captions on television programs, we can read fast enough to understand the Brits on "The Crown" and other imports from the Mother Country.

I don't know about you, but I really don't care about the number of syllables a second a person speaks. I'm looking for what he or she says — and whether I'm interested, not how long it takes him or her to say it.

And I don't care what Jennifer Adams thinks, either. Several years ago, she wrote a book titled "Say Goodbye to Your Southern Accent," which claims that a thick Southern accent could just hold you back in the business world. People might think you're stupid. Truth is, accents and intelligence are two different things.

So there. By the way, if you want to know how your state ranks in the syllables-per-second study, just Google it. And read at your own pace.

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

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

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

Olar homicide under investigation

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

Bamberg County authorities are investigating the shooting death of a young man with roots in Barnwell County.



Savion Williams

Savion Williams, 20, of Denmark, was found dead inside a vehicle outside a home on 5th Street in Olar on Tuesday evening, Jan. 31, around 9:30 p.m. He died from a gunshot wound, said Bamberg County Coroner Wallace Hicks Jr.

"He was very outgoing and a real people person. Everybody got along with him. He got attached to people and they got attached to him," said his mother, Nikki Chisolm.

As a lover of the trucks and fishing, Williams aspired to become a game warden, said Chisolm.

Williams also loved playing sports, including basketball, baseball, and football. Over the years, he played sports for Bamberg-Ehrhardt, Jefferson Davis Academy in Blackville, and Andrew Jackson Academy. He completed high school at Williston-Fiko High in 2021, said Chisolm.

The S.C. Law Enforcement Division is assisting the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office and Bamberg County Coroner's Office with the investigation. No arrests have been made at this time, said Bamberg County Sheriff Kenny Bamberg.

This is the second homicide in 2023 in Bamberg County. The first one occurred earlier in the month in Denmark.

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.

Stephen Troy Boan, 34, of 1960 Lake Drive, Williston, was arrested Jan. 31 by the Williston Police Department (WPD) for Stolen Property Offenses. Boan was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Stephen Troy Boan, 33, of 1960 Lake Drive, Williston, was arrested Jan. 31 by the WPD for Driving Under Suspension, third or more offense. Boan was booked and released to the BCDC.

Donnell Dwayne Breeland, 47, of Highway 278, Lot 36, Barnwell, was arrested Feb. 2 by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Aggra-

vated Criminal Domestic Violence. Breeland was booked and released to the BCDC.

Roger Edward Broughton, 58, of 82 Wilton Drive, Williston, was arrested Jan. 26 by the WPD for an outstanding warrant and Resisting Arrest. Broughton was booked and released to the BCDC.

Adrian Perry Buckmon, 41, of 5986 U.S. Highway 278, Barnwell, was arrested Jan. 28 by the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) for Domestic Violence. Buckmon was booked and released to the BCDC.

Harry O. Duker, 41, of Williston, was arrested Jan. 16 by the WPD for Trespass of Real Property. He was also arrested Jan. 18 and 19 by the WPD, both times for Trespass of Real Property. Duker was booked and released to the BCDC.

Shawn Michael Fail, 28, of 2952 Memorial Church Road, Olar, was arrested Jan. 30 by the BCSO for Receiving Pos-

session of Stolen Property, Driving Under Suspension and Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Fail was booked and released to BCDC.

Deondre Lamont King, 30, of 115 Society Road, Williston, was arrested Jan. 22 by the WPD for a warrant. King was booked and released to the BCDC.

Tonnette Myers, 50, of 6 Penni Circle, Blythwood, was arrested Jan. 24 by the BPD for Shoplifting. Myers was booked and released to the BCDC.

E'Kasia Ra'Onna Odom, 24, of 146 Berry Street, Barnwell, was arrested Jan. 22 by the BPD for Public Disorderly Conduct. Odom was booked and released to the BCDC.

Gregory Allen Taylor, 37, of 15160 Still Road, Barnwell, was arrested Jan. 31 by the BCSO for Burglary. Taylor was booked and released to the BCDC.

MILLIKEN

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If you worked at the Milliken Barnwell plant before 1982, you may have been exposed to **asbestos**. You could be entitled to multiple cash settlements *from special asbestos trusts*.

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Notice

Holly Hill Complex at: Crilo Street, Holly Hill, SC
North Complex at: Palmetto 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: Miracosa 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

Affordable and effective units available. Rent is based on income. Applicants will be screened prior to leasing. Contact the Barnwell, SC Office to submit an application on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at 1 800 922 3504 Or 803-259-3588

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.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 27 No. 10 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Jellyfish Jumble

Look closely at the jellyfish. Each jellyfish has a match. Can you find them all?

My Letters

J is for Jellyfish
j is for jellyfish

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

How many pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound that the letter **J** makes in the word **jellyfish**?

My Numbers

How many ? ?
 How many ? ?

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

My Rhyme Time

Now what do you think Of little Jack Jingle? Before he was married He used to live single.

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: I 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.

Left **A** jellyfish can _____ Right

<h4>Sunday</h4> <p>Letter Identification With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that have the same sound as the letter J in jellyfish.</p>	<h4>Monday</h4> <p>Math Play Point to the number 8 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.</p>	<h4>Tuesday</h4> <p>The UPPERCASE & lowercase Game Look at one page of the newspaper with your child and say, "The big J, called uppercase J, is looking for her little brother, called lowercase j. Let's see how many big J, little j matches we can find!"</p>	<h4>Wednesday</h4> <p>Move/Don't Move Chart Make a two-column chart on a piece of paper. Title one column Things That Move and the other column Things That Don't Move. Look through the newspaper and cut out pictures to paste in each column.</p>	<h4>Thursday</h4> <p>Jellyfish Ate 8 Find 8 examples of different objects in the newspaper (i.e. 8 trees, 8 eyes). Cut out groups of 8 things and glue them on a paper plate. Have your child complete the sentence, "My jellyfish ate 8 _____."</p>	<h4>Friday</h4> <p>8 Rhymes The word eight rhymes with plate and gate. Look through the newspaper for pictures of words that rhyme. Can you find 8 pairs of rhyming picture words?</p>	<h4>Saturday</h4> <p>Jiggle Like a Jellyfish Lay one sheet of newspaper on the floor. Draw a big circle in the middle. Tell your child to jump in the circle every time you say a word that starts with the sound j makes in the words jellyfish and jiggle.</p>
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Learning Buddy Sign Here: I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy. _____ Date

Learning Buddies! 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.

BIRTH



Wren Brantlee Hiers was born January 3, 2023.

Wren Brantlee Hiers

Justin and Briana Hiers of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Wren Brantlee Hiers. She was born on January 3, 2023 at 6:42 p.m. at Piedmont Hospital in Augusta, Ga. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Grandparents are Chuck & Sonja Hiers of Barnwell and Laverne & Amy Zorn of Barnwell.

ENGAGEMENT



Patricia Birt and Anthony Chavis are engaged to be married on April 8, 2023.

Birt, Chavis

Charlie and Darlene Birt of Olar are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Birt of Olar, to Anthony Chavis of Blackville. He is the son of Mike and Paula Chavis of Blackville. The bride-elect is a 2017 graduate of Blackville-Hilda High School and a 2020 graduate of Denmark Tech with a degree in nursing. She is employed by Remain at Home Senior Care. The groom-elect is a 2016 graduate of Blackville-Hilda High School. He is employed by Carroll's Welding LLC as a Millwright. The wedding will be held April 8, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Copper Oak Plantation in Bamberg. Formal invitations will be sent.

Newspaper publisher named to E&P's '25 Under 35' list of news media professionals

Jonathan Vickery, publisher/owner of *The People-Sentinel*, was recognized by *Editor & Publisher* magazine as part of the next generation of news media professionals.

He is one of 25 news media professionals from across the coun-

try to be named to the magazine's annual list of 25 professionals under the age of 35. E&P serves newspapers, broadcast, digital and other forms of news publishing.

"Our 25 Under 35 salute is one of my favorites. I feel, in some way, it showcases our future —

one that's inspired, passionate and innovative, reinvigorated by fresh ideas and talent. E&P thanks the colleagues who thoughtfully nominated this year's deserving nominees. I am certain you'll find their perspectives inspiring, too," wrote Robin Blind-

er, editor-in-chief of the magazine, in the February 2023 edition.

Vickery said he is honored to be featured on this prestigious list of dedicated and hardworking news media professionals.

"Nobody goes into the journalism field to be-

come rich. Instead, we do this job because we care about keeping our communities informed with factual, unbiased reporting," said Vickery.

Read Vickery's profile and those of the other honorees at www.editorandpublisher.com/stories/eps-25-under-35,241993.



