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Fire chief suspended from department finances

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
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Barnwell County Council indefinitely suspended the chief of the Red Oak Volunteer Fire Department (ROVFD) from handling the department's finances after claims of continued misuse of county funds and discontent expressed by other volunteer departments.

"You're slapping nine fire departments in the face," said Michael Schumpert, Elko Fire Department chief and chairman

of the Barnwell County Fire Commission. "If y'all don't do something about them using funds for their personal use, y'all are going to lose the fire service."

Schumpert spoke on behalf of the other nine fire departments making up the Barnwell County Fire Service and the Barnwell County Fire Commission at the February 13 council meeting. Schumpert has previously expressed his discontent with how the county is handling arising issues at ROVFD in letters and emails.

"Just as of last week, I learned that the county credit card was

misused by the fire chief himself putting gas in his personal vehicle," said Schumpert.

According to documents obtained by *The People-Sentinel* through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, Chief Bobby Lingard used the county gas card to put gasoline in his personal vehicle.

Both transactions were made at the BP gas station on Dunbarton Blvd. in Barnwell. The first transaction was on January 17 for \$17.70, and the second transaction was on January 24 for \$50. These transactions caught the eye of county staff as neither gas purchases

were for diesel fuel, which is used to fill the tanker trucks.

According to Administrator Tim Bennett, the department's county gas card is meant to be kept in the visor of the tanker at ROVFD and is to only be used for diesel fuel to fill the tanker.

The county reached out to Chief Lingard about these charges and they agreed to discuss. In a second phone call, he admitted to using the card for personal reasons.

Since both transactions were made, Chief Lingard fully reimbursed the county.

Chief Lingard confirmed these

transactions in a conversation with *The People-Sentinel*, and explained that it had since been handled. However, at the time of the call, he was not yet informed his financial capabilities within the department had been suspended.

In October 2023, the county assumed responsibility for ROVFD's checkbooks and related financial documents after other transactions were made for items such as shoes and lawn equipment.

However, the problem persisted even after ROVFD was re-

See CHIEF, 10A



Nevaeh Kirkland (third from left) poses for a photo with her new book, "The Coffee Shop Chronicles", along with administrators and guidance staff from Barnwell High School. Courtesy: Barnwell High School

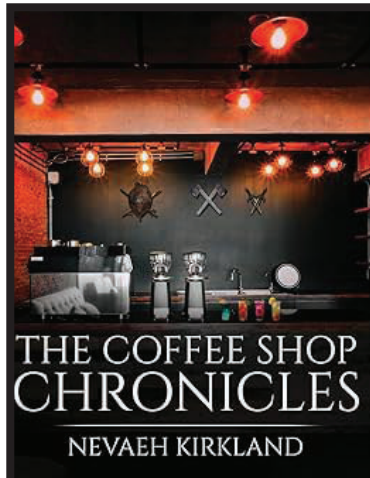
Barnwell High senior publishes first book

David B. Corder
Contributing Writer
dbcorderwriter@gmail.com

While many students see their senior year as a time of endings—the completion of secondary education, the final punctuation mark of their teen years, and the finishing up of their high school goals—Nevaeh Kirkland has embarked on a new beginning as a published author.

Kirkland's novel, *The Coffee Shop Chronicles*, was recently published. The book follows the life of Venus as she deals with the struggles of becoming an adult.

"The idea of my book came from me visiting a coffee shop



and liking the varieties of coffee I got to choose from," Kirkland said. "Along with me being a high school student dealing with the ongoing struggles that come with becoming an adult."

Book Review
"What an exciting story with so many unpredictable twists! Hope there are many more!"
- From a verified buyer on Amazon

Kirkland says she decided to publish her book as a result of her family and friends showing an appreciation of her writing.

See AUTHOR, 9A

Sheriff's office pioneer Marsha Brown recognized for 30 years of compassionate service

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
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Marsha Brown began paving the way for the future of Black women in Barnwell County law enforcement when she was hired as a dispatcher in April 1988. For the next 30 years, she held a career of firsts.

Her dedication was recognized at the February 13 Barnwell County Council meeting— where Brown was surprised by friend Sheriff Steve Griffith, her husband, and her family with a resolution honoring her service.

Brown began her career at the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office

(BCSO) in her early 20s with an interest in a path that allowed her to continue serving those around her. When taking this position, she didn't realize the journey she was embarking on at the time.

As the first Black woman to be hired as a dispatcher in Barnwell County, Brown was setting the precedent for other young women interested in a field she describes as "a man's world."

She served as a dispatcher until March 1997. Here she learned the importance of compassion—a trait she had always carried but was exemplified when handling someone else's worst day.

"Dispatchers are like the

See DEDICATION, 3A



Marsha Brown wipes away tears on Feb. 13 after a surprise recognition for her 30 years of service to the sheriff's office. Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Big 7 celebrates 30 years of local scholarships

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
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For 30 years, as the gap between regional high school students and higher education has widened, scholarships by the Big 7 Association have helped to bridge it.

The Big 7 is an association of local businessmen that was formed in 1989. In 1994, the Big 7 began giving out their first scholarships, and since then, has given out \$200,000 across 220 scholarships to high school seniors at Barnwell,

Williston-Elko, Blackville-Hilda, Bamberg-Erhardt, Denmark-Olar and Allendale-Fairfax high schools. On February 24, the Big 7 celebrated 30 years of scholarships with a banquet at Barnwell Elementary School and awarded over \$15,000 in scholarships.

Throughout the 30 years of scholarships, tuition and fee rates at higher education institutions in America have risen 130 percent. In South Carolina, the cost of higher education is particularly high on graduates; At \$38,360 on average per borrower, the state



See BIG 7, 9A Recipients of the Big 7 Association's scholarships come from several area high schools in the tri-county area. Elijah de Castro / Report for America

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- | | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin O'Neal Jr. — Blackville | Williston |
| Donald Barry Bodiford Sr. — Charleston | James Brice Gray Sr. — Barnwell |
| Elbert Timothy Moore Jr. — Snelling | Russell "Russ" Dean Hartzog — Barnwell |
| Evelyn Kelly — Williston | Sandra "Sandi" Roberts — Barnwell |
| Thomas "Tommy" Rivers Jr. — | Alice Mae Spann — Barnwell |
| | Freddie Mitchell — Williston |



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11th annual Heritage Parade unites Williston community

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com



Mattie Ryans Odom was one of the late alumni honored during the parade.

and beloved Blue Devil, was well represented in the parade. Doris Young of Young Rosemary Baptist Church was also honored for a life of love in Williston.

Numerous churches participated in the parade alongside local businesses. Regional recreational football champions the Wishville Warriors walked in the parade followed by the Williston-Elko marching band and Blue Fire Drum Line and the Williston-Elko Middle School Junior Beta Club.

The Town of Williston, Barnwell County Council, and the Barnwell County Consolidated School District were also represented.

Ministries Inc. where she served as the executive chairman.

The legacy of Alma Battle, known as the queen of Williston-Elko



The Williston-Elko Middle School Junior Beta Club walked in the 11th annual parade held by their elementary alma matter.



Numerous local churches participated in the 11th annual parade.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



The Williston-Elko marching band and Blue Fire drum line kept the crowd entertained.



The Wishville Warriors were all smiles and waves at the heritage parade.



DIG was well represented at the Feb. 25 heritage parade.



The Kelly-Edwards Class of 1970 had a float.

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www.LCHCS.com

DEDICATION: Retired dispatcher, detention center deputy thanked for service

FROM PAGE 1A

heart and soul of what the deputies and police officers do because they are the first point of contact," said Brown. "You're listening to people that are sick. You're listening to people whose houses are on fire. You're listening to people that die on the phone while you hear them take their last breath."

Brown continued to work in dispatch when she was offered an opportunity to become a reserve deputy for BCSO in 1994.

"That was me being able to get my feet wet without being a 'deputy,' but still being a dispatcher because females in that position weren't there yet," said Brown.

She remembers never being treated any differently than or by her male counterparts as a reserve deputy stating, "I promise you that they made sure I could handle what came up."

Brown worked across the county as a reserve deputy, training in both town and city departments. She enjoyed being taught how to operate units on dirt roads, handle weapons, and most importantly, serve her community.

In 1996, her time as a reserve deputy and dispatcher came to an end. She had hopes to pursue her career further and see where her mindset of service could lead her. It brought her to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC) where she began working as a corrections officer.

"A total different world it was," said Brown of the switch from dispatch to BCDC.

"To go from [dispatch], to going on the road—to see



The Barnwell County Council recognized the accomplishments of Marsha Brown (center) throughout her 30 year career with the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office. Pictured in front of Barnwell County Councilmembers, is Carl Brown (front left), Marsha Brown (front center), Sheriff Steve Griffith (front right), Cissy Willis (back left), and Rose Hayes (back center).
Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

what I was experiencing when I hear it through the phone, and now I'm out here doing it," said Brown. "Then when the deputies get them, and pick them up, and lock them up, and now I'm working there."

In her 30 years in law enforcement, Brown was able to see nearly all sides of the profession. While at BCDC, she relied heavily on her natural compassion when it came to understanding incarcerated individuals.

"They are people. We're going to work with them

as people," said Brown. "I didn't see them as a number or an inmate, I saw them as a person, and they will always tell me, 'Well, you know what I'm in here for?' No, because I'm not going to put you in a category. I see you for who you are."

Brown took inspiration from Deloris Charlton, the jail administrator at the time who ensured BCDC would not instill fear in those who were locked inside.

"We are the lifeline between them and what they need, them and their family, them and the public,

them and the lawyers," said Brown.

As a lieutenant at BCDC, Brown had to keep a professional boundary. However, she made sure to be there to "assist them, to help them, to hear their cries, to let them know that everything is going to be alright."

Brown's encouragement to those incarcerated proved to be valued when she was sitting in her church and a young man she knew from BCDC tapped her on the shoulder.

"By the time I turned around, next thing I knew he was hugging me. I have not seen him since then...and he was just like, thank you... they are so grateful when you treat them like people because they are people," said Brown.

In February 2018, Brown retired from BCDC, but didn't adhere to the lifestyle commonly attributed with retirement. She began growing her roots in ministry at her church, Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, with a focus to

bring love and light to those who are housebound.

With encouragement from her husband, Carl, she began looking for another position where she could help others in addition to her ministry work.

"By God's grace, I'm a server," said Brown. "Most definitely my calling is to be a server."

Brown landed in the human resource department at Orchids Paper Products Company before it was sold to the now closed Cascades. Now, Brown is a youth career coach with Eckerd Connects located in the S.C. Works building in Barnwell.

In this position she is able to help young adults reach their goals by accessing opportunities through federally funded programs. She wears hats as a mentor, counselor, educator, and more in this position, all with the goal of helping get her cohorts where they need and want to be.

Brown had left a long and tiring day at Eckerd Connects on February 13. She headed to Ned Branch

Missionary Baptist Church for what she was told was a routine church meeting. Her long day made her ask fewer questions when her Pastor Bobby Dukes and First Lady Shanikia Dukes offered her a ride to the Barnwell County Council Chambers for the council meeting instead.

Brown, an advocate for the elderly, youth, and incarcerated, was unsure what was happening, but was prepared to speak before the council regardless.

"I'm always talking about something, but usually I'm prepared to know what I'm about to speak upon. This particular night I had no clue," said Brown.

Upon arrival, they were asked to wait in an adjoining room while the council moved through the agenda. A BCSO deputy came to bring Brown and the Dukes into the main chamber where the meeting was being held, and Brown prepared herself to speak.

However, Sheriff Griffith stood at the podium and motioned for her to join him.

Once he began reading the resolution of recognition for her 30 years of service, her jaw dropped and she soon saw her family proudly smiling in the crowd.

"Barnwell County would like to recognize Marsha P. Brown for her dedication of 30 years of service in law enforcement. The county would like to recognize Lt. Brown at this special time as February is Black History Month," read Sheriff Griffith.

The entire time she was being recognized by the county, Brown was nearly in shock from the excitement. "I cannot even put it into words just to know that someone went and even thought about what I did to go back and to research what I did," said Brown. "It just really blessed me."

Her 83-year-old mother, Rose Hayes, sister Cissy Willis, and husband of over 30 years, Carl, embraced her before everyone smiled for a picture.