Jonathan Vickery



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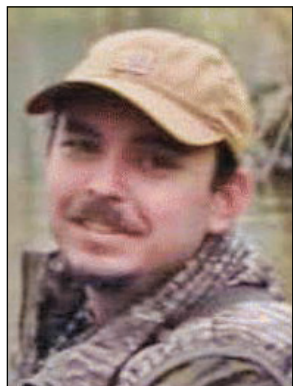
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Eleanor's Corner

Obituaries



Adam Scott

also enjoyed woodworking, golfing, and keeping up with current events. He was also a collector of knives and flashlights. Above all else, Adam loved his family and treasured the time he spent with them.

Adam was a proud member of the CCU Alumni, Ducks Unlimited, and the NRA.

In addition to his parents, Adam is survived by his daughter, Hallie Kate Scott of Myrtle Beach; two brothers, Lucas Creech and Chase Creech of Williston; his gram, LaVerne Kearse of Myrtle Beach; his grandfather, Barry Creech of Barnwell; along with numerous beloved uncles, aunts, and cousins.

A celebration of Adam's life was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at Burroughs Funeral

Home, 3558 Old Kings Hwy., Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576.

The family received friends at Burroughs Funeral Home on Friday, February 3, 2023 from 6 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a memorial donation to St. Jude children's hospital at www.stjude.org/ or to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org/.

For more information or to sign the online guestbook, please visit www.burroughsfh.com.

Burroughs Funeral Home (843-651-1440) of Murrells Inlet is assisting the family.

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MYRTLE BEACH - Adam McKensie Scott, 23, of Myrtle Beach, died on Sunday, January 29, 2023 with his significant other, Bridget Bryce MacIver, in a tragic house fire. Adam was born in Georgetown to Brent Creech and Glenda Scott.

Adam was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and shooting. In his spare time, he enjoyed singing and playing music. Adam



Harvey Spires

Rose Bell Spires for nearly forty years. Harvey, affectionately known as "Booty-Booty Man", loved to fish and enjoyed cooking for his family and friends and especially spending time with his grandkids who he loved dearly. He retired as an Inspector from Delavan Spray Technologies in Bamberg. He was in a pool league and could shoot a mean game of pool; was a true card player and made many trips to Cherokee to the casino.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sharon Spires of the home; his children and their spouses, Jamie and Brittney Spires of Florence, William and Jennifer Spires of Chappells, Thomas James "TJ" and Destiney Spires of Orangeburg, Daphne Pacheco and Luis Garcia of Columbia, and Crystal and David

COPE - James Harvey Spires, 74, of Cope, passed away at home on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

A Celebration of his life was held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 3 o'clock p.m. at the Spires home, 827 Dusty Road, Cope, S.C. 29038. They invited all family and friends to come and share stories and memories of Harvey.

Born in Bamberg County, he was the son of the late Azile Nix Spires and was married to Sharon

Jeffers of Barnwell; grandchildren, Caprie Spires, Makenzie Ackerman, Logan Spires, Sophie Spires, Brandon Balleza, Laura Pacheco, Erika Pacheco, Blake Conner, Jonvany Pacheco, Hunter Parrish, Skyler Parrish, Jackson Spries, Thomas Spires Jr., Cody Jeffers and Brandon Jeffers; great-grandchildren, Jameson and Annalise Conner; numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Christine Spires and Mildred Gibson.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc., Denmark, is assisted the family with arrangements. Visit the online obituary at www.folkfuneralhome.com.

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Randy Bodiford

at the funeral home on Wednesday. Memorial contributions may be given in Randy's memory to Folk Funeral Home, P.O. Box 367, Williston, S.C. 29853.

Randy passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

Born in Bamberg County, he was a son of the late William Franklin "Billy" Bodiford and Louris Hair Bodiford. He previously worked as a farmer on local farms and most recently worked at Wayne Browning Farms for over 16 years. Randy loved all animals, especially chickens. Even though he was in a wheelchair; he still enjoyed fishing and cooking out. He loved to build cages and loved spending time in his workshop. He enjoyed working with his hands and was a jack-of-all

trades; he could build and do most anything.

Survivors include his step-daughter, Holly Ellis of Williston; sisters, Judy B. Pitts (her husband, the late Bobby G. Pitts) of Williston, and Cathy (Etheriedge) Owens of Blackville; brother, Ricky (Renee) Bodiford of Williston; step-grandchildren, which he loved like his own, Lizzie Ellis, Erica Ellis, Kaylynn Couch, and Jimmy Ellis; a number of nieces and nephews; and his four-legged companion, Sport.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc. and Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at www.folkfuneralhome.com.

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WILLISTON - Funeral services for Randy Eric Bodiford, 65, of Williston, will be held at 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston with the Reverend Timmy Gunnells officiating; burial will follow in the Barnwell County Memorial Cemetery by the airport. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service

Barbara Ann Kinard Dresko

Barbara Ann Kinard Dresko, 85, passed away on February 2nd, 2023. She was born in Bamberg on November 28, 1937 to the late Owen G. Kinard and Mattie Gohagan Kinard.

She is survived by her brothers, James V. Kinard of Las Vegas, Nevada, and

Neeley (Jean) Kinard of Barnwell; sister, Rosa L. Kinard of Olar; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, John Lawrence Dresko; brothers, Grady Kinard, Marial Kinard, Paul Kinard, Leighton Kinard, and George

Kinard; as well as her sister, Peggy Dyches.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell is assisting the family. Sign the online guestbook at molefh.com.

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George Franklin Harris

George will be remembered for the love he had for his family and friends, and he will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

George was married to the love of his life, Marguerite Harris, for over 44 years, and to this union they were blessed with a beautiful family.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Caroline Denise Harris-Deen; parents, Joseph and Jennie Bell Harris; and grandparents.

George entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center in Denmark.

George leaves cherish his beautiful memory: a loving and devoted wife of the home, Marguerite Harris of Barnwell; five children, Berlinda Harris-Williams of Jersey City, N.J., George Edward (Martha) Harris Jr. of East Orange, N.J., Steven G. (Delphine) Harris Sr. of Union, N.J., Terence F. (Aretha) Harris and Lynn (Quincy) Stroman, both of Barnwell; one stepdaughter, Sharon

Martin of Atlanta, Ga.; twelve grandchildren, two of which were reared in the home; eleven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Freddie (Dora) Butler of Jersey City, N.J.; three sisters-in-law, Loretta (James) Davis and Martha (Charles) Adams, both of Myrtle Beach, and Gwendolyn Allen of Philadelphia, Pa.; two brothers-in-law, Walter Bethea Jr. of Dillon and Joseph Smith of Mechanicsburg, Pa.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Services were held Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 12 p.m. at Second Baptist Church of Barnwell with Pastor Lamont Boyd presiding and Rev. McKinley Neal as eulogist. Pallbearers were members of the Big Seven Association while friends of the family served as flower attendants. Interment followed at Hope Memorial Park in Barnwell.

B.F. Cave Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements.

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BARNWELL - Mr. George Franklin Harris, age 85, was born on April 19, 1937 in Barnwell to the late Joseph P. Harris and the late Jennie Bell Austin.

George received his education in the public schools of Barnwell and Jersey City public school system. He graduated from Ferris High School in Jersey City, N.J. Seeking God's direction and guidance, he joined Bethlehem Baptist Church in Barnwell. He worked as a machine operator at Dixie Narco in Williston for many years before retiring. George enjoyed working in the yard and owned his own yard-cutting business. He was also very active in his community and was one of the original members of the Big Seven Association.

Quency "Johnny" David Holmes

ORANGEBURG - Mr. Quency "Johnny" David Holmes, 75, of Orangeburg, passed away on February 1, 2023. He was the husband of Mrs. Gail Colbert Holmes.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Culbert Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 647 Elko Street, Williston, S.C. 29853, with Rev. Dr. Isaac Brown III officiating. Burial will follow in Sandhills Cemetery in Williston.

Quency was born on August 14, 1947 in Williston, a son of the late Roy Holmes Sr. and Lula Mae Harrison Holmes. He was

a graduate of Kelly Edwards High School, Morris College where he obtained a bachelor's degree, and Atlanta University School of Business where he also obtained his master's degree. He was a human resource director for Bosch Corporation, where he eventually retired. Quency was a member of the Omega Si Phi fraternity and a member of Culbert Branch Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years; three daughters, Jondalyn Holmes Watson (Keith) of Summerville, Hope Holmes of Moncks Cor-

ner, and Jami Holmes Miller of Moncks Corner; one brother, Sammy Lee Holmes (Retha) of Williston; six sisters, Ethel Mae Brown, Shirley Bradley, Rebena Holmes, Linda Knight, Eartha Holmes, and Gladys Holmes, all of Williston; 6 grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.dukesharleyfuneralhome.com or <https://www.facebook.com/Dukes-Harley-Funeral-Home-and-Crematory-304968586272868>.