The entire recognition was organized by her husband. She and Carl were married a year after she began her career in law enforcement, and he has been a support system every day since.

"God is my heartbeat, but he is the joy in my life," said Brown of her husband. Later that night, after the resolution of recognition was passed and the meeting over, Carl asked her how she felt.

"I said, 'You remember the day that we got married? And I said, 'I do?' I said, 'I felt like I had a whole wedding that I didn't even know I was attending.' And I said, 'All I could say was, I do. I do.'"

This resolution honoring her service allowed her to look back and reflect on her career and life.

Brown does not remember the exact dates of when she embarked on each new path, but "I just know it was a beautiful 30 years."

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Public Notice of Candidate Filing BARNWELL County

Any candidate seeking a political party's nomination for any office in the 2024 General Election must file with the appropriate county board of voter registration & elections or the South Carolina State Election Commission during the upcoming filing period.

Filing opens noon, March 16, 2024, and closes noon, April 1, 2024

Offices	Filing Location
U.S. House of Representatives Solicitor (Circuits 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16) Multi-county district offices	State Election Commission (SEC) 1122 Lady Street, Suite 500 Columbia, SC 29201
State House of Representatives (All Districts) State Senate (All Districts)	State Election Commission (SEC) or County Board of Voter Registration and Elections in candidate's county of residence.
Sheriff Clerk of Court Coroner County Council (Districts 1,3,5,7)	Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration and Elections 367 Fuldner Rd. Barnwell, SC 29812 803-541-1060

SEC Filing hours:
Saturday, March 16: Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Filing hours:
Saturday, March 16: Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Filing Form: The Statement of Intention of Candidacy & Party Pledge (SICPP) form required for filing is available in the "Candidate Information" section of scVOTES.gov and at the county elections office.

Filing Fee: Filing fees are paid at the time of filing by candidates seeking the nomination of a party nominating by primary. The list of filing fees is available at scVOTES.gov and at the county elections office. Filing fee checks must be made payable to the appropriate state political party. Candidates seeking the nomination of a party nominating by convention do not pay a filing fee.

State Ethics Filings: Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State Ethics Commission at ethics.sc.gov. Failure to file these documents may result in a candidate fine but will not disqualify a candidate from the election. Contact the State Ethics Commission for more information.

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ENGAGEMENT



Makayla Smoak and Thomas Fletcher II are engaged to be married on May 25, 2025.

Makayla Smoak, Thomas Fletcher II to wed in May 2025

Michael & Cindy Smoak of Barnwell are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Makayla, to Thomas Fletcher II.

The born and raised Barnwell resident met her fiancé at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga. during a rodeo. After serenading her and taking her to Waffle House, she decided to "give him a shot."

Thomas (Tommy), son of Thomas Fletcher I of Tifton, Ga. & Mitzi Fletcher of Clearwater, Fla., is a 2018 graduate of Tift County High. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's in nursing as well as a minor in history. He is employed at Tifton Medical Center.

Makayla is a 2021 graduate of Barnwell High School. She is working to earn her animal science degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She is employed by Jersey Mike's Subs.

The happy couple plans to host their wedding in or around Barnwell on May 25, 2025. Formal invitations will be sent out to family and friends closer to the date.

ANNIVERSARY



Ronnie and Lynn Inabinet celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 22, 2024.

Mr. & Mrs. Inabinet celebrate 60 years

Ronnie and Lynn Inabinet of Williston celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 22, 2024.

They were married on February 22, 1964. They have two children, Lynette and David Corder of Olar and Ron and Lisa Inabinet of Williston.

The couple has six grandchildren: Tommy Chambers of Greenville, David & Abigail Corder of Williston, Anderson & Lydia Corder of Swansea, Nicole & Andrew Hill of Wagener, Ashley Inabinet of Williston, and Katie Inabinet of Williston.

The couple serves as an inspiration to their entire family who admire the couple's devotion to one another and the love they share.

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

'Carly' is a sweet beagle mix



Carly is this week's Adoptable Pet of the Week from the Animal Advocates of Barnwell County.

"Carly is a sweet beagle mix. She is around 2 years old and she gets along with most other dogs. She is working on her house training and walks on a leash," said Vikki Scott with the Friends for Life Center.

The Friends for Life Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 1924, Barnwell S.C. 29812, or made online at theanimaladvocates.org.

For more information, call (803) 259-5483, or visit the Friends for Life Center at 10975 Marlboro Avenue in Barnwell.

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“Miss” Nonnie’s house of music

Weesie Fickling
History Correspondent



The home of “Miss” Nonnie Vincent was built around 1880. When a previous owner, Kate Patterson, purchased the original house in 1890, she was one of the first people taxed in the town of Barnwell for owning a piano.

Photo contributed

It was “Miss” Nonnie Vincent who taught a couple of generations of children to play the piano in the small town of Barnwell from the late 1930s until the mid-1960s. Perhaps her students’ love of music was birthed in the very house located at the current address of 290 Main Street.

Those of us who grew up in our hometown were purely lucky; our memories remain real. Everyone was most welcome to partake of the study of music which was “a gift” that could be compared with sports “at the keyboard!” This teacher was always supportive while encouraging students to explore, experience, and express this enrichment which was accessible and affordable.

Please join me in honoring the memory of the late Mrs. Leonora (“Miss” Nonnie) Best Vincent as one of Barnwell’s professionals who greatly influenced children and young adults for a couple of generations with her own personal talents coupled with her positive outlook. It was she who detected her students’ underlying talents and spurred them onward to achieve success far beyond their wildest dreams.

This writing will impart to you, our readers, a style visibly resembling the workings of a patchwork quilt. Sadly, several of these entries were obtained from obituary listings, yet completely worthy of being recognized. Hopefully, the end result will convince you that Barnwell’s “Miss” Nonnie was a treasure beyond compare, a lady to be acknowledged, admired, appreciated, and certainly to be remembered . . . in writing for the very first time.

Thinking back, my sister, the late Etta Holland Mixon, two years and two months my senior, began taking piano lessons from “Miss” Nonnie when she was a second grader. I never heard her complain about having to practice because she seemed to be quite comfortable sitting on the piano bench hours on end. Following high school, Etta’s time at the keyboard was for her pleasure only. Then, in her seventies, her interest in piano peaked once more when asking Barnwell’s Kaye Pattillo to give her piano lessons. It was delightful to park in her driveway hearing “Shall We Gather at the River” sounding forth from Freddy’s office. Somehow, she thought that playing once again would make her best friend Tibby happy, too. Etta passed away October 10, 2021, forever missed and loved by her former first grade students plus countless friends in Barnwell and at the river.

Piano lessons with “Miss” Nonnie prepared these young children for life itself in many ways. Each learned the importance of being punctual. Priscilla Rountree Heiting recently told me that when she was a little behind time leaving home, she peddled her bicycle just as fast as she could. There was “Miss” Nonnie already standing at the front door awaiting her arrival. This girl’s bike literally kissed the ground because there was no time to use the kickstand! She had made it, but was out of breath.

The late John Perry (Sonny) Reed appeared to be a natural at the keyboard early on. We all noticed that he had lots of rhythm, and he loved hearing his teacher say the word pronounced “gawjuss.” In “Miss” Nonnie’s piano recitals, he and Winston Morris would perform dueling pianos across from Sylvia Hogg and Paula Ruth Rountree. Baby grand pianos from Augusta, Ga., were furnished for such recitals. During his

high school years, Sonny was often found at the piano for various musical undertakings. Later on, he and Kay Carter would travel to Columbia College for organ lessons with Tibby Plyler. Having graduated from Barnwell High School (BHS) in 1959, piano was his chosen profession. He received his undergraduate work at Anderson College and the University of South Carolina. Later, Sonny received his master of church music degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. He taught music and drama in the Barnwell public schools, as well as, Hammond Academy in Columbia. Our friend taught piano and church music for many years at Anderson University. Sonny was the organist in several churches while lastly at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Walhalla he was a founding member and teacher at the Oconee Conservatory of Fine Arts. Our friend is remembered for his quiet, quick wit, pleasing personality, being a great dancer and always the best dresser. Our “Sonny” graduated to heaven November 12, 2021.

So, quite a few youngsters purposefully arrived a bit early for their lessons hoping to secure a seat in the swing on the front porch. John Mole refused to change his lesson schedule simply because he looked forward to seeing that pretty girl, Ann Christopher, whose piano lesson was an hour before his. At any rate, arriving early may allow you to meet someone outside of Barnwell, and perhaps make new friends. In its day, this was socializing at its finest!

Sylvia Hogg Gilmore offered this info. “At this particular piano recital, I had to memorize a piece that was eight pages long. Having presented the first two pages, my mind went totally blank. I sat there, I stood, bowed and left the stage. ‘Miss’ Nonnie was upset. Yet, who was overcome with laughter? Winston Morris. There he was laughing his head off while sitting on the steps at the back door of the auditorium.” According to Sylvia, Winston was laughing uncontrollably when he dared her to go back on that stage.

Regaining her composure, while turning on her heels, this young girl took the dare and rendered the performance of her life without a hitch. Not one mistake was made. In the audience, Barnwell’s band director, Loy Wagner, was seated next to Sylvia’s parents, James and Ethel Hogg. Above the resounding applause from the audience, they heard Mr. Wagner exclaim, “That girl of yours has real guts!” “Miss” Nonnie had gifted her students to be liberated; to express themselves. In this case, it paid off! Sylvia graduated from BHS in 1959 and entered the field of education. She currently resides in North Carolina.

Milton Turner was kind



The 1959 senior piano recital featured (left to right) Alice Dempsey, Paula Ruth Rountree, Sylvia Hogg, Winston Morris, teacher “Miss” Nonnie Vincent and John Perry “Sonny” Reed.

Photo contributed



1958 piano recital (left to right): Sylvia Hogg, “Miss” Nonnie Vincent, teacher, John Perry (Sonny) Reed, Paula Ruth Rountree and Gwen Webb.

Photo contributed



Sylvia Jo (Tibby) Plyler, a 1957 BHS graduate, who continues to express her appreciation for “the gift” of music so many received in Barnwell from “Miss” Nonnie Vincent’s piano teachings.

Photo contributed



Sylvia Hogg and Paula Ruth Rountree take a brief break during the 1958 piano recital.

Photo contributed

enough to furnish the following: “When I was a little boy starting school, my parents thought that I might like to take piano lessons. I agreed to do so. They did not want me to take less than three years. “Miss” Nonnie was the piano teacher.

“She was (had to be) very

of my third year. I remember a recital where I had to play Schubert’s Serenade, a beautiful piano piece. I guess I passed the test. I also played Hungarian Rhapsody; that was harder for me.

My musical background with “Miss” Nonnie allowed me to join the band for six years under Loy Wagner. Her patience and teaching me music led me to enjoy music all of my life, which I still do. With an older sister (about 5 years) playing the piano, I learned to enjoy classical music from the world’s musical artists.” Milton graduated from Barnwell High School in 1960 and pursued a career in sales: medical, commercial radio, etc. Milt and his wife Rachel have resided in Charleston since 1979.

Winston Morris graciously submitted the following: “Well, I don’t know whether to thank or blame ‘Miss’ Nonnie for my being in the music business for over 60 years total now. I left BHS in 1959, been teaching ever since even as an undergraduate working with high school kids.”

There was a little store (Mr. Croft’s) on Franklin Street across from “Miss” Nonnie’s, and I always tried to get to my piano lessons early so I could pop in the store and grab a penny candy treat of some kind. Then, I liked sitting on her porch in nice weather or in the living room in the fall/winter.

I started piano lessons with her in the second grade and continued through high school. I think I did receive more than one “knuckle slap” with the ruler when I messed up. My appreciation of all music styles goes back to learning “Bumble Boogie” to “Warshaw concerto.” “Miss” Nonnie was, as they say, one of a kind.

“On any subsequent visits to Barnwell and driving by her house always produces a huge smile. I am smiling now, more than 60 years after my last lesson with her, just remembering her.”

R. Winston Morris retired July 31, 2022, as professor of music, emeritus at Tennessee Tech University.

Just for the record, I asked Winston how many times his tuba ensemble played at Carnegie Hall. Guess he can’t count that high ‘cause he emailed me a recording of their appearance on PBS. Winston’s musical accomplishments have been acknowledged worldwide yet he remains the same ole friend from Marlboro Avenue. My fondest memories remain of his returning home to honor his mother, Evelyn Morris, with several concerts. Winston and his wife Ellen currently reside in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Gwendolyn “Gwen” Webb also became a student of “Miss” Nonnie at an early age. Here, like fellow students, she was taught and allowed to “explore,” “experience” and to “express” herself through her music. Her piano lessons continued until she graduated from BHS in 1958. Following her graduation from Furman University, Gwen received her master’s degree from USC and was an educator her entire career in Salley and Ridge Spring. Gwen also taught in summer school to educate the children of Ridge Spring’s seasonal workers. She was an active church member and Bible study leader. After her retirement as a teacher, she continued her ministry as a music leader at Oak Grove Baptist Church and then at Mt. Ebal Baptist Church. Our friend passed away December 24, 2021, yet her love of music lives on through her students.

Sylvia Jo (Tibby) Plyler to this day holds so much love and appreciation for the opportunities given to the children of Barnwell in their

growing up years. Over and over, Tibby expresses her gratitude for “the gift” of being able to learn piano and life lessons when children are young and encouraged to perhaps “pay attention.” focus. There was always a feeling of support and encouragement from, not only “Miss” Nonnie, but also from the entire community. This gift of enrichment possibly holds former students spell-bound to this very day. We call it “being blessed.”

Tibby and my sister Etta were the very best of friends, so I can’t remember when Tibby wasn’t seated at the piano. Her parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Allen P. Plyler, longtime residents of Barnwell. According to her, when she heard their next-door neighbor Georgia Foy playing the piano, this young girl decided that was what she wanted to be able to do. And she did. Tibby served as an accompanist for the Barnwell High School chorus under the direction of Susan Barnwell’s 70-voice chorus until she became a BHS grad of the class of ‘57.

In 1961, Tibby graduated from Columbia College with a bachelor’s degree in piano and organ pedagogy. Leaving Columbia, she went to Cincinnati earning her master’s of music degree in organ performance from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in 1963. Her musical accomplishments are far reaching as a professor of opera and vocal accompaniment. According to Etta, Tibby has mastered several languages in order to instruct/accompany the artists. Today, Tibby resides in Cincinnati.

Last, but certainly not least, we offer a tip of the hat to one of “Miss” Nonnie’s most deserving students, Kay Carter, daughter of the late Ralph and Verna Mae Carter. From birth, it was quite apparent that this baby had a birth defect, but not a disability. I mention this info because this fact never once hampered this girl’s capabilities, nor did it dampen her spirits. At an early age, Kay, too, began taking piano lessons from “Miss” Nonnie.

Kay was recognized as an outstanding student who became a BHS grad in 1961. Later, she graduated from Columbia College and received a master’s in music from the University of South Carolina. Kay enjoyed a lengthy career of teaching music and serving as the choral director at Chapin High School. For many years, this lady was the organist at Chapin United Methodist Church. She was active in the community and served as musical director for organizations including Workshop Theatre. Kay is remembered for her musical talent and her wonderful sense of humor. Kay Carter Pagett passed away November 18, 2016.

Barnwell’s “Miss” Nonnie furnished the youth of this small town a welcoming, affordable opportunity to explore, to stimulate responsibility, to be exposed to the newness the world had to offer, to experience the wonders of learning, and to express themselves with the freedom of a child. All too often the student is only eager to please their teacher. However, the student must be taught and encouraged to be liberated, to master self-expression.

Thank you for joining this writer in becoming aware of the enormous difference this one lady, Mrs. Leonora (“Miss” Nonnie) Best Vincent, made in the lives of many. She was laid to rest in 1985. Some six decades ago, I took a course in music appreciation. So, now I know, and I appreciate.

ALLENDALE COUNTY NEWS

‘Somebody has to be held accountable’: Years of mismanaging documents holding back Fairfax

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

Underneath the Town of Fairfax City Hall’s leaky roof are stuffed manila folders, piles of cardboard boxes, missing documents and a recently elected mayor trying to prove to the town that the local government works for them.

Mismanagement of records critical to municipal operations like expenses, revenues, contracts, invoices and other documents has been occurring for years in the Town of Fairfax. This lack of organization has resulted in multiple downstream issues, like the town’s lack of an audit and inability to form a budget.

“You can’t just blame the person before you, but you have to state the facts,” said Mayor Butch Sauls, who was elected in November 2023 on a platform of increased transparency between the local government and the town’s citizens. “It’s not looking good for the Town of Fairfax, and nobody has been held accountable for this mess.”

Missing documents, scattered funds

The Town of Fairfax’s municipal records are stored in piles of cardboard boxes in the back rooms of City Hall. These boxes are unlabeled and contain loose papers with little organization, according to Sauls. Being able to pull records, specifically financial records that would help the process of an audit and a budget, has been a challenge for his office.

“When I came in here ... boxes were just stacked up,

they didn’t even mark the date or what was in the boxes,” Sauls said. “Some of them were busted open, just thrown in there, never put in order where you could go find what you need to find.”

Since taking office, Sauls has made organizing records a top priority for the City Hall office. The most disorganized period of records, Sauls said, is between 2019 and the present, which was during former mayor Dorothy Riley’s tenure.

In response to a request for comment, Riley wrote via email, “I’m not the mayor anymore, please contact the current mayor.” Riley did not respond to a follow-up email with detailed questions regarding her handling of documents.

“The whole month of December I was there [at the office], trying to get it straight,” said Fairfax council member Phyllis Smart. Council members Ken Ready and Tiffine Forester, who served on council under Riley, did not respond to requests for comment.

The pattern of mismanagement is not limited to financial records; Money in the Town of Fairfax’s current bank accounts has also been misplaced.

On September 22, 2023, the Town of Fairfax received an \$11,000 grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety for the Fairfax Police Department. This money was intended to be used for equipment repairs, body cameras and vests. However, in the five months since the town has received the grant, the money has not gone toward its intended purpose.

Instead, the money was

put into the town’s general fund, where it sits to this day; Typically, grant money and general fund revenues are segregated to separate municipal bank accounts to ensure the grantor that the money is being spent as intended.

As a result, the town is sending a letter to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety explaining what happened and that the town will be moving the grant money back into the public safety grant account.

Sauls and administrative workers are working overtime to organize the office. Keeping the town’s bills paid is a challenge, Sauls said, let alone getting out in front of the economic and social issues the town faces, like community gun violence and the local nutrition crisis.

Community center FOIA request

In August 2023, *The People-Sentinel* submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to then-Fairfax mayor Riley requesting all available information regarding the uncompleted community center, a project that was conceived in 2016. The town partially fulfilled the request, sending *The People-Sentinel* a collection of meeting minutes and contracts related to the community center that dated back to 2020. However, documents like invoices and banking records were not contained.

In December, after Sauls took office, *The People-Sentinel* resubmitted the request. Sauls told *The People-Sentinel* he will fulfill the request with as many records as he can find about the community center, including documents he believes could jeopardize

the town’s image.

Under FOIA law, a municipality has a maximum of thirty five calendar days to fulfill a request, depending on the age of the documents being requested. Since *The People-Sentinel* resubmitted the FOIA request, these thirty-five days have come and gone.

However, due to the state of mismanagement, Sauls has been unable to locate many of the documents requested by *The People-Sentinel*. Simply pulling files related to the request is a challenge, Sauls said, since so many documents are in so many different places and some documents related to the request are unable to be found.

Art Williams, a contractor who played the lead role in the community center and stepped away from the project after Sauls was sworn in, declined to comment.

No audit, no budget, no grants

Since 2022, the Town of Fairfax has been operating without a budget. At a January 6 meeting with the community, Sauls said the town is operating on a week-to-week basis. At the meeting, council member Phyllis Smart said the Town of Fairfax is in a state of emergency, although a formal emergency declaration has not been made.

“I’m trying real hard not to declare a state of emergency or declare bankruptcy or anything like that,” Sauls said. “It’s been frustrating for me.”

The last time the town had a budget was in 2022, and an audit has not been performed in two years. The town is currently in pursuit of both,

however, neither can be created without an organized portfolio of the town’s income, expenses, contracts, banking transactions and other financial documents.

These types of situations are partially a result of a lack of oversight of local governments, according to Kimberly Nelson, a professor of public administration at the University of North Carolina’s School of Government who specializes in local government management.

“There are cases out there where things are just so poorly managed that these things happen,” Nelson said. “The more problematic an audit is, the more it will cost. It takes much longer [to conduct an audit] when there’s problems when everything’s good and in top shape.”

The town is currently conducting a two year audit, which Sauls said at a council meeting will cost \$25,000. The town recently hired Brandon Upson, a political strategist from Columbia, to act as a grant writer.

While campaigning in November 2023’s municipal election, Sauls and other council members campaigned on getting the town a grocery store and rebuilding its aging infrastructure. Both Sauls and the new council have made attempts to move forward on these issues since their inauguration. However, addressing them requires grants, which local governments cannot apply for without showing that it can balance a budget and complete an audit.

A path forward

Although much remains

to be organized, Sauls said the office is making progress. The town is in the process of transforming its digital presence with the software company QS1, adding an online payment option for water bills and creating both digital records and paper records.

However, the limited resources and staffing of City Hall, combined with navigating the town’s other issues, makes it hard to move quickly. Sauls and the council are considering hiring a part-time employee solely devoted to helping the town get organized.

Sauls has also considered ordering a forensic audit — a type of audit performed with the intent of finding evidence of fraud or embezzlement — crimes Sauls believes may have occurred. However, a forensic audit done, Sauls estimates, would cost \$120,000.

“We have done 100 percent better from where we started: those girls [in the office] have worked hard,” said Smart. “They’re working hard to try and pull it together.”

Sauls said he plans to have more events with the town where citizens can raise concerns and ask questions in an informal environment. Rebuilding trust with the community, Sauls said, means living up to his promise of a local government that is transparent even in its darkest moments.

“What we’re going to have to do is go physically box by box,” Sauls said. “For the citizens, it’s frustrating to be hearing the same things over and over again. There has to be accountability for the way it is.”

Jury convicts man for federal hate crime in 2019 slaying of SC transgender woman

Skylar Laird
S.C. Daily Gazette
scdailygazette.com

COLUMBIA — A jury convicted a Lowcountry man Friday of a federal hate crime for murdering the woman who may have been his lover because she was transgender.

In the first federal trial for a hate crime involving gender identity, the jury found Daqua Ritter, 27, guilty on all counts — murder involving a firearm and misleading investigators, as well as the hate crime charge — after four hours of deliberation following the four-day trial in Columbia. Prosecutors have said they won’t seek the death penalty but Ritter could face multiple life sentences. Sentencing will follow at a later date.

Ritter stood accused of killing 24-year-old transgender woman Dime Doe in 2019 to silence rumors that the two of them were in a sexual relationship.

The prosecution pointed to Ritter’s fear of people thinking he was gay for having sex with Doe, who was born biologically male but began living as a woman just after high school, as evidence he committed the crime out of gender-based hate. But according to his attorney, Ritter didn’t have a problem with Doe’s gender identity. After all, she had come out as transgender years before, and he knew what it meant to be seen in public with her.

The trial marked the first time a jury has heard a federal hate crimes case involving a crime committed over a person’s gender identity since it was outlawed in 2009. In 2017, a Mississippi man was sentenced to 49 years in prison for killing a transgender 17-year-old over her gender, but he pleaded guilty, forgoing a trial.

South Carolina is one of two states without a law specific to hate crimes. Ritter used a gun from a different state, prosecutors

said, raising the case to the federal level.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brook Andrews told reporters the case stands as a testament to the commitment of U.S. Attorney’s Office for South Carolina in fighting violence based on gender or sexual orientation.

“We are going to pursue those crimes, and you can bet we are going to prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law,” Andrews said.

Tensions rose

Ritter and Doe had known each other for years before she was found dead Aug. 4, 2019 on a country road near the small town of Allendale, prosecutors said. Ritter grew up in New York, and still lived there some of the time, but he often visited family members’ homes in South Carolina.