The People-Sentinel
2/8/23

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The People-Sentinel

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More than 40 years of loving God and loving people

Ciera Sanders
Contributing Writer

Dr. Stephen Marshall Burnette, known as Pastor Steve, retired from full-time pastoral ministry on January 31, 2023.

He preached his last sermon at First Baptist Church of Williston on Sunday, January 29 and celebrated with loved ones afterwards with a luncheon. He retired after more than 40 years in the ministry at churches across South Carolina, including the past nine years at FBC Williston. He also was previously pastor of FBC Barnwell for about 15 years.

Early on in his ministry, he said he developed a life slogan to measure success in life: "To live a life of integrity and make a positive difference in people's lives."

His leadership had a positive impact on many people, especially within the local school districts. "I've found that one of the greatest ways to serve your city or town is to serve the schools, where 98 percent of the community flows through."

In Barnwell, FBC Barnwell staff members and volunteers served as mentors in the elementary school, worked with the band, football and baseball teams, created a coffee house break room for the middle school teachers and more. Pastor Steve and his staff entered a \$1.5 million building campaign, purchased land, expanded parking, and built The Merge to engage a large student ministry under Lee Clamp, and started the Child Development Center.

In Williston, FBC Williston adopted Kelly Edwards Elementary, and served as Reading Buddies, provided dinner for Literacy and Math nights

for the entire school, served as test proctors, hosted "Night of Stars" banquets, fed the football team before games, getting to know the players, and continue to host D.I.G., an afterschool program. Last year, FBC Williston celebrated 16 baptisms with 28 new members coming into the church family.

Lee Clamp, Chief Strategic Officer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and a long-time friend of Pastor Steve, shared special remarks during Pastor Steve's last sermon. This was a homecoming for Clamp who grew up at FBC Williston where his grandfather, the late Rev. Len G. Corder, was pastor.

"Steve's energy was only paralleled by his wisdom and leadership... He was a model for [Clamp] in the faith of what real grit looks like. [Clamp] learned things like vision casting, strategic planning, staff dynamics, re-dreaming the dream, growth curves, parenting skills, investing for retirement, and patience," said Clamp, who served as youth minister and later missions pastor at FBC Barnwell under Pastor Steve's leadership.

During Pastor Steve's tenure in Barnwell and Williston, 594 people were baptized, over \$712,000 was raised for missions to see others baptized outside the church, and when including individuals who were baptized under Pastor Steve's leadership at Millbrook in Aiken as an outreach pastor, he has been personally responsible and leadership driven for 1,012 of baptisms. Additionally, over 1,500 people found a church home and community of faith due to Pastor Steve's leadership, said Clamp.

"Your teachings have had a major impact on my spiritual growth. Thank you for being obedient

to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May God bless you and your lovely family. I pray for success in whatever you put your hand to do in the future," said Tonya Thomas on Facebook.

Although there were many hurdles to overcome and mountains to climb, Pastor Steve closed his years of ministry with a resounding job well done.

"When you think about success, Pastor Steve has a brilliant mind... What he has done over the past 40 years is he has invested in the souls of mankind that will actually last much longer than just here on this earth. Each of those numbers has a name and each of those names has a story," said Clamp.

Pastor Steve's final reminder to FBCW was that Jesus' prayer to the church is that the people of God may be one, and show the glory of love and unity of the Triune God to one another, and to the world, for whom Jesus died. He and his wife plan on joining Jesus in the harvest in the normal rhythms of life. "We hope to enjoy travel, visit family, play tennis, hike, bike, read, and make new friends," he said.

A pastor search committee is being formed to select the church's next pastor. In the meantime, Minister-at-Large Rodney Bodiford and Student Pastor Joseph Sanders will share the pastoral and preaching duties.

"God has blessed, and I am thankful for them both. You are in capable hands," said Pastor Steve to the church.

"Pastor Steve has been a great mentor and father in the ministry to me. He challenged me to preach my first sermon in 2017, and encouraged me into full-time ministry last year," said Sanders, who grew up attending FBC Barnwell during Pastor



Pastor Stephen Burnette & wife Annette Burnette in FBCW Foyer. Photo by: Jonathan Vickery

Steve's ministry there. "Over this past year on staff together, he taught me a lot about how a church functions and how a mission-minded pastor can impact the community."

Bodiford and Sanders are excited about the transition at First Baptist. "This is still a time of Kingdom growth, and we are looking forward to

continuing to develop our discipleship programs on Sundays and Wednesdays. We want to encourage our leaders and members to take up the personal pastoral care of building relationships and prayerfully encouraging one another as we move into this next season," added Sanders.

FBC Williston is located at 13030 Main St., Williston. Sunday school is held

Sundays at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Programs for infants through 12th graders, as well as men's and women's Bible studies, are held Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

For more information, call the church office at (803) 266-3046, email FBCWilliston@gmail.com, or visit their Facebook page.



Left to Right: Lee Clamp, Connor Clamp, Corder Clamp, Pastor Stephen Burnette, and Lee's wife Leisa Clamp. Photo by: Lee Clamp



Pastor Stephen Burnette & brother Heyward Burnette at FBCW Luncheon. Photo by: Laura Burbage

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Allendale School Board sets new goals

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Allendale County School District (ACSD) held their regular school board and community meeting on Monday, Jan. 23 to keep parents, students, and educators informed on the state of the district.

Superintendent Dr. Margaret Gilmore set four goals for the district in the new year; improve student achievement, increase partnerships with the community, upgrade district facilities, and obtain highly-skilled teachers.

Improving Student Achievement

Benchmark Assessment Scores from fall to winter increased overall in each school; however, certain grades and subjects have hit a decline. Tests receiving a 'C' or higher are considered in these figures.

At Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School (AFES), math scores increased in third, fourth, and fifth grade. AFES reading scores increased in third and fifth grade, but decreased in fourth.

Benchmark science exams are only administered to fourth graders. Between the fall and winter exams, fourth grade science scores decreased.

At Allendale-Fairfax Middle School (AFMS), sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students all increased in their benchmark reading scores—eighth graders showing significant improvement.

In math, sixth and eighth graders increased, but seventh graders experienced a decrease in scores. Sixth graders increased in scores for science testing.

Allendale-Fairfax High School (AFHS) students increased in English II scores, algebra I scores, biology scores, and U.S. history scores.

Truancy is an issue at ACSD, and the district is looking for ways to get students to school every weekday. A key in doing so is increasing parental involvement.

Parenting Partners are sessions parents and guardians can attend to learn from their student's teachers about what is happening in the classroom. Parents will learn skills to amplify their child's academic experience and facilitate skills being taught in the classroom at home.

To further a child's success outside of the classroom, the Paper Education tutoring program is offered to all students in grades third through twelfth. This online program provides unlimited 24/7 and year-round tutoring and academic support in any subject.

Instructional Specialist Tonya Davis explained Paper will not provide students with the answer, but build on the knowledge they have to guide them toward asking the right questions.

ACSD has received a \$270,000 grant to expand summer learning opportunities. The Summer Learning Exploration is a summer program rooted in STEM from June 12 to June 30.

There are three tracts K-12 students can be placed in based on their academic standing: accelerate, create, and stimulate.

Students in need of intervention or course recovery will be in the accelerate tract, students who need further enrichment outside of the classroom will be in the create tract, and students who could benefit from a combination of both alongside personal development skills will be in the stimulate tract.

Registration for the Summer Learning Exploration program begins on March 1 and ends on March 31.

Increasing community partnerships

Dr. Gilmore met with SRP Federal Credit Union repre-

sentatives on Jan. 24 to bring a branch back to Allendale after it left to come to Williston years ago.

Dr. Gilmore hopes this could be the first start in recruiting more businesses to Allendale.

Upgrading District Facilities

A bid was accepted by M.B. Kahn Construction Co. Inc. to "gut and upgrade the middle and high school," according to Dr. Gilmore.

\$23 million has been set aside for this renovation; \$8 million from the S.C. Department of Education and \$15 million from the 2020 Savannah River Site (SRS) settlement.

Media centers have been created at all schools in an effort to grow critical thinkers and problem solvers. The AFHS Library has been restructured with comfortable lounges and conference areas creating a new style of learning for both students and teachers.

Obtaining Skilled Educators

Four interventionists, two math consultants, and a social studies consultant have been hired to help better student scores. These individuals are either retired ACSD teachers or have worked with the district in the past, and will be focusing on the courses.

ACSD will be attending an upcoming recruitment fair at Winthrop University to hopefully widen the range of educators in Allendale.

Recognitions

Each month, students, educators, and staff are recognized for bettering the overall learning environment of ACSD or high test scores. Students of the Month receive \$10, and teachers/staff receive a plaque.

The AFES Student of the Month is second grader Kaitlyn Harney who is described as a "great leader in her family." Eighth grader Markayla Roberts was named the AFMS Student of the Month for being a "model student in so many ways."

At AFHS, tenth grader Antonio Badger was named the Student of the Month for having a "positive attitude and always does what is expected of him." Rihanna Deloach was named Student of the Month at the Evening School for her dedication to recovering lost credits and commitment as a student-athlete.

Teachers, or Champions in the Classroom as Dr. Gilmore calls them, are also awarded for their hard work.

At AFES, Sancia Anderson was named Teacher of the Month for her "engaging approach to teaching and genuine interest" in her students.

Eighth grade teacher Deborah Moore "works so hard to ensure her students are mastering learning standards," and "cares a lot about her students," making her the AFMS Teacher of the Month.

At AFHS, English teacher Crystal Clayborn was recognized as Teacher of the Month for setting high standards for her students and "instills in them the confidence to reach them."

Patty Dopson was named the Support Staff of the Month at AFES for her dedication to student growth in the third grade classroom she supports.

Earlene Dunbar was named Outstanding Bus Driver of the Month for her over 35 years of service to the district and continual words of encouragement.

The title of Outstanding Custodian of the Month went to Priscilla Smoaks for showing "great dedication in ensuring AFES is clean and tidy," to better the learning environment for staff and scholars.

Tameara Morrell was



Photos by: Alexandra Whitbeck

The Media Center has taken shape at the library of Allendale-Fairfax High School. This is one of the three newly opened Media Centers across the three schools at ACSD. The Media Center hopes to foster creativity and community with lounge furniture and conference areas available to both teachers and students.



Kheshaun Johnson, Kavion Patterson, Javontaye Pinder, Karinton Sabb, Tyler Shiggs, Kamarien Williams, Ahnesty Wright, Ronald Roberts, and Loramsy Robinson.

Raz-Kids is an online program connecting students to reading. At ACSD, the top readers in K-5 are awarded for their hard work.

Kindergartener Brooklyn Milledge, first grader Carson Patterson, second grader Brayden Williams, third grader Ja'zmyne Cowell, fourth grader Matthew Morell, and fifth grader J'Kahri Rhodes.

The Waterford Reading Program is another program used at ACSD to better the relationship students have with reading in fourth grade and montessori classes. The content of the online program varies to cater to both age ranges.

Each student who successfully read for 75 minutes each week in the months of November and December was rewarded at the January meeting.

The November reader awarded in Roxanne Griddle's fourth grade class was Isiah Pryor, who was also awarded for December alongside Marquis Finley. In Debra Thomas' Montessori class, Starr Britt and Bailee Ellis were recognized for November and Bailee Ellis was awarded again for her December reading strides.

The top scorers on Mastery View Predictive Assessments (formerly TE21) in each grade were awarded. At AFES, students were awarded for ELA and math results, at AFMS students were awarded for ELA, math, and science, and at AFHS students were awarded for English II, biology, algebra I, and U.S. history.

Here is a list of honored students:

Third grade:

Gauge Ayer
Kyleigh Cohen
Kameron Dunbar
Camryn Eaton
Kaiden Gill
Mariah Housey
Kenyade Johnson
Nyleishah Lee-Brant
Promise Lewis
Skai Loadholt
Lyric McKnight
Carter Patterson
Jasmyn Penn
Amari Walker
Jhace Fraizer
Kamrhen Sanders
Ire'lannah Johnson
Jayceon Brown
Zayla Ebron
Kaleb Rollins

Fourth grade:

K'Jenae Cunningham
Jahanna Sanders
Colten Brant
Ervin Ford
Mico Gentle
Memphis Robinson
Jaida Sanders
Avinia Stroud
Heaven Tinsley-Hay
Valerie Flores
Kinsley Frazier
Chandler Morell

Kahryn Bryant
Armani Brodus
Tyrin Doe
Timothy Gibbs
Harmonii Jackson
Fifth grade:

Harmony Brooker
Grettel Gracia-Cruz
Andrew Haughton
Fernanda Millan
Layla Robinson
Nevaeh Ellis
Logan Holley
J'kahrie Rhodes
Londyn Bennett
Jeremiah Early
Katelyn Orizu
Essence Smoakes
Ameria Williams

Sixth grade:

Kalani Gentle
Divine Grayson
Aidan Isham
J'ace Creech
Corey Housey
Lucy Krebs
Camillya Williams
Chris Smith
Hailey Bowers
Chyna Fields
Raegen Scott
Zykha Brown
Katlyn Bunch
Fernanda Carrillo
Akria Jenkins
Jaylin Loadholt
Jakayla Anderson
Tavian Doe
Tyler White
Sean Rivers
Jamazin Smart

Seventh grade:

A'london Owens
Hunter Wilson
Kasin Krebs
Zane Maner
Eighth grade:

Leroy Davis
Markeise Driessen
Zamal Ellison
La'Vazhia Morell
Nevada Frazier
Zanariah Harden
S'Miya Bing
Makynli Harney
Airrelle Johnson
Anthony Johnson
Cayle'e Lofton
Hannah Meyer
Markayla Roberts
Nevaeh Shiggs
Zaina White
Preet Patel

Ninth grade:

Jaiden Mcknight
De'Narie Breeland
Joronwanna Elmore
Santos Milan
Kavion Patterson
Zyki Priestner
Kaseana Williams
Zakiya Williams

Tenth grade:

Rebekah Powers
Arianna Priestner
Ari Aldrich
Jhorian Bradley
Dametre'Yona Drayton
Josiah Smart
Imajyne Winfield
Keirra Aiken
Dennis Delmoral
Paris Holmes
Taylor Isham
Ja'Khari Johnson
Taylor Moody
Shamiah O'Banner
Jaylen Outing
Dhailuana Taylor-Maner
Kaden Wesley

Eleventh grade:

Lokeya Robinson
Savannah Speight

named the Outstanding Food Service Employee of the Month for being a "distinguished role model for the entire staff."

Tiger JROTC Battalion cadets were recognized by Chief Jeffery Gordon for their part in the first level of the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) in November.

On the Academic Team at JLAB was Ariyanna Washington, Rebekah Powers, Santos Milan, Travisa McNair, Iymesha Grayson, and Za'Nariah Rhodes. On the Leadership Team was Dhailuana Maner, Arianna Priestner, Zyone Greene, Kaden Wesley, Kiyana Faust, and Shaquavian Thompson.

The second level of this competition will be held in February, with the championship event in June. The Tiger JROTC Battalion is currently preparing for level two.

Many students received OSHA certifications in the 2022/23 school year for their

respective trade.

In HVAC, 13 students received a certification: Kori'Ona Bates, Malachi Flowers, Jordan Greene, Zion Hallett, Aaron Roberts, Jayden Williams, Rihanna Deloach, Jamil Elias, A'lateonna Jenkins, Sermond Jones, Jermaine Simmons, Arian Williams, and Dajuan Williams.

In welding, four students completed their OSHA certification: Vianney Flores, Andrey Gadson, Ja'Khari Johnson, and Jaylen Outing.

In auto technology, 14 students became certified: Key'On Brooks, K'nijah Burgess, Bryanna Curry, Miles Duncan, Cadarius Platts, Josiah Smart, Luther Smoaks, Ty'quavin Tilley, Jaden Williams, Deontay Eady, Zechariah Gibson, Hunter Zecharia, Kamauri Kelly, Emanuel Martinez, Kaitlyn Patterson, and Alexis Payne.

Eleven students were certified in construction technology: Brooke Davis, Logan Fullington, Antonio James,

Russell's Pizza celebrates 25 years of serving community, honoring God



Members of Russell's Pizza's various locations came together on Jan. 2 to celebrate the business's 25th anniversary.

Photos By: Jean Estelle Photography



[Above] Russell Hodges and his wife, Rena Creech, pose for a photo in front of balloons and pizza boxes in celebration of the pizza chain's 25th anniversary. [Below] Russell's Pizza employees enjoyed a catered BBQ lunch on Jan. 2.



Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
fvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

A local pizza chain is celebrating 25 years in business. Russell's Pizza was established on Jan. 1, 1998 with just one location and four employees. It slowly grew from there into a chain of three locations that employs more than 60 people.

"We are very thankful for our community and the support they give to us. God has blessed us," said owner Russell Hodges, who has been in the pizza business for 37 years.

He started in 1985, right out of high school, working at a Domino's Pizza in Pensacola, Fla. After completing a manager program through Domino's, Hodges spent several years managing various locations in Florida before buying a struggling location.

"That's where we developed the recipes we use now," said Hodges.

He moved to South Carolina in 1993 and went to work for his in-laws who owned a pizza restaurant in Swansea. He and a business partner later built a chain called Pizza Stop with locations in Wagener, Blackville, and Williston.