Tensions rose in the weeks leading up to Doe’s death, prosecutors said. His girlfriend at the time, Delasia Green, discovered text messages between the two of them and accused Ritter of cheating. She had accused him of cheating before, but it wasn’t until she learned Doe was transgender that he got angry, telling her not to question his heterosexuality.

Exchanges like this are what prosecutors used to argue Ritter killed Doe because of her gender identity, escalating a murder charge into a hate crime.

“He didn’t want anybody thinking he would have sex with a transgender woman,” prosecutor Andrew Manns said.

People were calling Ritter “all sorts of” homophobic slurs, he said in a text to Doe in the days leading up to her death. And in an interview with an investigator after her death, Ritter told a detective that he didn’t “agree with her lifestyle,” prosecutors said. And in the days before she died, he went so far as to tell friends he would hurt her to keep her quiet about their relationship, they added.

What prosecutors didn’t show, said defense attorney Josh Kendrick, was that Ritter

and Doe generally had a more tender relationship. He pointed to hundreds of text messages between them, in which Ritter confided his problems and did not get angry.

A timeline of events

Ritter would use a friend’s phone to text Doe just after 2 p.m. on Aug. 4, 2019, asking her to come pick him up, prosecutors said. Ritter wanted to see her, he told her, and they only had about an hour and a half to spend time together.

Doe arrived around 2:40 p.m. Less than half an hour later, a police officer pulled her over for speeding on a nearby road. Body camera footage showed the lower half of another person in the car with Doe and a tattoo matching one Ritter has on his hand.

Texts from Doe’s phone indicated the two were still together at 3:14 p.m. but by 4 p.m., all the texts and calls on her phone stopped. Less than an hour later, Ritter’s friend called Doe’s phone and Ritter picked up, the friend testified.

A man found Doe’s body slumped over the wheel of her car on an abandoned property that he owned. She had three gunshot wounds to the head.

That evening, Ritter arrived unexpectedly at his uncle’s house, half a mile from where Doe’s body was found, asking for a ride back to town. He allegedly burned his clothes that night, and friends told investigators he said “no one’s going to have to worry about” Doe anymore.

The next day, Ritter approached Kordell Jenkins, a friend, and asked him to get rid of the gun, Jenkins testified.

Within the week, Ritter’s girlfriend drove him the 80 miles from Allendale to Columbia to catch a bus back to New York. She asked Ritter if he had anything to do with Doe’s death. He didn’t answer, she said, just looked away and smirked.

Kendrick cast doubt on

the testimony during his closing argument, calling the witnesses “a crew of clowns.”

While in New York, Ritter stayed in touch with a friend

in Allendale who reassured him in text messages that no one was going to “snitch.” He was banking on the idea no one would care enough about Doe to try to solve

the crime, prosecutor Andrew Manns said in his closing argument.

“Don’t let his cover-up work,” Manns urged.

The jurors agreed.

Allendale County Government—Job Posting

Open Until Filled

Position: Building and Zoning Administrator
Department: Building and Zoning
Reports To: Allendale County Administrator **FLSA Status:** Full-time (Exempt)
Salary: Depends on experience

Job Summary
 The County of Allendale is actively recruiting for a Building and Zoning Administrator. This position is full-time (exempt) and will report to the Allendale County Administrator. This position is responsible for the financially sound and efficient operation of the Allendale County Building and Zoning department. The Building and Zoning Administrator should provide technical guidance to Allendale County staff, commissions, and boards, to assist in the understanding of Allendale County’s zoning ordinances, standards, and policies.

Duties/Responsibilities
 This position is responsible for executing the overall administration of the Building and Zoning department and developing policies and procedures to meet Allendale County’s goals by instituting, in coordination with other county departments and individuals, strategic and long-range planning for well-regulated and appropriate community growth and development. This includes providing direction on several programs and activities that maintain the environment for allowed and encouraged uses by establishing, implementing, and enforcing those goals through Allendale County ordinances and policies.

Administering and overseeing updates and management of the Allendale County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Solid Waste Ordinance, Shoreland and Floodplain Overlay Districts, Wetland Conservation Act requirements, and other related ordinances, to ensure they are meeting Allendale County needs.

Establish department priorities within Allendale County’s strategic goals and objectives and develop and implement office policies or programs to meet these priorities.

Prepare and present the annual budget to the Allendale County Administration for the Building, Zoning, and DHEC Solid Waste grants accounts. Manage and oversee the approved budgets.

With Board approval, apply for and administer grants and ensure that money is spent as directed and matching money is accounted for, along with proper documentation being generated/maintained for reporting and auditing purposes.

Serve as the primary contact and spokesperson for the Allendale County Zoning Board on land use, solid waste, Water, and environmental issues.

Work directly with the Allendale County Planning Commission and Allendale County Administration on the development of policies for the department and for the long and short-term goals and policies for Allendale County regarding land use and environment issues.

Supervise the process for variance and appeal applications and presentations to the Board of Appeals.

Oversee the coordination of meetings, policies, and procedures of the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals.

Act as the primary contact in the event of litigation either brought against the Allendale County Building and Zoning Department, Planning Commission, or Board of Appeals regarding a land use decision.

Collaborate with the Allendale County Administration and the Allendale County Attorney regarding policies and ordinance changes and ordinance enforcement issues. Work closely with outside or assigned attorneys on litigation involving all land use or solid waste issues.

Work effectively within a leadership role and team environment. Also, be able to coordinate with other departments on Allendale County initiatives to streamline processes, form policies, and develop effective relationships for efficient customer service delivery.

Serve as the primary representative for the department in the event of a disaster and implement the assigned duties for the department according to the adopted Emergency Disaster Plan.

Represent Allendale County and develop and maintain effective relationships between the Planning and Zoning Office and leaders and staff from area townships, cities, county committees, land developers, State agencies and local residents.

Develop recommendations regarding zoning amendments, zoning permit fees, zoning applications, and zoning approvals.

Meet with citizens, applicants, and developers to review and discuss potential new Allendale County development projects.

Education
 Must have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, bachelor’s degree preferred.

Experience
 1 - 2 years of experience
 Prior government experience preferred.

Minimum Level of Required Qualifications, Licenses, Certification, Registrations, or any Relevant Knowledge, Job Skills, or Equivalent Experience
 Proficiency in the Microsoft Office Suite is preferred including Outlook, Word, and Excel. Proficiency in GIS/mapping software is preferred.
 Flood Plain Manager certifications preferred.
 Must possess a valid South Carolina driver’s license.

Note: The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the person assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, skills, and physical demands required.

Equal Opportunity Employer
 Allendale County is an equal opportunity employer. Allendale County does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

This position is subject to a pre-employment drug test and pre-employment background check.

All interested candidates may email their completed employment application and resume to employment@allendalecounty.gov or submit them in person at to Allendale County Human Resources Office, located at the Allendale County Administration Office, 526 Memorial Avenue, Allendale, SC 29810. Employment applications are available online at https://allendalecounty.com/i_want_to_apply_for.php

Benjamin O'Neal Jr.



2024, at the Carlyle Senior Care of Blackville, Blackville.

Homegoing celebration for Mr. Benjamin O'Neal Jr. will be conducted on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 1 p.m. at St. Peter Baptist Church with Reverend Anthony Gadson officiating. Burial will be in St. Peter Memorial Garden. Visitation was on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service.

Family and friends may call the residence of his mother, Ms. Mattie O'Neal (835 Elko Street, Williston, S.C. 29853) or Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service (13188 Main Street, Williston, S.C. 29853; 803-266-7808).

Sign the online guestbook at www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com.

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Elbert Timothy Moore Jr.



SNELLING - Elbert Timothy Moore Jr. died on February 20, 2024. He was born on November 18, 1946, in Augusta, Georgia. He was the son of Elbert Timothy Moore and Ann Foy Moore. His grandparents were Rufus Richmond Moore, Alda Sauls Moore, John Watkins Foy, and Mary Schumpert Foy.

He graduated from Barnwell High School, attended Wofford College, and received his B.A., M.A.T., and J.D. degrees from the University of South Carolina.

He served in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade of the U. S. Army in Vietnam from 1968-69.

He coached football at Lower Richland High School, Barnwell High School, Socastee High School, Blackville-Hilda High School, and Furman University. His teams at Blackville-Hilda High com-

plied a record of 81-10-1 in his seven seasons there, winning state championships in 1983 and 1984. He also coached baseball at Lower Richland, Socastee, and Blackville-Hilda. He coached in the North-South All Star Football game in 1983 and the Shrine Bowl in 1984. In addition to his coaching duties, he served as principal of Blackville Elementary School.

He retired from coaching in 1986 and entered law school at the University of South Carolina. After clerking for a circuit judge, he established the Moore Law Firm in Barnwell where he practiced until his death. He was also in partnership with his father in Moore and Moore Cows, a cattle operation in Snelling.

He was a member of Barnwell United Methodist Church, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 828, Barnwell Rotary Club, Elenton Agricultural Club, the S.C. Association for Justice, the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Democratic Party, and a life member of the S.C. PTSA. He was a former chairman of the State Board of Education and a former chairman of the Barnwell County Council.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Scott Turner Moore; sons, Richmond Turner Moore and wife Parker and Edward Foy Moore; grandchildren Eliza Brent Turner Moore, Richmond Thomas Moore, William Turner Moore, and Graydon Foy Moore; and a number of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Hawks Hit Harder Scholarship Fund at Blackville-Hilda High School or the Salkehatchie V. V. A. Veterans Park Fund. Memorials may be mailed to Post Office Box 160, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812.

Visitation was held on Friday, February 23, 2024 at the home at 15000 Dunbarton Boulevard, Snelling, S.C. from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. The funeral service was held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the Barnwell United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. A graveside service followed at Seven Pines Baptist Church Cemetery in Snelling. The service was live-streamed on Mole Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at molefh.com.

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Donald Barry 'Don' Bodiford Sr.



in Blackville on Saturday. Graveside services were held at 1 o'clock p.m., Saturday February 24, 2024 at the Blackville Cemetery with Reverend Dr. Thomas Terry officiating. Memorial contributions may be given to the Blackville Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 365, Blackville, S.C. 29817.

Born in Orangeburg, he was a son of the late Audrey Bodiford and Audrey Edith Lott Bodiford. Don was a graduate of Blackville High School and attended Palmer College where he was a member of the basketball team. He was a member of the National Guard.

Survivors include his sons, Donald Barry (Alli-

son) Bodiford Jr., Andrew Boyd (Diana) Bodiford and Brent Alexander (Hilary) Bodiford; grandchildren, Hayden Bodiford, Grayson Bodiford, Emma Bodiford, Brent "Bear" Alexander Bodiford Jr. and coming soon, Harrison Bodiford; sisters, Jane Bodiford Fore and Terri Lynn Bodiford (Mark) Bolton; and a brother, Jerry Lott (Vera) Bodiford.

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

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Thomas 'Tommy' Rion Rivers Jr.



WILLISTON - Thomas "Tommy" Rion Rivers, 82, of Williston, died at his home on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Tommy was born March 11, 1941, in Winnsboro, S.C. and was the son of the late David Henry and Mildred Boulware Rivers. A 1965 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Pharmacy, he and his wife owned and operated Rivers Pharmacy in Williston, S.C., for 50 years. Tommy loved and served his community as mayor of Williston, town

council member, school board member for Williston-Elko School Board, the S.C. Municipal Association board, and in many local clubs and organizations. He was awarded Williston Citizen of the Year and was honored with the S.C. Pharmacy Bowl of Hygeia for community service. He as a member of Williston United Methodist Church and hosted a men's prayer breakfast each week at Rivers Pharmacy. He was a devoted Carolina Gamecock.

Tommy is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary McCright Rivers; children, Thomas David Rivers (Irene) of Wake Forest, N.C., Christopher Rion Rivers (Tonja) of North Augusta, S.C., and Martha McCright Rivers Davisson (Doug) of Aiken, S.C.; ten grandchildren, Nathan Rivers (Alex), Danny Rivers, Alissa Rivers, Rion Rivers, Jackson Rivers, Emma Da-

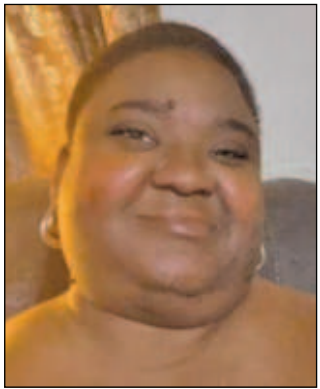
visson, Maggie Davisson, Mary Davisson, Patrick (Heaven) Yeh and Alex Yeh; one great-grandchild, Alaina Rivers; and a sister, Patsy Rivers Ellis (Bill).