After four years in South Carolina, Hodges was divorced, a single

father, and in a bad business partnership. He sought counsel and prayer from his pastor, who encouraged him to take a leap of faith. Hodges broke away from Pizza Stop and was offered money and equipment by his ex-mother-in-law to have a fresh start.

"God took what could have been a disaster and turned it into a blessing," said Hodges.

That money and equipment started the first Russell's Pizza location in Denmark on Jan. 1, 1998. Four teenagers from Pizza Stop came with him as the inaugural employees. Nine months later they moved the restaurant to Blackville once they found a location.

He later was able to purchase the former Pizza Stop in Williston, which became the second Russell's Pizza location. In 2005, he married Rena Creech and they moved the Blackville store after renovating an old building down the street from the original location. In January 2008, the Hodges were offered the Pizza Stop location in Wagener, which became the third Russell's Pizza.

"God has been faithful to us. He said step out and He's provided for more than we ever imagined or deserved," said Hodges.

Customers have also been faithful to the business, including some that come three times a week.

"From day one, the communities have treated us like family," he said.

Russell's Pizza has continued to grow its business and mission of helping the community.

"It's been really important to be a good community-minded family and company," said Hodges.

That's why Russell's Pizza tries to give back to the communities that have supported them over the past 25 years.

After feeling God wanted them to do missions, Hodges started a food trailer in 2019. The trailer has been used locally to provide free pizza at multiple community events and has even been sent to other communities for

mission trips through First Baptist Church of Barnwell.

The Savannah River Site (SRS) asked Hodges to bring the trailer as a food vendor to provide another meal option for their thousands of employees. In 2020, Russell's Pizza was the winning bidder for a contract to operate the café at SRS. A coffee shop was added later.

"We have seen tremendous growth at the site," said Hodges.

Over the next year or so, Russell's Pizza is preparing for even more growth as they explore several opportunities. After experiencing staffing issues, just as many businesses have in recent years, Hodges said they are placing a priority on training in 2023.

"We will be strengthening our management staff and seeing how the market goes," said Hodges.

His employees – who he calls his work family – are a key ingredient to the success of Russell's Pizza. Some have been with the company for 15 to 20 years. The average manager has more than 12 years of experience.

"A lot of our people have been very faithful," said Hodges.

Russell's Pizza closed all locations on Jan. 2 so employees and their families could come together as one for a catered meal.

When asked about the recipe for success in the world of business, Hodges said knowing your business and being wise with your budget are important. However, the most important thing to remember is it's all about how you treat people – customers and employees.

"The Golden Rule is very important in business. Always treat everybody as fair as you can," said Hodges. "Do those things and it will go well."

Another key ingredient for Russell's Pizza is honoring God. That's why the business is closed on Sundays.

Learn more about Russell's Pizza at www.russellspizzasc.com.

Williston, Hilda fill vacant town council seats

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople sentinel.com

A small number of voters in the towns of Williston and Hilda cast ballots in special elections.

One vacant council seat was on the ballot for each town's election on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Town of Williston

Alyson H. Collins will fill the vacant seat on the Williston Town Council after receiving 192 votes out of 323 in total at the January 31 special election.



Alyson Collins

Collins received nearly 60% of the votes while fellow candidates Judy Myrick Taylor and Margo Huggins received 34.67% and 5.88%, respectively. The total voter turnout in Williston was 15.75%,

according to official election results.

Collins takes the seat previously held by the late William Toney Jr. who passed away last year.

"I'm overwhelmed and so pleased to have been elected to serve the Town of Williston on town council," said Collins. "I'd like to congratulate Judy Taylor and Margo Huggins for their efforts during the campaign and say what a joy it was to run alongside two wonderful women."

"I would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to my friends and family for their support, and to everyone who cast a ballot during this election. I meant it when I said I'd

work hard for our town and I look forward to working with the council, mayor, and all of our citizens for the betterment of Williston," said Collins. Collins hopes to learn from current council members and use the experience she has gained through serving on other committees and boards in town.

"I would like to see us work towards beautification for our little town working with some local groups and I'd love to see new housing and businesses. We desperately need a daycare in town and I'd love for someone to make that a reality for us. I can only promise you that whatever I can do honestly and fairly,

I'll give it 110%," said Collins.

Collins will be sworn in at the Williston Town Council meeting on Monday, February 13.

Town of Hilda

Allison Still Beasley was elected to the Hilda Town Council. Beasley was the only candidate on the ballot, and received all 11 votes. The voter turnout was 4.33% out of 254 registered voters.

Beasley will fill the seat previously held by Darlene Falso who resigned last year.

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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.

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CLOWNS: Comedic murder mystery brings laughs to stage of Barnwell's community theatre

FROM PAGE 1A

Lyn Palm has enjoyed being part of this production, which places her in very different roles from anything she's done before. This includes a mute clown named Dahlia who honks a horn to answer questions.

"I hope everyone finds this show as funny as we have. Months into practice, we are still having trouble keeping straight faces," said Palm.

Laughter has been Rachel Hair's favorite component of this play.

"No matter how much we practice or go through the scenes, we always find something to laugh about. Most of time it's because one of us makes a scene funnier than the last time we practiced," she said.

Playing a clown named Backwards Bobo has proved to be challenging yet fun for Donna Creech.

"I've enjoyed not having a ton of lines! I do love the silliness of playing a clown, but it's been a huge challenge to memorize backwards lines," said Creech.

The final suspect is Saccharine, a clown portrayed by Virginia Nettles. Though she's been in many local plays, she's enjoyed working with many new people.

"It's been a great experience with a lot of laughing and lots of fun. I'm the little girl of the show. I love sweets, hence the name Saccharine, and am never without my lollipop. And like all the other clowns, I am a suspect," said Nettles.

The task of identifying the murderer is up to two detectives and a police psychiatrist. Jeff Miller plays Detective Artie, Dan Anderson plays Detective Nick, and Rachel Hair plays Dr. Amy Harris-Talman.

"The clowns make it a humorous challenge for her (and the detectives) to figure out how to solve the case. But I love how creative she is in figuring out how to understand all the craziness the clowns throw at her. She has her own wit

WHO KILLED BUBBLES THE CLOWN?



Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

THE INVESTIGATORS: Detective Artie (played by Jeff Miller), Detective Nick (Dan Anderson), and Dr. Amy Harris-Talman (Rachel Hair) are on the case in this comedic whodunit.

A look at the suspects...



DAHLIA, a mime who only communicates using her horn. Portrayed by Lyn Palm.



POZO, a clumsy clown who likes to rhyme. Portrayed by Jacob Sanders.



SACCHARINE, a clown with a sweet tooth. Portrayed by Virginia Nettles.



BACKWARDS BOBO, a clown who speaks backwards. Portrayed by Donna Creech.



CHUCKLES, a proper British clown proud of his work. Portrayed by Jacob Sanders.



C.C., a clown who likes repetition and questions. Portrayed by Lyn Palm.

and humor that I have enjoyed finding through this play," said Hair.

My character is an old, grisly detective trying to deal with a bunch of clowns, literally," said Miller, who commends Young for doing a "fantastic job" during his directorial debut.

"My top rate producer, Beth Miller, and my amazing cast have made this show something I

will never forget and will be forever proud to have been a part of," said Young.

Performances are: Friday, Feb. 17, Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25, all at 7 p.m., with Sunday matinees on Feb. 19 and 26 at 3 p.m.

"The play is really funny, and I hope Circle Theatre is packed for each performance," Miller

said. Tickets are \$15 in advance and can be purchased at *The People-Sentinel's* office at 222 Main Street, Barnwell. You can also call the newspaper office at (803) 259-3501 to pay with a card.

If seats are available, tickets will be sold at the door of the theatre (325 Academy St., Barnwell) for \$20. Doors open 30 minutes before the show.

FIREFIGHTERS: Red Oak Fire Department given deadline to comply with completing physicals

FROM PAGE 1A

physicals. One month we do it in Williston, and then the following month we do it in Barnwell. So they had two opportunities to get it done and none of them showed up," said Gatlin.

According to Gatlin, the county pays for these annual physicals when they are administered at these sessions or by the volunteer's primary care physician.

Gatlin is looking to arrange a time with North

Greenville Fitness to do the physicals for just Red Oak volunteers. A physical exam is required to be completed before taking the Firefighter I course.

"In the words of an old cliché, you've led that horse chose not to drink," said committee Chairman Don Harper.

Barnwell County Administrator Tim Bennett suggested the committee set a deadline for making an appointment for a

physical and registering for online classes.

Bennett suggested, "if they do not respond accordingly to the fire coordinator, that this committee consider folding that volunteer fire department into another volunteer fire department if they do not meet that deadline."

Bennett suggested Gatlin monitor the fire portal and inform the Red Oak volunteers of these deadline requirements.