The family visited with loved ones one hour prior to the service on Sunday at the church. Services were held at 3 o'clock p.m. on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at the Williston United Methodist Church with the Reverends Melissa Williams and Phinize Young officiating. Memorials may be sent to Williston United Methodist Church, 6030 Springfield Road, Williston, S.C. 29853 or Young Rosemary Baptist Church, 1500 S.C. Hwy. 39, Williston, S.C. 29853.

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

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Evelyn Kelly



tion for Miss Evelyn Kelly was conducted on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Culbert Branch Baptist Church with Reverend Beverly Ashley and Reverend Dr. James Dukes officiating. Burial was in the Barnwell County Cemetery. Visitation was on Monday, February 19, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, February 20, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service and then at Cul-

bert Branch Baptist Church from 12 p.m. to the hour of service.

Family and friends may call the residence of Miss Evelyn Kelly (961 Elko Street, Williston) or Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service (13188 Main Street, Williston; 803-266-7808).

Sign the online guestbook at www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com.

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

James Brice Gray Sr.



in the United States Army. He was a mechanic and owned the old Phillips 66 Station in Barnwell. He also worked as a maintenance superintendent for the SC Housing Authority.

He is survived by his wife, Oretta D. Gray of Barnwell; son, James B. (Alison) Gray Jr. of Barnwell; brother, Bobby (Anne) Gray of Jonesboro, TN; sister, Delores (Dave) Rivers of Lancaster; as well as 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Shirlidia Gray; son, Tony Gray; daughter, Shirlidia Darlene Youmans; and

grandson, Troy A. Gray.

A visitation will be held Friday, February 23rd, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Mole Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. at Barnwell Memory Gardens Cemetery. Rev. Brian Gray and Rev. Bert Petty will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to Animal Advocates of Barnwell.

Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at molefh.com.

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Sandra 'Sandi' Darlene Gilmore Roberts



24, 2024, in North Carolina, at the age of 73. She was born on November 19, 1950, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William and Hazel (Fleming) Gilmore.

Sandi was a loving mother survived by her sons, Bryan (Lucy) Roberts of Shallotte, N.C. and Jayme (Melissa) Roberts of Barnwell, S.C. She cherished her granddaughters Hayley (Seth) Bryan, Hannah Roberts, Jayda Roberts, and

Mason Roberts, as well as her great-grandson Beckham Bryan.

Sandi is also survived by her sisters, Cathy Nichols of Oklahoma and Micki Silver of South Carolina.

Sandi was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Spencer Roberts; and sisters, Debbie Bridges and Toni Erkens.

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Russell 'Russ' Dean Hartzog



was a Radiation Safety Technician at Energy Solutions.

Russ loved being by the water and especially fishing with his friends and dad. You could often find him grilling extravagant meals for his loved ones and being the life of the party everywhere he went. Russ was an avid Clemson Tiger fan and enjoyed going to football games with his family in the fall. Russ was known for his love of animals but none of them could compare to "his girl" Woody who was the light of his life for 14 years. His nieces and nephews will always remember "Shu" for being the very best "fundle" and are so grateful for the many laughs he provided.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Woodrow and Nellie Creech; paternal grandparents, Koger and Carlana Hartzog; and his beloved great niece, Lila Brynn Lott.

He is survived by his parents, Dean and Joan Hartzog; his sisters, Jeri Lyn (Craig) Ridgeway and Jennifer Kern;

his nieces and nephews, Brittany (Josh) Lott, Brock and Riley Ridgeway, Grayson, Gunnar and Logan Kern; and his great niece and nephew, Martha Ellison and Joseph Cash Lott.

Russ's family will receive his many loved ones at Barnwell First Baptist Church in Barnwell on Wednesday, February 28th from 1:30-3 p.m. Funeral services will directly follow visitation at 3 p.m. with Dr. Bart Kelley officiating. Graveside services will be held at Barnwell County Memory Gardens in Barnwell immediately after. The service will be live-streamed on Barnwell First Baptist Church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/fbcbarnwell.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Animal Advocates of Barnwell, P.O. Box 1924, Barnwell, S.C. 29812.

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

The People-Sentinel
2/28/2024

Obituaries

Alice Mae Spann

BARNWELL - Mrs. Alice Mae Spann passed February 3, 2024, at Pruitt Health of Barnwell.

Mrs. Spann was born on March 9, 1930, in Barnwell County to the late William and Doreather Priester. She was preceded in death by her husband, Buster Spann; one son, Johnny Priester; two brothers, Willie and Seymour Priester; and four sisters, Willie Mae Williams, Juia Keys, Earnesta Priester and Mary Priester.

At an early age, she joined Second Mt. Olive Baptist Church. She later joined Emanuel Temple Pentecostal Church of

Barnwell, South Carolina. She was the most loved and precious, humble lady that you would ever meet.

She leaves to mourn her daughter, Doris Priester of Barnwell, SC; one sister, Rosella Glad- den of Philadelphia, PA; sister-in-law, Judy A. Priester of Philadelphia, PA; three grandchildren, Tiffani, Ashley, and Marcus Priester of Barnwell, S.C.; eight great grands, Amberlynn, Trinity, Braylen, and Keegan Priester, all of Barnwell, S.C. and Jaylen Priester of Atlanta, Ga., Grayson Williams of Barnwell, S.C., Amethyst Allen,



and Annalisse Priester, both of Salley, S.C., and host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Her extended family consisted of the Arants, the Estes, the Mews, the Jacksons and her best friend for over 60 years,

Louise Arant of Barnwell, S.C.

The family also wanted to extend thanks and praises of love and kindness to her family of Pruitt Health of Barnwell, the nursing staff, kitchen, maintenance, laundry, administration, PT, Wound Care, and the sweet residents who loved her as we did. She will surely be missed.

Funeral services were held February 11, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Second Mt. Olive Baptist Church and burial was in the church cemetery by professional services of the BF Cave Funeral Home.

The People-Sentinel
02/28/24

Freddie "Fred" Mitchell



Services in loving memory of Mr. Freddie Lee Mitchell will be conducted on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 3 p.m. with Evangelist Mattie R. Antoine officiating, at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service. Visitation will be on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 12 p.m. until the hour of service.

Family and friends may call Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service (13188 Main Street, Williston; 803-266-7808).

Sign the online guestbook at www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com.

The People-Sentinel
02/28/24

WILLISTON - Mr. Freddie Lee Mitchell, 53, affectionately called Fred, entered into eternal rest on Friday, February 16, 2024, at Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center, Denmark, S.C.

Faith

Lenten message: 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus'

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher

joickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Those lyrics from the hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" echoed throughout the historic Church of the Holy Apostles on Feb. 21.

Pastor Roger Allen of New Beginnings Fellowship in Barnwell was the speaker at the second Barnwell County Lenten service of 2024. These services are examining the last statements of Jesus made from the cross.

"This day shall you be

with me in paradise," read Allen from Luke 23:43.

These were the words that Jesus spoke to the malefactor, the criminal who hung on a nearby cross who asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus got to heaven.

Recalling a dream he once had, Allen said he could see Jesus being crucified on the cross.

"I couldn't take in anything except for the malefactor that had professed his guilt to Christ and had accepted Christ's entity," said Allen of his dream.

Even as guards shouted and people made noise, Allen said the malefactor never took his eyes off Jesus.

"His eyes never turned from His face, despite everything that was going on around them," said

Allen. "He was able to put all distractions away from him."

Allen then related that dream to today and how there are so many distractions seeking one's attention, from family and jobs to worldly things. That's why it's important to keep our eyes on Jesus.

Lenten services continue every Wednesday through March 27 at a different church. A free lunch is served from noon to 12:30 p.m. with the service following from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

"What a blessing that is and what a blessing it is to see the body of Christ assemble like this. We are here, all different but united. What is the most important thing? Keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ as children as God," said Rev. Bill Clarkson, vicar



Pastor Roger Allen speaks to the crowd gathered at the Church of the Holy Apostles for the second Lenten service of 2024 on Feb. 21.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

of the Church of the Holy Apostles.

At the end of the service, a love offering was collected

on behalf of the ministerial coalition.



Calvary Fellowship Mennonite takes community on 'Walk Through Bethlehem'

Calvary Fellowship Mennonite Church & School hosted a "Walk Through Bethlehem" on Dec. 19. Guests were taken to various scenes representing different places in Bethlehem as part of the nativity story of the birth of Jesus. At the end, everyone enjoyed a chili supper and songs from the children.

Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED



Pastor & First Lady Dukes recognized for 13 years of ministry

Dr. Bobby Dukes and First Lady Shanikia Dukes (above) were recognized during the Sunday, Jan. 14 service for their 13th pastoral anniversary at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Barnwell. Below, they are pictured being prayed for by Rev. Phillip B. Thomas of Zion Fair Missionary Baptist. Ned Branch Missionary Baptist is located at 10620 Dunbarton Boulevard, Barnwell.

Contributed Photos



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.

Brittany Renee Abeny, 35, of 1430 Kingfisher Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on February 22, 2024 by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Criminal Domestic Violence. Abeny was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Deveon Antonio Belk, 36, of 505 Caddis Creek Road, Columbia, S.C. was arrested by BCSO on February 23, 2024 for Criminal Sexual Conduct. Belk was booked and released to BCDC.

Andrew Travis Evans, 34, of 993 George Street, Orangeburg, S.C. was arrested

by BCSO on February 20, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Court Fines. Evans was booked and released to BCDC.

James Kennedy Harris, 58, of 282 Dicks Street, Williston, S.C. was arrested on February 26, 2024 by the Williston Police Department (WPD) for Shoplifting and Trespass of Real Property. Harris was booked and released to BCDC.

Antwan Akeem Johnson, 27, of 165 McKinley Road, Springfield, S.C. was arrested on February 26, 2024 by WPD for Driving Under Suspension. Johnson was booked and released to BCDC.

Trey Leon Williams, 30, of 821 Quail Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on February 22, 2024 by BCSO for Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Ecstasy, Unlawful Carry of a Pistol, Failure to Pay Court Fines, and Failure to Pay Child Support. Williams was booked and released to BCDC.

AUTHOR: Barnwell High School senior now a published author; book signing to be held March 4

FROM PAGE 1A

"I just knew that I had to give them my very own book to read!" she said.

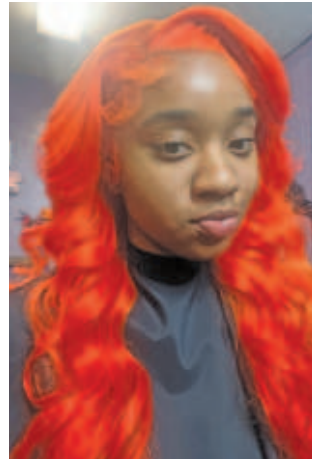
The novel has been a labor of love for Kirkland, who has been working on the book since her sophomore year of high school. But the work has paid off, as she can now say that she has published her first book before even graduating high school.

"It feels good to actually accomplish my dreams at a very young age," Kirkland said. "I'm very proud and very grateful to the ones who helped me achieve this goal."

For other teens who want to be published authors as well, Kirkland has a couple of pieces of advice.

"Believe in yourself and be patient. Everything will fall in place accordingly, and express yourself to the fullest," she said.

If you'd like to get a



"Believe in yourself and be patient. Everything will fall in place accordingly."

- Nevaeh Kirkland,
on advice for other teens interested in becoming published authors

copy of Kirkland's book, she will be having a book signing at Barnwell City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4.

Kirkland is thankful to many who have helped her achieve her goals in the creation of *The Coffee Chronicles*. "I want

to say thank you to my classmates at Barnwell High School. They really helped me get to where I am at today. They used to ask for my book all the time. I want to give a big thanks to my family too!"

"We are so proud of all of your hard work

and determination. We cannot wait to see what the future holds," stated a post on the Barnwell High School Guidance Facebook page.