The Red Oak Fire De-

partment held a special-called meeting on Thursday, January 26 to elect a permanent chief, unbeknownst to Gatlin.

"Last Thursday they had a special-called meeting and elected a new, permanent fire chief, which is Mr. Henry Smith," said Gatlin. "I wasn't aware of the meeting until after it happened."

Smith had been serving as the interim chief of the department prior to his election as chief.

Snelling mother urges others to listen to bodies after medical issues, misdiagnoses

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople sentinel.com

A mother of four in Snelling is urging people to listen to their bodies and look into their family medical history after a slew of misdiagnoses prohibited her from finding out she had congestive heart failure.

26-year-old Margaret Allen underwent a heart transplant in early 2022 that may have been prevented if she received adequate care.

"Being neglected added on to me neglecting myself. It's an endless cycle of negligence and not getting the help that you need," said Allen, who hopes her story will push someone to speak up about symptoms they may be ignoring.

It began in late December 2017 when she had complications during her pregnancy with twins. Allen underwent an emergency c-section with two boys at 23 weeks pregnant. The twins, Markelle and Jamelle, each weighed one pound and seven ounces.

Due to their premature state and other various complications, the newborns were both fighting issues such as bowel perforation, grade four brain bleeds, and holes in their hearts.

Jamelle experienced some of these issues more severely than Markelle. His entire bowel perforated, which led to kidney failure and sepsis, resulting in his death eight days later.

"After they take my baby away, I'm walking across the hall right to the other side of the NICU to see the other one," said Allen, who was still caring for her surviving twin, Markelle, at the time.

Allen was staying at a nearby Ronald McDonald house caring for her eldest child, Sydney, who was three years old at the time, during Markelle's six-month stay in the NICU.

"He does not walk, talk, crawl or anything. He has seizures, cerebral palsy, and he's blind," said Allen of Markelle. "He's a big boy when he stands when you hold him up, but in my arms, he's a little baby. I call him my forever baby."

The following year while caring for Markelle and Sydney, Allen was experiencing what she believed to be panic attacks. She would feel her heart beating in overdrive and would become short of breath.

At the time she attributed it to anxiety, something she dealt with previously and could handle with controlled breathing and relaxation.

"It feels like my heart is going to stop beating," said Allen. "Even then it was a little too extreme to be anxiety."

Allen is attuned with her body, and can usually tell the difference between anxiety and a larger issue. At this time, she knew it was something more.

"I started to feel that anxiety, that workup, that feeling like something bad was going to happen. Anxiety gives off the same thing, but it wasn't anxiety. It was my body warning me something is about to happen," said Allen.

A year or so went by where Allen was experiencing episodes of a tightness in the chest, shortness of breath, and rapid heartbeats. She kept dismissing it because those around her were too.

"During this time, I

didn't really have one supportive person," said Allen. "My family was really skeptical."

On February 25, 2021, Allen got into a car accident while 35 weeks pregnant with her youngest child, Marley. Her car hit a telephone pole resulting in Allen having a distal femur fracture, a ruptured spleen, and her daughter being without oxygen for 10 minutes.

"The day of my car accident is also her birthday," said Allen, who underwent another emergency c-section to save her daughter's life after the accident. Allen finds it ironic that she was scheduled for a c-section just a week later.

Allen was left with metal in her leg and forced to learn how to walk again, all while caring for three disabled children.

After all of this, she was still discouraged from taking her 'anxiety' seriously by those close to her and continued to feel swelling in her chest.

"I didn't have one supportive person. It was, 'Oh, you're having anxiety.' 'Oh, you're just doing too much.' 'You're faking it.' 'You're not as sick as you think you are,'" said Allen. "And mind you, I have three disabled children and I'm disabled myself, so during this time I'm not having a lot of help."

Although the tremendous stress, car accident, and other factors of these pregnancies did not cause her heart issues, many medical personnel along the way attributed her symptoms to them.

Ten months after the accident in December 2021, Allen's symptoms started to worsen.

"Eventually it started to get to the point where it was hard to breathe," said Allen. "I started to feel a very full feeling in my head. I couldn't really bend over and where it was just debilitating and crippling."

When feeling an episode come on, Allen would call 911 to bring Medshore medics to her Snelling home.

"Nobody is really thinking that I'm as sick as I am, which I haven't got a diagnosis at this time, but I'm in the hospital every day and calling the ambulance like every day," said Allen. "And once I let them know that I had anxiety, it was like they didn't hear anything else."

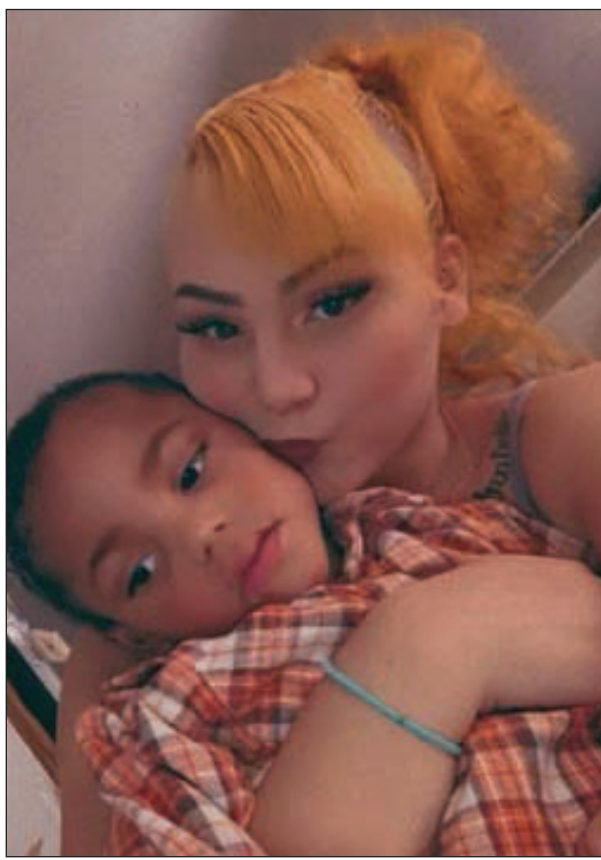
"The ambulance would come out to the house and they would just kind of give me that look like, 'All right Ms. Allen, this is the third time we've been out here this week, this is the second time we've been here today,'" said Allen.

However, Allen knew something was seriously wrong and continued to feel alone in her thinking.

After countless trips to Regional Medical Center-Bamberg (RMC Bamberg) and Barnwell Family Medicine with no solutions resulting in less pain, she went to the Allendale County Hospital where she was misdiagnosed with bacterial bronchitis.

"The people closest to me were the people who were disregarding the most, and then the people in medical care that were supposedly taking the utmost care of me, also neglected me," said Allen.

Throughout the entirety of this saga, Allen did her own research. She understood that fluid around your lungs will stop them from expanding and result in feeling suffocated. She knew a doctor would not hear the fluid around her lungs through a stethoscope. She knew



Margaret Allen, shown here with one of her children, is not letting her health issues stop her from being the best mother possible.

she needed a chest x-ray.

On January 3, 2022, Allen went to Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center in Denmark where she found out her heart was enlarged.

"I've been pregnant, I've had a lot of traumatic pregnancies, I've had a car accident, I've had COVID four times, once while pregnant," said Allen. "That's what they're leaning towards. Those are the questions they're asking."

Medical personnel did not think congestive heart failure was in the cards for Allen and explained to her why they did not perform serious testing: "You are too young. We just wouldn't test seriously for those things unless you have them in your family."

At the time, Allen did not know her family medical history.

Here is when she was referred to a cardiologist in Orangeburg and went for her first appointment at the practice in early January 2022.

"I started to feel hopeful that I would get the help that I needed and that somebody would figure it out," said Allen.

However, this was not the case.

"He turned out to be very negligent in his care," said Allen of the cardiologist.

Here, Allen was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy - a weak heart - and cardiomegaly - a slightly enlarged heart - which are indicators of congestive heart failure. The cardiologist insinuated that this was caused by stressful pregnancies and postpartum, and prescribed Allen medication.

"When they find out that you have congestive heart failure, the first thing that they do is they put you on a sodium and a fluid restriction," said Allen, who struggled with this dietary change.

She was limited to 64 ounces of water in a 24-hour period, and even a sip would bring on more retention.

"I'm at the point where my body is retaining fluid because my heart is not working properly. My other organs are not working properly. My body is not breaking down salt into fluid and getting rid of the fluid. At this point I'm urinating like once a day, if that, and it's a struggle," said Allen.

Allen remembers times when she would gain nearly five pounds in one day from the fluid retention. However, she was relieved to have a diagnosis that made sense and was able to learn more about how to live with conges-

erly. It was not opening and closing properly. It was allowing blood to go in areas that it shouldn't be, which was causing my heart to work harder and was causing it to enlarge and weaken. It was just a domino effect," said Allen.

After floating through the month of February on medication and nightly visits to the emergency room throughout March, she was still without support or feeling better.

"I was suffering. Dizzy, nauseous, throwing up, almost blacking out, constantly feeling like your heart is going to just stop beating, constantly checking my blood pressure at home and it's either extremely high or dangerously low," said Allen.

"What I didn't know is that a lot of those times I was in cardiogenic shock," she said.

Allen explained one of the last times she visited RMC Bamberg with a 35 percent heart function and experiencing these symptoms, they sent her home almost immediately.

"A lot of times where I could have gotten extra help, I didn't because they made me feel like I was one of those people that were asking to use the resources that didn't need them," said Allen. "So, I didn't go to the extra yard."

At the end of March 2022 her symptoms worsened even more so, and she asked the staff at RMC Bamberg to refer her to a hospital that might take a different approach.

"Most people when they get diagnosed with medication and changing their diet and stuff, they can go years with that same heart function. It just does not deteriorate as quickly as I deteriorated. And that's because I was neglected," said Allen.

Allen was eventually transferred to the Lexington Medical Center. After conducting testing, her heart function was roughly 15 percent to 20 percent and she had three leaking valves.

"The only valve that was not leaking, thank God, was my aortic valve," said Allen. "The tricuspid valve, the pulmonary valve, the mitral valve, all of those were leaking."

The team at the Lexington Medical Center immediately transferred her to the Medical University of

South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston.

"This was where I actually started to feel like I could sit back and breathe. I felt safe. I felt heard and listened to," said Allen of the MUSC staff.

At this point, Allen was facing terminal heart failure or a heart transplant.

The MUSC team placed a balloon pump in Allen's chest to keep her heart beating. Inserting a balloon pump puts a patient on a priority list for a heart transplant.

Between the balloon pump and the transplant, she went into bilateral heart failure.

To her surprise, she was on the organ list for two days before she got a call on Easter Sunday in 2022 from the head of MUSC cardiology.

"I had my heart transplant the next afternoon," said Allen. "The donor was a young male and I know that he overdosed. His heart was a little bit bigger than my chest cavity, but it was otherwise a perfect fit."

While at MUSC, Allen was informed her heart failure was genetic. She then urged to have conversations with her family members about their health.

Allen hopes her story will push at least one person to advocate for themselves and take their symptoms seriously.

"I had to learn that the hard way because I look at hospital staff as authority figures," said Allen. "So, I don't like to go in there and say, 'I want this.' But it's gotten to that point. Now, I do walk in the hospital and I do advocate better for my children."

Allen hopes readers will ask for the extra test, ask another question, get a second and even third opinion if needed, and trust their bodies.

"You know your body better than anybody. If something is not right, don't even ask anybody else what they think. Do what you think you should do," said Allen.

Allen believes if she had more support and was encouraged to self advocate by family throughout this endeavor, she may have been able to get help sooner.

"It just baffles me that not one place could offer any good care. Luckily, we all made it. Thank God we made it out," said Allen.

**HAVE
A
HEART!
DO YOUR
PART!
PLEASE KEEP
OUR
COMMUNITY
CLEAN!**

CITY OF BARNWELL SOUTH CAROLINA

PalmettoPride Litter Trashes Everyone

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Coehn Kinard
Barnwell High School



Grade: 11th
Sport: Wrestling
Favorites...
• Food: Chicken tenders, steak
• Movie/TV shows: OBX
• Snacks: Chips
• Coaches: Coach Roth and Coach Barnes
• Free time activity: Wrestling practice
• Musicians: Beethoven
Goal for this season: "Improve my pinning moves, and make a good run in state playoffs."

Kaleb Wilson
Barnwell High School



Grade: 10th
Sports: Football, Wrestling, Soccer
Favorites...
• Food: Pizza and tacos
• Movie/TV shows: Fast and the Furious, All American
• Snack: Uncrustables, chips
• Coaches: Coach Barnes, Coach Roth, Coach Garrick
• Free time activity: Riding around and listening to music
• Musician: Zach Bryan, Big 30
Goal for this season: "To progress physically and mentally in all areas of each sport."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE (Boys & Girls)



- Thursday, Feb. 9
• Jefferson Davis Academy @ Holy Trinity Classic Christian - 6:00
- Wade Hampton @ Barnwell - 6:00
- Charleston Collegiate @ Jefferson Davis Academy - 6:00 (Senior Night)

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 8, 2023

Four Barnwell Warhorses sign to play college ball



Barnwell seniors Tyler Smith (South Carolina State), Clay Pender (Erskine), Maurice Odom (Limestone) and Jaden James (Limestone) signed Wednesday to play college football. Photo Courtesy: Kyle Dawson / The Aiken Standard

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

February 1, 2023 was known as "National Signing Day" for collegiate football. Throughout the country, media outlets covered high school seniors signing their National Letter of Intent forms.

Barnwell was no different. The Warhorses had four seniors sign to play college football in front of family, Barnwell School District 45 personnel, friends, and media.

Barnwell's four signees included Tyler Smith, Clay Pender, Maurice Odom, and Jaden James. All four were key players for the Region Champion, and highly-ranked Barnwell Warhorse football team, who finished the regular season undefeated. All four played in various post-season all-star games. Now, all four will have the opportunity to take their game to the next level and play college football.

Tyler Smith led the state in rushing with over 2,900 yards. He also led the state in touchdowns scored and in scoring

and was in the top 25 in the nation in all three categories. He was one of seven chosen as finalists for the S.C. Mr. Football Award and played in both the North/South Bowl and the GA/SC Border Bowl all-star games. Tyler was selected All-State the last two years in both football and track, where he was the State High Jump champion.

Tyler signed to play running back at South Carolina State, where he will study Athletic Sports Training. "I am very excited to see what the next level is all about and playing against some very good competition," said Tyler.

Clay Pender led the Warhorses in receiving, but could be counted on for a big play from offense, defense, or from the kicking game. Pender's interception in the closing minutes of the playoff game with heavily favored Philip Simmons is a great example of Clay's big play ability. Several times, he came up with huge first down catches when the Horses were in third and long or fourth down situations. His ability to come up with a big kick helped Barnwell many times. He was selected

as the Region Wide Receiver of the Year. Pender played in both the GA/SC Border Bowl and the NC/SC Carolina Bowl all-star games. He was selected as All-State at wide receiver and defensive back.

Clay signed to play at Erskine College as a wide receiver/athlete and his favorite Warhorse memory was the before mentioned interception against Philip Simmons.

Maurice Odom was the leader of the Warhorse defense, playing middle linebacker. Odom led the team in tackles the last two seasons. Odom was one of the top tacklers in the state over the last two seasons with more than 250 tackles. He always had a nose for the ball and disrupted many plays by hurrying the quarterback, making tackles for losses, causing fumbles, and not allowing opponents to run the ball inside on a regular basis. Maurice was very valuable on special teams and blocked several punts and field goals. Maurice was selected All-State at linebacker and played in the GA/SC Border Bowl all-star game.

Odom signed to play line-

backer at Limestone University.

Jaden James is another versatile player who starred at linebacker, but was a playmaker on special teams, and played tight end and half back on offense. Jaden is another athlete that has a nose for finding the football. He had 100 tackles and broke up many pass plays by both rushing and pressuring the quarterback or by dropping in coverage. He was a hard hitter who could separate the ball from an opponent with a big hit. Jaden was a two-time All-State player and was defensive MVP. He played in the GA/SC Border Bowl, where he barely came off the field. His favorite Warhorse memory was going undefeated during the regular season his senior year.

Jaden signed with Limestone University to play Linebacker and will major in Sports Management.

All four of these young men were team leaders, selected All-Region, named to All-State, and selected to play in post-season all-star games. Good luck to Tyler, Clay, Maurice, and Jaden as you take your game to the college level.

Blackville-Hilda wrestling ends regular season on high note



Coach James Kelly and the Blackville-Hilda Hawks wrestling team is preparing for the State Individual tournaments.

See BLACKVILLE WRESTLING on 2B

JDA girls hammer Holly Hill Academy 42-20



JDA's Anna Haskins has played well for the Raiders.

Photos By: Kathy Googe



The JDA girls basketball team is hoping to win the region Friday night.



Contributed / JDA

The Jefferson Davis Academy Shotgun Raiders will compete this weekend for six state championships.

On Friday, February 10, Logan Croft, Samuel Johnson and Mason Wilson will compete for SCDNR State Trap Championship as well as the SCISA State Championship for Senior Varsity School division.

On Saturday, February 11, Logan

Croft, Samuel Johnson and Mason Wilson will compete for SCDNR State Skeet Championship as well as the SCISA State Championship for Senior Varsity School division. Fischer Robinson, Aiden Rutland and Tristan Whittle will compete for SCDNR State Skeet Championship as well as the SCISA State Championship for Middle School division.