The book is available on Amazon and copies will be sold at the book signing.

Notice



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Holly Hill Complex at Cribb 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 Mimosa Avenue, Denmark, SC

Fairfax Boundary Complex at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

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

Barnwell Arms Complex at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

Bamberg Villa Complex at Race Street, Bamberg, SC

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

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AG-0003364030-01

BIG 7: Organization celebrates 30 years of funding bright futures

FROM PAGE 1A

ranks fifth in the country for highest amount of student debt burden. This debt can prevent graduates from buying a home, saving money and having children. For Black college graduates, the burden of student loan debt is even higher: an average of \$52,000 per borrower.

Hannah Waraich, a Barnwell High School graduate and current senior at University of South Carolina Honors College, spoke about her higher education experience and the importance of making it accessible to young people.

"It provided me with not only facts and figures, but critical thinking skills, empathy, and a deeper appreciation for the diversity of human thoughts and experiences," said Waraich. "The importance of education goes just beyond personal development. It serves as a catalyst for the advancement of our



Elijah de Castro / Report for America

Kristen JoyAnn Jamison sings to the crowd at the Big 7 banquet.

community."

Census data finds that in Barnwell, 14.3 percent of adults 25 years old or higher have a bachelor's degree; The overall average for Americans is

37.7 percent. In addition to helping elevate young people in communities like Barnwell, creating a path to higher education also helps prevent young people from being swept

into the criminal justice system.

"A lot of people that I see here in the courtroom every day are not the ones who are educated," said Barnwell County magistrate judge and Big 7 member Thomas Williams, who spoke at the event. "If we put them into the education system, they won't get into the criminal justice system. This is not a political thing; this is a right and wrong thing. [We need to] give every child in this county the same opportunity to get educated."

The students who received scholarships were Shamiya Hightower, attending Benedict College; Kaitlyn Simmons, attending Clemson University; Shontavia Tyler, attending USC Salkehatchie; Taylor Frazier, attending Lander University; Christian Smith, attending S.C. State University; Maurice Odom, attending Limestone

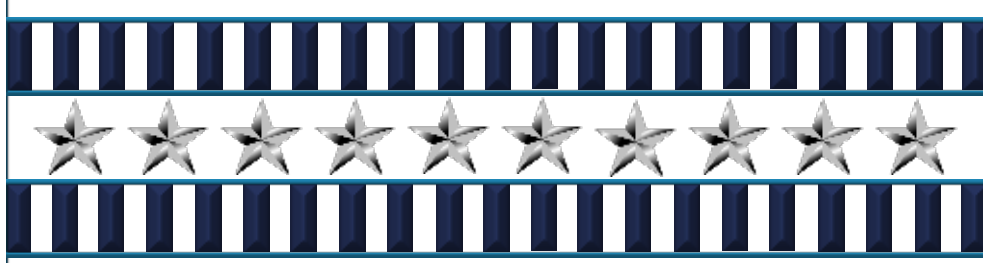
University; Jakori Williams, attending USC Columbia; Enrique Frederick, attending Denmark Tech; Gabriel Hosey, attending USC Columbia; Cadence Brown, attending College of Charleston; Arian Williams, attending Clemson University; Zi'Yier Rice, attending USC Aiken; Emily Ulmer, attending Clemson University; and Emma Creech, attending Clemson University.

In celebration of the scholarships, singers Rochella Manual and Kristen JoyAnn Jamison performed with accompaniment from Randy Gamble.

"When you see these students, just remind them to stay focused, stay on track, [and] love themselves first so they can be the best that they can be," said Hannah-Harding, the master of ceremonies for the event.



THE BARNWELL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Join your fellow Democrats!

The Barnwell County Democratic Party County Convention will be held on **Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM** at the Barnwell County Career Center 5124 Reynolds Rd.

All Barnwell County Democrats are invited.

Special invitation extended to:
Barnwell County Democratic Party Elected Officials and new candidates.

Refreshments will be served.

Find us on Facebook [facebook.com/BarnwellCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/BarnwellCountyDemocrats)



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2024 Leadership Salkehatchie class includes local leaders

Stephanie Gruber
USC Salkehatchie
www.thepeoplesentinel.com



Front row sitting: Shelby Broomfield, Meagan Stoner, Nancy Gutierrez, Melanie Wooten, Tammy Rimes; Second row: Victoria Rizer, Jennifer Bryant, Victoria Gunnells, Shanda Crawford, Monique Smalls, Karen Terry. Third row: Keelie Robinson, Stewart McAdoo, Lish Sabb, Enterick Lee, Jodi Kearse, Josh Urwick.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Leadership Institute has announced the 19 participants of its 2024 Leadership Salkehatchie class.

This prestigious, regional leadership development program is offered by USC Salkehatchie and sponsored by Southern Carolina Alliance. Alumni of the program serve as leaders in business, healthcare, education, government, and non-profits across the Salkehatchie region.

The 2024 cohort, as well as graduates from the 2022 and 2023 classes, were recognized at a kick-off event at USC Salkehatchie's Allendale campus.

"Congratulations to those of you who have participated in and have recently been selected to participate in this prestigious program," Dean April Cone said. "The Leadership Institute and Southern Carolina Alliance have a 20-plus year history of developing strong leaders in the Salkehatchie region. Your commitment to participate in this program speaks volumes about your investment in yourself and the economic development of our region. It also speaks volumes about your employer's investment, not only in the economic

development of our region, but also in you."

Cone also introduced one of Salkehatchie's newest team members, Shelby Broomfield, who was recently named director of USC Salkehatchie's Leadership Institute and is also a 2019 Leadership Salkehatchie alumnus.

"I look forward to working with the 2024 cohort of Leadership Salkehatchie. During their orientation, the group entered excited and ready to embark on this part of their leadership journey. I am excited to engage with the group over the next few months as they dive into different leadership topics," Broomfield said. "I would like to congratulate the Leadership Salkehatchie Class of 2022 and 2023 on

the major accomplishment of completing this program. I look forward to seeing the impact and change that both classes make in the Salkehatchie region."

Danny Black, president and CEO of Southern Carolina Alliance, says that this program helps promote the region's greatest asset - its people.

"Southern Carolina Alliance is proud to once again partner with USC Salkehatchie in sponsoring this important leadership program. As the regional economic development organization recruiting industries to our seven counties, SCA understands more than most that our people are our region's greatest asset," Black said. "We need to foster strong

partners who understand the importance of economic development in improving the quality of life for our rural communities, and these are the future and current leaders who will be shaping our communities for decades to come. We are pleased to welcome them to this prestigious program and count them among the transformational leaders in our part of South Carolina."

The 2024 Leadership Salkehatchie Class includes:

- Jennifer Bryant (Colleton Co.) of Gehl Foods Southeast
- Shanda Crawford (Barnwell Co.) of Dreams Imagination & Gift Development Program
- Tricia Gordon (Barnwell Co.) of Barnwell County

First Steps

- Victoria Gunnells (Barnwell Co.) of SRP Federal Credit Union
- Nancy Gutierrez (Jasper Co.) of the City of Hardeeville
- Jodi Kearse (Allendale & Hampton Co.) Allendale County E911
- Enterick Lee (Barnwell Co.) of Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Stewart McAdoo (Colleton Co.) of Colleton County Chamber of Commerce
- Alisha Moore (Bamberg Co.) of Bamberg County
- Tammy Rimes (Barnwell Co.) of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
- Victoria Rizer (Colleton & Bamberg Counties) of Enterprise Bank of SC

- Keelie Robinson (Colleton, Jasper, Beaufort & Hampton Counties) of S.C. Lowcountry Tourism Commission
- Lish Sabb (Allendale Co.) of Allendale County Rescue Squad
- Monique Smalls (Barnwell Co.) of Barnwell Co. Consolidated School District
- Meagan Stoner (Colleton Co.) of HCA Healthcare
- Karen Terry (Hampton Co.) of Hampton County Regional Medical Center
- Josh Urwick (Barnwell, Bamberg & Allendale Counties) of Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance
- Melanie Wooten (Hampton Co.) of Hampton County Regional Medical Center
- Meredith Wright (Barnwell Co.) of Barnwell County

The year-long program will include workshops designed to empower participants with the economic development knowledge and the skills needed to cultivate progress within our region. The program highlights the strengths of the Salkehatchie region and explores the obstacles facing small-town America. Program topics include economic development, education, the judicial system, local government, legislative advocacy, leadership skills, and diversity.

CHIEF: Red Oak FD continues to struggle with needed certifications

granted partial financial responsibility by having control of the department's one percent funds. Barnwell County still has possession of the department's checkbook and is handling monthly expenses.

"County council works hard to ensure the integrity of all fiscal matters and will do everything possible to make this happen," stated Councilman Don Harper at the February 13 council meeting.

Issues with operation at ROVFD began to be addressed by the county in November 2022. Main

concerns consisted of a lack of certified members, misuse of county funds, and lack of bylaws providing structure to the department.

Chief Lingard is the only certified firefighter - meaning only Chief Lingard out of the 16-member roster can enter a structure fire. Other members do not have the needed certifications to do so.

In early January, Barnwell County Council agreed to give the ROVFD until June to have 85 percent of the roster certified through courses offered by S.C. State Fire. These courses are scheduled

by the state agency and a department's chief or officers can sign up roster members. It is ultimately up to the members to attend, participate, and become certified.

When the council agreed to allow ROVFD until June to reach certification goals, they were basing their decision on incorrect numbers presented by ROVFD leadership. Misinformation presented to the council led them to believe this percentage was reachable in the given timeframe.

"Would you say the report

we got in January had a good bit of false stuff on it?" asked Chairman Jerry Creech at the January 23 health and safety committee meeting.

"Based on the numbers, yes," responded Barnwell County Fire Coordinator Wesley Gatlin. "If my math is right, if you've got 16 members on the roster. There are only eight eligible to take Firefighter I, if they pass Hazmat Ops, that would give you nine people certified at most. It does not equal the 85% guideline."

Members are required to pass a Hazmat Operations

course as a prerequisite to Firefighter I, which certifies for entry into a burning building. The council was informed by ROVFD leadership that 12 members were enrolled to take Hazmat Operation; However, eight were actually registered with the state agency to take the course.

According to Gatlin, only three attended the course. Five members had canceled out of the course prior to it starting.

The lack of ROVFD members enrolled in the required prerequisite courses

will limit the number of certified firefighters at the department, making the county's 85 percent certification goal less achievable.

Schumpert requested the county tender a resignation from Chief Lingard and bar him from joining another Barnwell County fire department based on the recent operations of ROVFD, both financially and operationally related.

The county has suspended Chief Lingard from any financial matters at ROVFD, and he still remains the chief of the department.

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SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE



Thursday, Feb. 29
Clarendon Hall @ JDA 7:00
Friday, March 1
JDA @ Clarendon Hall 7:00

Monday, March 4
Silver Bluff @ Barnwell 6:00
Tuesday, March 5
Barnwell @ Williston-Elko 6:00
JDA @ Wardlaw Academy 6:00



Monday, March 4
Barnwell @ Williston-Elko 6:30



Boys
Thursday, Feb. 29
Horse Creek Academy @ Barnwell 7:00
Monday, March 4
Fox Creek @ Barnwell 6:00

Girls
Thursday, Feb. 29
Horse Creek Academy @ Barnwell 5:30
Tuesday, March 5
Saluda @ Barnwell 6:00



PCE team captures third at National All Star Cheerleading Championship



The Palmetto Elite Cheer Senior Legacy team earned a third place finish in their division at the 2024 Cheersport National All Star Cheerleading Championship in Atlanta, Ga. Photo Courtesy: Amy Williams

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Palmetto Cheer Elite's Senior Legacy team was one of 1,452 teams that converged upon the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia for the 2024 Cheersport National All Star Cheerleading Championship.

Held February 17-18, the competition saw more than 26,000 of the nation's best cheerleaders competing for championships in various divisions. Teams were truly represented from coast to coast with teams from California to South Carolina taking part in the championship weekend. The PCE's Senior Legacy team from Barnwell finished in third place in the Senior Level 3 Small Coed A division.