Congratulations to the Shotgun Raiders.

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

We play Charleston Collegiate this upcoming Friday the 10th and if we win by 15 points, which is very obtainable, will be region champs," said JDA coach Larry Johnson.

He continued saying, "I really think we can make a deep run in the playoffs. We have a special group of young ladies that go into every game believing they can win. Anna Haskins has been doing really well lately leading the team. She does all the dirty work. The little things that don't show up in the stat sheet but help us win games. Emma Craig keeps dominating her opponents. She's the queen of double doubles. Peyton Hutto has been shooting the 3-ball very well lately making 2-3 every game. Coach Shawn

(Howze) and I call this team our Cinderella team because they sure are special."

Come out and support the Raiders Friday night as they try to win the region championship. Coach Johnson said, "Having the support from the community will play a big part in the game on the 10th. We're asking everyone to wear white to represent the white jerseys the raiders will be wearing."

The Jefferson Davis Academy girls basketball team traveled to Holly Hill last Friday, February 3 to face Holly Hill Academy in the battle of the Raiders. The JDA Raiders came out on top of the Holly Hill Academy Raiders by a score of 42-20, to give JDA the Raiders bragging rights.

Jefferson Davis' Emma Craig led the Raiders with 12 points, 10 rebounds, and 4 blocked shots. Cheyenne Sands added 11 points. Peyton Hutto had 9 points and Anna Haskins added 8 points. JDA dominated on both ends of the court in the lopsided 42-20 game. "This was a huge win.

Barnwell wrestling gearing up for State Individual Tournament

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

The Barnwell High School Warhorse wrestling team competed in their final regular season contest at Pelion on Tuesday, January 31.

The four-team match included Barnwell, Pelion, Blackville-Hilda, and Brookland-Cayce. Several Barnwell wrestlers recorded wins at the contest.

Against Brookland-Cayce, Josh Carrillo in the 152 lb. weight class, defeated his opponent in a 12-5 decision. LaKota Scott, usually in the 195 lb. weight class, wrestled up a class and pinned the BC 220 pounder early in the second period.

Against Blackville Josh, LaKota and Dustin Jones from the heavyweight class would all pin their opponents. This was Dustin's first career pin, which came just 18 seconds into the first period off of a double leg takedown.

Against Pelion, Coehn Kinard in the 160 lb. weight class and LaKota would earn their pins in the 1st period. Kaleb Wilson in the 170 lb. weight class would wrestle up a class against the Panthers' 182 pounder and earn his first career pin in the first period.

Coach William Barnes has been happy with his young team's progress, but said, "The team will now focus on the individual state tournament with the qualifying rounds to begin



Barnwell's Josh Carrillo defeated his opponent from Brookland-Cayce.

Photo By: Brian Wilson

Blackville-Hilda wrestling ends regular season on high note

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

FROM PAGE 1B

Eric Mullah recorded wins over Pelion and BC in the 123 lb. classification. Keith Richardson earned wins over Pelion and BC in the 105 lb. weight class.

Coach Kelly was very pleased with how the season progressed for his first-year program, but now turns his attention to the State Individual Tournament. Wrestlers will compete in state qualifying matches Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, at North Central High School in Kershaw. Winners will advance to the State Individual Tournament the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, at the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center in Anderson.

"I have high hopes entering the tournament and I think we will be doing really well there this year," said Coach Kelly.

Good luck to the Blackville-Hilda Hawks wrestling team as they get ready for the qualifiers and hopefully State Individual Tournament.

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks wrestling team traveled to Pelion for a four-team match with Barnwell, Brookland-Cayce, and Pelion on Tuesday, January 31, in what coach James Kelly described as "...a wonderful end to the regular season." Blackville had five wrestlers win at least two of their three matches. For a small team, that is an impressive showing.

Blackville had two wrestlers finish the night without a loss, each going 3-0 and collecting wins over Pelion, Barnwell, and Brookland-Cayce. Ziran Loadholt looked strong and finished 3-0 in the 170 lb. division, while teammate Stevie Jones also had a perfect night, going 3-0 in the 180 lb. weight class.

The Hawks had three other wrestlers who finished 2-1 on the night. Omari Jenkins had wins over Pelion and Barnwell in the Heavyweight class.

on February 17."

Several individuals have the opportunity to do well in the tournament if they

continue to work hard.

Best wishes to the Barnwell Warhorses as they prepare for qualifying at

North Central High School, next Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

Until Feb. 14
Gift Basket Fundraiser
 Cruz Lancaster, grandson of Cindy and Glen Lancaster of Barnwell, is battling HLH (an aggressive and life-threatening immune condition). A gift basket worth \$500 will be raffled off to raise money. Tickets are \$5 each and available at Palmetto Styles beside Barnwell Post Office. Winner's name will be drawn on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. For more information, call Cindy at 803-671-0332.

Through Apr. 15
File your taxes for FREE with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. In Bamberg County at Vorhees College, 481 Porter Dr., Denmark. St. James Bldg., Computer Lab A, Thurs. 3-6pm.
Feb. 2-Apr. 13
In Barnwell County at Blackville Community Development Corp., 5983 Lartigue St., Blackville. Tues. 5:30-7pm, Fri. 10am-3pm. Sat. 10am-4pm (appointment only, call 803-284-0735) **Feb. 3-Apr. 15**

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-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
Valentine's Banquet
 Friendship Baptist Church, Barnwell, will have a Church-Wide Valentine's Banquet. Everyone is invited. **6pm**

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 alysonhcollins@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

Feb. 18
Warhorse Baseball BBQ Fundraiser
 BBQ sandwich plates (sandwich, slaw, chips, cookie, and drink for \$8). Proceeds benefit Barnwell Warhorse baseball. **Pickup Saturday from 11am to 2pm** at John Hall Field. Pre-order or just show up. Delivery available around town if needed.

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.

Meetings

Feb. 28
Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center Board of Director Meeting
 Please call 803-508-7886 for more information. **Tues. 5:30pm via Teams**

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

Barnwell Library Events

Feb. 9
Friends of the Libraries of Barnwell County Meeting
 Barnwell County Public Library Community Room **Thurs., 1pm**

ADULTS
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. **5-6pm**

CHILDREN
Ages 3 and Up
Valentine Light Craft
Wed., Feb. 8
 Paint a wooden light up table decoration for your favorite valentine. **4-5pm**

Ages 3 and Up
African Inspired Pasta Jewelry
Wed., Feb. 22
 Paint and make your own pasta jewelry with African inspired colors and designs. **4:30-5:30pm**

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

STORY TIME
at the Library
Thurs., Feb. 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

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

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This Valentine's Day
 For great RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING and ENTERTAINMENT!

DIG ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
HOOP FOR A DREAM
FEBRUARY 25-26, 2023
10AM-7PM
REGISTRATION FOR YOUTH & ADULT TEAMS
 10-12 YRS OLD
 13-15 YRS OLD
 16 YRS OLD AND UP
WILLISTON-ELKO HIGH GYMNASIUM
 12233 MAIN ST, WILLISTON, SC 29853
 • 3PT CONTEST
 • RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS
 • AND MORE...
 REGISTER TODAY AT: WWW.DIGDP.ORG/HOOPFORADREAM OR CALL 803-240-6648

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

COMMUNITY BENEFITS DAY

- FEB 7** Winfield Heights Baptist Church EYB, 315 Chester Street, Williston, SC 29853, 3PM - 7PM. **FREE EVENT**
- FEB 9** Brandt Building, 398 Barnwell Road, Allendale, SC 29810, 3PM - 7PM. **FREE TAX FILING**
- FEB 10** Blackville Community Center, 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville, SC 29817, 9AM - 12 PM. **APPLY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS**
- FEB 11** Barnwell National Guard Armory, 10233 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell, SC 29812, 9AM - 12 PM. **APPLY FOR MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE**
- FEB 16** Santee Family Development Center, 210 Municipal Way, Santee, SC 29142, 3PM - 7PM. **Child Care Scholarship**
- FEB 17** Old Denmark Middle School Gymnasium, 45 Green Street, Denmark, SC 29042, 9AM - 12PM. **LEARN ABOUT OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
- FEB 18** St. Matthews Christian Center, 791 St. Matthews Road, St. Matthews, SC 29135, 9AM - 12PM.
- FEB 23** James "Pete" Hagood Learning Center, 719 Magnolia Street, Hampton, SC 29924, 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
SKILLS NEEDED: • Electronic & Instrumentation Mechanics
 • Maintenance Mechanics • Radiological Control Inspectors
 • Production Operators • Apprentices • And anyone else with hands-on industrial, facility, or operations experience