Palmetto Cheer Elite head coach Amy Williams was very pleased with her team's showing at this national tournament. "With only 11 athletes taking the floor, every single athlete has to be at 110 percent, and on Sunday, the last day of Cheersport, all 11



From California to South Carolina, the best cheer teams in the country competed in Atlanta. With our PCE Senior Legacy team finishing third in their division.

of the athletes of Senior Legacy did just that. It's a huge accomplishment to be in the top three," said Williams.

The team worked tirelessly to prepare for this event. "Not only did they perform their hearts out, they earned their

first 'Hit Zero', which means that they did not receive any deductions. I was jumping up and down and dancing with them when we knew we had accomplished what we set out to do. I don't often get chills from head to toe, but I was covered in them. I can't wait to see them continue to put their best on the floor," she said.

The Palmetto Cheer Elite Senior Legacy team is comprised of Kip Robinson, Haley Grace Furr, Kenleigh Ridgeway, Cayson Austin, Sara Rudd, Graclyn Rice, Skylar Zorn, Jenny Nguyen, Molly Wilson, Caylee Davis, and Journee Ford. Coach Williams wanted to thank "...Tanya Ward for role with music and our overall appearance."

Coach Williams can add this finish to her growing collection of high rankings, top five finishes, and even a couple of State Championships earned coaching various cheer teams from the Barnwell area. Keep up the great work Coach Williams and the Palmetto Cheer Elite teams. We look forward to your future competitions.

Local youth win big at Augusta Futurity

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Siblings Tag Nix and Maddie Clay Nix of Home Place Cattle Company in Blackville won big at the 42nd annual Augusta Futurity.

"It's like watching my dreams unfold," said Madeline Nix of watching her children compete and learn the sport of cutting. "It's wonderful seeing them do what I always hoped they'd do, and getting to do it together."

Tag, 13, and Maddie Clay, 11, have been riding, competing, and learning the sport at their family's farm since they were each around five years old. Their parents, Madeline and Monty, also ride and compete—sharing their knowledge and love for the sport to their children.

"We're very grateful to have been born into this," said Maddie Clay.

Cutting is an equestrian competition where horse and rider work together to demonstrate the horse's athleticism, style, and ability to handle cattle. Riders are only allowed to use their legs to give the horse direction, relying heavily on trust and instinct. The objective is to 'cut' a cow from the herd and prevent it



Siblings Tag (left) and Maddie Clay (right) Nix left the 2024 Augusta Futurity as big winners in their respective divisions. Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

from rejoining for two and a half minutes in an arena. Judges look at the horse's ability and maneuvers, as well as the rider's expertise of the sport and their horse.

"Their instinct is to go out there and do that, you just have to train them and help them a little bit," said Tag.

Maddie Clay came in first in the Youth Scholarship Finals on January 20, 2024 earning \$3,000 in scholarship money, making her one of the youngest to ever win this division. She rode Kit Kat Sugar Daddy, owned by family friend Brittany Overstreet.

Maddie Clay had not ridden

Kit Kat Sugar Daddy before the competition, but relied on her intuition and her horse's instinct in the arena.

While the order in which riders compete is drawn at random, most riders hope to be selected somewhere in the middle of the group to allow them to watch

the herd and look for the best cow to cut.

However, Maddie Clay was drawn first, and according to her brother, she had to trust her gut going into the arena.

"You had to put your mind to it and commit to it, trust yourself and trust your horse," said Maddie Clay.

"I've never marked that high before. I didn't process it until after the fact," said Maddie Clay, who was crying happy tears after her two minute and 30 second showcase. She beat out the second-place winner by only five points.

Tag finished in fourth place riding CR Turbo Tuff in the junior division winning \$250 in scholarship money.

Scholarships are a big part of youth cutting competitions. Youth riders compete for points to move up in rankings and scholarship money. This year, over \$12,000 was won by riders.

Madeline recently took over the scholarships and youth events for Area 18, the regional circuit inside the National Cutting Horse (NCHA) consisting of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina youth competitors.

Tag has been working with CR Turbo Tuff all year in preparation for competitions just like this. A See FUTURITY, 2024

FUTURITY: Win equals awards, cash prizes for local siblings

big part of the sport is developing an understanding of and relationship with your horse, something Tag has worked hard toward with CR Turbo Tuff. "He is one of a kind," said Tag. "He does a lot for me. They are very, very intelligent animals." Home Place Cattle Company breeds and raises quarterhorses as well as beef cattle for the horses to cut. The horses are trained by cutting horse trainer Jessie Pritchard, who works with the horses and riders

year round. Inside the quarter horse breed are "cow bred" breeds – a horse that has cow work or cutting in its genealogy. They are intentionally bred to work with cows and have an easier time learning how to do so. "It's in their blood," said Maddie Clay, making these horses the ideal competitor at shows like the Augusta Futurity. Held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Ga., the Augusta Futurity is the largest cutting show

east of the Mississippi River. Families like the Nixes compete all year long in anticipation of this event followed by NCHA World Finals in Fort Worth, Texas. "We go all year to get top 15 in the world standings of NCHA," said Tag, meaning they attend a show nearly every weekend until the June event. The sport of cutting was growing on the east coast in the late 1970s, around the same time Home Place Cattle Company was established by Madeline's

grandparents. Now, the ranch on Ashleigh Road is operated by her parents, Becky Jean and Clay Collins, who also ride and participate in the sport, making cutting a family affair at Home Place Cattle Company. Madeline's siblings are both involved as well with her brother owning producing stallions and her sister being an equine veterinarian. Tag and Maddie Clay spend time on the farm caring for animals, working

cows, and training on their horses. When not on the farm, they attend Home Place Academy, a distant learning program through Grace Christian Academy out of Weatherford, Texas that allows them a flexible schedule. Many of their friends are made through attending shows and a shared love of the sport. Maddie Clay describes a cutting competition as friendly, welcoming, and a great network of friends. The friends they have made are one of Tag's favor-

ite aspects of the sport, in addition to the challenge of it. "You have to really love it to go and do it day in and day out," said Tag. "We're very lucky, very fortunate to be able to have this and get to do this every day." Both riders have a deep passion for the sport and the animals involved, and hope to remain in the field for their entire lives. Maddie Clay plans to use her competition winnings to attend veterinary school, and Tag hopes to study agriculture business.



5 named All-State players at Jefferson Davis Academy

Five basketball players from Jefferson Davis Academy have been recognized as All-State players. From the girls' team are (above) senior Reece Brown, junior Peyton Hutto, and senior Gylan Googe. From the boys' team are Nasir Void (left) and Colson Loadholt (right).



Lady Warhorses holding fundraiser ahead of new season



The Lady Warhorse softball team of Barnwell High School went 2-0 in the Colleton County Grand Slam scrimmage on Saturday, Feb. 24 in Walterboro. To help support their upcoming season, the team is holding an online fundraiser in an effort to raise \$5,000 to help purchase practice equipment, field maintenance, and more. "Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact on our ability to compete at the highest level," said Coach Mike Beasley. To make a donation, visit <https://instaraise.com/bhsssoftball/support24?a=17>. The community is invited to attend a meet and greet with the JV and varsity teams this Thursday, Feb. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the softball field. This will also be an opportunity to make a donation, pick up a schedule, and purchase softball gear.

Blue Devils win pre-season tournament



The Williston-Elko Blue Devil baseball team beat Andrew Jackson Academy 22-2 during a pre-season tournament Feb. 24. Pictured is Coach Dalton Mundy talking to players.

Photo By: Vickie Benjamin

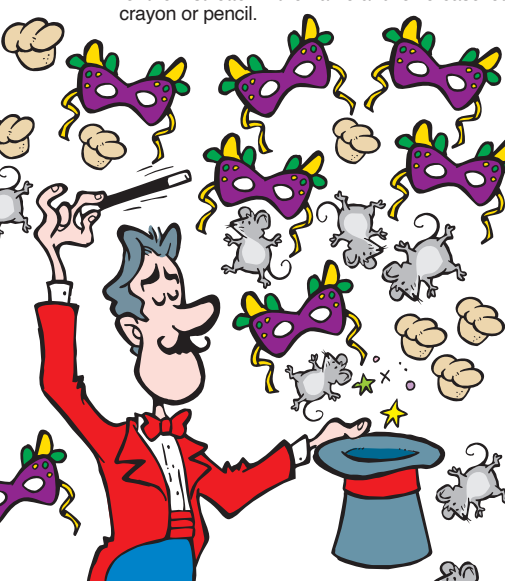
Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!



Vol. 23 No. 13 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Monkey Maze

Help the baby monkey catch up with her mommy on the way to the market!



My Rhyme Time

SEVEN little monkeys sitting in a tree, Teasing Mr. Alligator: "Can't catch me!" Along comes Mr. Alligator, quiet as can be And ... SNAP! SIX little monkeys sitting in a tree. (Repeat until no little monkeys are left.)

My Letters

M is for Monkey
m is for monkey



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

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound the letter M makes in the word monkey?

My Numbers

How many muffins?
How many masks?
How many mice?



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

My Sentence

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



Sunday

Letter Identification
With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter M in monkey.

Monday

Math Play
Point to the number 7 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Monkey in the Middle
Cut out one of the little monkeys on today's page. Practice putting the monkey in the middle of several pictures in the newspaper and saying, "Monkey in the middle."

Wednesday

Uppercase and Lowercase
With your child, find and circle an uppercase letter M. Say, this is the Mama M. Ask, "Can you help the Mama M find her baby m?" Find and circle a lowercase letter m. Connect the two with a line.

Thursday

My Mind Works!
With your child, look at a picture in the newspaper and name five or more things that are in the picture. Then cover the picture and see how many of the things your child can name by memory.

Friday

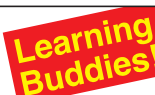
Monkey Around with Newspapers
Look for action photos in today's newspaper. With your child, take turns posing like the people or animals in these photos. The more active the photos, the sillier the game!

Saturday

Make Me Clap!
In this game you read words in the newspaper to your child. Tell your child to clap each time you say a word that starts with the sound the letter M makes.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.



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.

Learning Buddy's signature

Date

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

Ongoing
Monday AA Meetings
 Free. Open to the public. The Axis I Center, 179 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell. 803-541-1245. www.axis1.org. 10:30-11:30am

Ongoing
Barnwell Development Association Inc. (aka BDA)
 20 Wall St., Barnwell. BarnwellDA.com. BDAinc029.com. 1st Tuesday each Month 8am

Ongoing
Barnwell County Republican Party Meeting
 2269 Ashleigh Rd., Blackville. 4th Monday of every month 6:30pm social time. 7pm-8pm meeting.

Ongoing
Weekly on Tuesdays Free Food Distribution
 Long Branch MBC, 922 Hopewell Rd., Gifford. Food products will be available while supplies last. 3:30-5:30pm

Ongoing
Fridays The Gateway Church Food Pantry
 The Gateway Church food pantry is also looking for volunteers to help with food distribution activities. If you would like to volunteer, please leave Pastor Jamie Sheppard a message at 803-450-6825. 9am-12pm

Ongoing
Tuesdays & Thursdays Senior Dance Lessons
 Blackville Community Center. For all Barnwell County Seniors 60 and over. Call 803-259-4592. 3-4pm

Allendale Line Dance Classes
 Allendale National Guard Armory (368 Court House Square, Allendale) These free line dance exercise/fitness classes are open to anyone 18 years and up. Sponsored by Allendale County Office on Aging and led by instructor Angela Doe Youmans. Every Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m.

Ongoing thru Mar. 8
Williston Spring Sports
 Stop by Williston Town Hall to register. \$35 registration and birth certificate required. T-Ball, ages 4-6; Co-Ed Coaches Pitch, ages 7-9; Williston Majors (Baseball) ages 10-12; Girls Softball, ages 10-12. Schedules and more information will be provided at registration. 9am-4:30pm

Wed., Feb. 28
Generations Unlimited Board Meeting
 Administrative Office, 10915 Ellenton St., Barnwell. 10am

Kelly Edwards Elementary Black History Program
 Kelly Edwards Elementary School in Williston 1pm

Thurs., Feb. 29
Allendale Barnwell Counties Disabilities and Special Needs Board
 Board of Directors Meeting via telephone conference 12pm

Williston Community Meeting
 Williston Town Hall. A community meeting will be held with representatives from First Citizens Bank regarding the pending closure of the Williston Branch. 6 P.M.

Mar. 1-3
"Savannah Sipping Society" play at Circle Theatre (325 Academy St., Barnwell) Performance: **March 1 & 2 at 7pm, March 3 at 3pm** Ticket info available soon.

Sat., Mar. 2
Free Pet Vaccinations
 BARNWELL SCA Building, 54 Irving St. 10am-1pm

14th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration honoring Apostle Charlie & Proptess Patricia Jenkins. Renewed Faith International Ministries, 470 Water St., Allendale 12pm

Community Music Festival
 C.A.M. Ministries featuring

Warren Peay and The Rowe Sisters. Copper Oak Plantatio, 6380 Charleston Augusta Rd., Bamberg. Food trucks on site. 803-383-4112. **Doors Open 3pm**

Warhorse Baseball Hit-a-Thon
 John Hall Field (779 Allen St., Barnwell) Sponsor a play. BBQ sandwich lunches will be sold for \$10. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mon., Mar. 4
"Death & Taxes" Play Auditions
 Begin Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Circle Theatre (325 Academy Street, Barnwell) All ages for each character are suggestions. Anyone is welcome to audition for this hilarious play.

- Kathleen Lyles - mayor of Hendricks, rather stylish - age range is 40s and up
- Eddie King - editor of the Hendricks Herald, pushy, brash, mid 30s
- Lydia Kleft - secretary at city hall, mousy, 25
- Wesley Thorne - the sheriff, built like a one-time football player, 30
- Carl Johansen - a sarcastic citizen, around 40
- Mattie Johansen - Carl's wife, a no-nonsense type - 30
- Cora Sedgewick - the epitome of nosy neighbor - mid 50s
- Dr. Efred Bishop - standard country doctor, quarrelsome man, around 55
- Evelyn Martindale - drama teacher with an eye for what's correct and an ear for when it's not.

Thurs., Mar. 7
FREE Tax Clinic
 Love Abound Community Touch CDC, 115 Foster Street, Varnville. 10am-2m

Sat., Mar. 9
2nd Annual Mother and Me Par-Tea, Macadonia Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by MBC Womens Ministry. \$25/mother & daughter, \$5/additional daughter(s) Ages 5 & up. Purchase tickets on EventBrite by Feb. 17. 12:30pm

Sun., Mar. 10
Second Baptist Church Barnwell cordially invites everyone to come out and help us celebrate the **2nd Pastoral Anniversary** of our very own Elder Lamonte and Lady LaLonda Boyd!! Sunday, March 10, beginning with Sunday school at **9am** and morning service at **10am**. The Preached Word coming from Overseer Patrick Stephens of Christ Community Center Church in St. Matthews. And that afternoon at the hour of **3pm**....Rev. Yancy Martin, Sr. & the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Bishopville will be our special guests, bringing the celebratory message!

Millennial Sunday
 Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church (10620 Dunbarton Boulevard, Barnwell) All millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) are invited. 10 a.m.

8th Pastor Anniversary
 Rosemary Baptist Church, Barnwell 8th pastor anniversary of Sarah C. Perkins. 2 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 12
Town of Hilda Town Council Meeting
 Hilda Town Hall Conference Room 7pm

Fri., Mar. 15
Sandlapper Club is having the annual Spuds lunch at Holy Apostles Church in Barnwell. Tickets are \$10 and can be bought by a Sandlapper member or from the Chamber of Commerce (218 Main Street, Barnwell). The proceeds go to the Barnwell County Museum. 11:30am-1pm

Sat., Mar. 16
Free Pet Vaccinations
 WILLISTON Williston Fire Department, 13120 Main St. 10am-1pm

Mar. 17-20
REVIVAL
Sun., Mar. 17 - Barnwell FBC
Mon., Mar. 18 - Ned Branch BC
Tues., Mar. 19 - Barnwell FBC
Wed., Mar. 20 - Barnwell FBC
 Guest speakers: Rev. Brad Atkins, Sr. Pastor, Lake Bowen

Bapt, SC; Rev. Brad Kelley, Sr. Pastor, Shiloh Bapt., NC **Dinner provided 5:45pm Revival 6:30pm**

Mon., Mar. 18
Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church One Night Revival
 6:30pm

Fri., Mar. 22
Pancake Supper & Benefit Auction
 Calvary Mennonite School (2436 Healing Springs Rd., Blackville) Menu: pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, homemade cinnamon rolls Cost: adults \$12, children (4-10) \$7 Auction items include hand-stitched quilts and comforters, crafts, tools, homemade baked goods, in-home meal tickets, local beef, and more. **5-8 p.m.**

Sat., Mar. 23
Free Pet Vaccinations
 BLACKVILLE Blackville-Hilda High School, 76 Atkins Circle 10am-1pm

Easter Egg Hunt
 Lemon Park, Barnwell Free entry. 10-11am

Mind Your Business Brunch
 The Atrium, USC, 465 James Brant Blvd., Allendale. Free admission. Business owners, entrepreneurs, and business students. 10-1pm

2nd Annual First Responder Community Worship Service
 Theme: Romans 12: 5 "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." The entire program will be conducted by law enforcement officers from various agencies representing SC, wearing their Class A uniforms. Barnwell Elementary School, 10524 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell. Hosted by Sheriff Steve "Grits" Griffith and the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office. 1 p.m.

Miss Blue Fire Pageant
 Williston-Elko Auditorium (12233 Main St., Williston) Presented by the Williston-Elko Blue Fire Drumline. **Deadline to Enter: Friday, March 15.** Registration starts at 10am. Competition begins at 11am. Admission is \$5. Age 5 & under free. Age Divisions: Little Baby Miss (0-12 months), Baby Miss (13-23 months), Toddler Miss (2-3 year olds), Tiny Miss (4-5 year olds), Petite Miss (6-7 year olds), Junior Miss (8-9 year olds), Preteen Miss (10-12 year olds), Teenage Miss (13-15 year olds), Miss (16-19 year olds), Ms. (20 and up). For more information, email jbruner@bccsd.net or jpym@bccsd.net.

A Taste of Blackville
 Downtown Blackville Food vendors, arts and crafts, clothing and jewelry vendors, face painting, kids games with Pastor Ken, bingo, health check, line dancers, golf cart parade, hayrides and more. Sponsored by Blackville Downtown Development Association. Call Lill Stoltzfus at (803) 671-5638 or Gwen Littlejohn at (803) 300-1308. 10am-4pm

Sat., Mar. 30
Town of Williston Easter Egg Hunt

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

Barnwell Library Events

ADULTS
Adult Craft Night
Thurs., Mar. 7
 Drop in and make Door Hangers with us. 5-6:30pm

Adult Book Club
Tues., Mar., 26
 We will be discussing *The Marvelous Monroe Girls* by Shirley Jump 3pm

CHILDREN/FAMILY
Wed., Feb. 28
STEM for Kids
 SLIME!!! Add fun ingredients to make it your own. 4-5pm

Mon., Mar. 4
Celebrating Dr. Seuss: Horton Egg Drop Challenge
 Make a nest to keep Horton's egg safe. Then test your nest by dropping it from different heights. 4-5pm

Mon., Mar. 11
Crafter-Noon for Kids Leprechaun Traps
Monday, March 11th
 Build and decorate your very own Leprechaun Trap. 4-5pm

Mon., Mar. 18
STEM for Kids Egg Rockets
 Easter Egg Rockets. Meet us outside for this EGG-STRA fun STEM activity. 4-5pm

Wed., Mar. 6, 13, 20
CATCH
 Ages 5 and Up Learn about nutrition through fun physical activities. Sponsored by SNAP-Ed 3-4pm

STORY TIME
Thurs., Mar. 7
Sensory Story Time
 Enjoy songs, stories, and sensory play for toddlers and preschoolers. 11am

Williston Town Park Age groups: 3 & under, 4-6, 7-10 years of age. Contact Shannon Mundy for information, 803-300-1912. 1pm

Town of Kline Community Egg Paint & Hunt Fun Day
 1st, 2nd & 3rd place cash prizes to the children finding the most eggs. Door prizes for adults. Lunch served. Free pictures with the Easter Bunny! Painting session for the kids. Open to the public. 3-7pm

Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church Eggstravaganza 3000
 Includes: Easter egg hunt, face painting, egg dying, build your own baskets and gaming truck. 12-3pm

Sun., Mar. 31
Blackville Public Schools Alumni Association's 8th Annual Hall of Fame Induction application is available upon request until March 31. For more info, please email bvillpublicalumnaassoc@gmail.com.

Apr. 10-14
Friendship Baptist Church, Barnwell, will be completing their annual Bible Project
 Brother Terry Sturgil of "Seeding South Ministry" will be providing the Scriptures (books of John & Romans) to be assembled and sent to various countries around the world. Anyone who would like

Thurs., Mar. 21
Story Time: Read Rattle & Roll
 Enjoy themed songs and stories followed by free developmental screenings. To discover a child's strengths and identify areas where extra support may be needed, parents and caregivers will engage with their children through fun and interactive play focused on learning behavior and development. *Sponsored by Help Me Grow S.C. 11am

VIRTUAL STORY TIME
Thurs., Feb. 29 & Mar. 14
 Videos will be posted on Facebook at 11am

MARCH JUST READ
Counting the Cost by Jill Duggar, 5 Stars
Amanda, BCPL Manager
Worthy Opponents by Danielle Steel, 4.5 Stars
Rosa, BCPL Page

Allendale County Library Events

Wed., Feb. 28
Seniors' Fun Day
 Calling all Seniors! Join us for an hour of Bingo fun. 3pm

Mar. 2
Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party!
 Help us celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with stories, crafts, games and a special birthday cake! 11:30am

Williston Library Events

Wed., Feb. 28
Story Time
 Theme: Trains 11am

Thurs., Feb. 22
After Hours Book Club
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt 6pm

to participate in the Project is welcome. Contact: Gracie Zorn at 803-300-0709.

Sat., April 27
2nd Annual Women's Conference
 Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 10620 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell. "I've Cried My Last Tear" Genesis 16:13. Lunch will be served. Dress attire: shades of green. 803-300-7835 or 803-571-6179. 10am-2pm

May 10 & 11
Barnwell Sundial Festival
 Crafts, art, food, car show, entertainment, kids zone. **Mother's Day Weekend Friday 11am-7pm Saturday 10am-4pm**

Sat., May 11
1st Annual Uganda Missions Golf Tournament
 Sweetwater Golf Club Haygood Baptist Church fund raiser. 4 man Captain's Choice.

Local Directory

Allendale Library

297 Main St., Allendale (803) 584-2371
 Hours of Operation Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm Sat. 10am-2pm

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

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

Williston Library

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

MUSEUMS

Barnwell Co. 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.

BARNWELL SENIOR CENTER

Mondays-Fridays Gail Reyes Senior Center/Generations Unlimited (11403 Ellenton St., Barnwell) 803-259-4599

BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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

Team entry \$400. Registration Call of text Nick Owens, 803-671-4371. 9am Tee off 9:30am Lunch

2024 Lenten Schedule		
2/28	United Methodist	Brandon Howard
3/6	Hagood Ave Baptist	Bill Clarkson
3/13	Ned Branch	Bart Kelley
3/20	Second Baptist	Al Rivet
3/27	Gateway Church	Judson Barnes

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 5B

B	A	R	B		S	P	A		M	B	A						
I	D	E	A		C	H	A	R		S	M	A	L	L			
D	I	A	Z		H	A	R	E		P	A	Y	U	P			
					T	R	A	V	O	L	T	A		O	D	O	R
					A	I	R	E	S		C	O	O				
M	O	N	R	O	E				F	U	R	N	I	S	H		
A	K	A			L	A	S	S	I	E		N	A	T	O		
G	R	A	S	S		W	I	N		C	A	M	E	L			
M	A	C	H		V	A	S	S	A	L		B	E	L			
A	S	P	I	R	I	N			R	A	C	I	L	I			
					E	O	N		S	E	G	N	O				
					T	O	L	U		L	A	D	Y	G	A	G	A
M	E	N	D	S					E	V	I	L		R	U	T	S
V	A	L	S	E					V	I	C	E		S	T	O	P
P	L	Y							A	N	T			E	S	P	Y

Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 5B

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