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2 SECTIONS / 18 PAGES / \$1

County swaps EMS providers, again

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
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A resolution could not be reached at the March 1, 2024 mediation meeting between Barnwell County and current EMS provider Thorne Ambulance Service (TAS), resulting in the termination of the six-month-old contract and the filing of a lawsuit.

Allegations of breaches of contract were made by both parties; with the county claiming TAS was unable to keep the required four ambulances staffed and available, and TAS claiming the county was "actively working against our

success," reportedly committing numerous breaches in doing so.

Three days after the attempted mediation, the county announced negotiations would begin with AmeriPro EMS of South Carolina for a three-year contract starting on April 1, 2024— leading TAS officials to believe the county began conversations with their competitor while still under contract.

According to Administrator Tim Bennett, the county signed the contract with AmeriPro EMS on March 5 and are expecting it to be signed and returned by March 6.

In signing the contract with TAS in August 2023, the county agreed to retain TAS as the "sole ambulance provider of all ambulance

transportation, including but not limited to, emergency medical services."

According to November 16, 2023 correspondence between Barnwell County and TAS, incidents that occurred months prior indicated to TAS CEO Ryan Thorne the county was looking for service elsewhere.

At the time, TAS was only into their third month of the contract which had an early start due to the county's ongoing disagreements with Medshore— the EMS service from 2014 to 2023.

"While the county may not have entered into a formal agreement at this time, the rhetoric shared

See EMS, 10A



'It's fun to dance at the YMCA'

As her father John watches, Emberlynn Jerkins forms the letter "Y" while the "YMCA" song plays at the 8th Annual Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 23 at the Barnwell State Park. The dance was a fundraiser for the Barnwell County Family YMCA.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Month-long search for Michael Gene Still continues

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The search for Michael Gene Still has been underway for 29 days, and his family is still without answers.

"Just the thought of not knowing, and just the hurt of wanting just to put him at rest...it's just a daily thing. You wake up in the middle of night, and that's on your mind," said Still's sister, Melissa Still Chavis.

Melissa last saw her brother on February 3 as he was leaving her Williston home for his apartment at Colony West Apartments on West Street in Barnwell. He was last seen at his home on February 6.

Three days after his disappearance, the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) conducted a welfare check at his residence. Officers arrived at an unlocked door at Still's apartment with no one inside.

Many of his personal items such as medication, glasses, and jacket were in the apartment. His vehicle was parked in front of the building, leading officials to believe his disappearance may be on foot.

According to Melissa, his cellphone was out of data and minutes.

Still's disappearance is currently



Michael Gene Still was last seen on February 6.

being investigated by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), who has called in outside agencies to assist in the search, such as the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Dive Team, the SC Foothills Search & Rescue, and the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

According to Melissa, the 23 acres around Colony West Apartments have been searched by BCSO investigators, deputies, and cadaver dogs. It has not

See MISSING, 2A

Musical portrays civil rights leader Septima Clark

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
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The fact that few know of Septima Clark and the role she played in the Civil Rights movement is part of why actress Zania Cummings decided to play her in "Septima", a new musical about the eponymous Civil Rights leader.

"It was a heavy lift especially because I wanted to do the story justice of a Black leader in Charleston, from Charleston," said Cummings. "I wanted to give her story honor."

On February 27, the Charleston-

based PURE Theatre performed "Septima" — a new musical about Clark's life — at the Carolina Theatre in Allendale. Called the "mother of the movement" by Martin Luther King Jr., Clark became a prominent Black leader in South Carolina. Born in Charleston in 1898 the daughter of a laundrywoman and former slave, Clark was an educator who played a key role in advancing voting rights for Black people in the South Carolina lowcountry.

In "Septima", director Sharon Graci wanted to relive Clark's personal and spiritual convictions in addition to her life as an



See SEPTIMA, 8A The cast of "Septima" performs together on stage at the Carolina Theatre.

Elijah de Castro / Report for America



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- Debra Denise Elias Brown - Allendale
- Mary Lue Brown - Barnwell
- James Richard "Jim" Harelson - Blackville
- Darlene Williams - Barnwell

Local leaders learn about human trafficking

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Educators, law enforcement officials, municipal leaders, and advocacy groups joined together on January 30, 2024 to better understand a growing threat to the safety of South Carolinians.

"Human trafficking is a very serious issue," said event organizer Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Lieutenant Eric Kirkland. "We have to prepare ourselves."

The training was offered in conjunction with the faith-based nonprofit Lighthouse for Life, and the S.C. Human Trafficking Task Force with the goal of making local leaders more aware of and equipped to handle potential cases of trafficking.

Human trafficking is the force, fraud, or coercion of an individual for commercial sex or forced labor in exchange for something of value. This illegal trade exists because there is a demand for things such as sex and labor, so exploiters look to supply. Anything in demand can be exploited.

According to Lisa Kejr, CEO of Lighthouse for Life, human trafficking exploits a person's vulnerabilities. Kejr explained anyone can be a victim of trafficking because everyone has at least one vulnerability, whether it be financially, emotionally, physically, or otherwise.

For traffickers, it is a low-risk/high-profit business with limitless product; people, unlike illicit drugs,



A training on human trafficking was held on January 30 for community leaders.

don't run out.

At the event, Kejr shared instances of trafficking that happened locally spurring the awareness and education work of the Irmo based Lighthouse for Life.

According to SLED's data presented in the 2023 annual report, Barnwell County had one case of trafficking in 2023 with 357 total cases opened across the state that year.

Human trafficking does not fit into one mold, and can be adapted to fit an individual's circumstance making it more difficult to prosecute legally.

Legislation was first brought forward in 2012 mandating the S.C. Attorney General's Office establish an interagency task force to develop a state plan for the prevention of human trafficking.

By 2014, a preventative, statewide plan was presented and a taskforce was created. The plan not only laid a path moving forward, but noted some of the communicative and victim-oriented areas the taskforce can aim to improve.

In creating this plan, it was discovered there is not abundant or comprehensive



Lisa Kejr, CEO of Lighthouse for Life, defines the traits of human trafficking at the training.

data about human trafficking in the state. Due to trafficking being so adaptable from person to person, there is more than one way to traffick someone, making it harder to relay these instances into data.

Causing a lack of data was the lack of reporting. First responders, labor agencies, and advocacy groups were not versed in the signs and signals of trafficking when this plan was created a decade ago.

With a lack of data comes a lack of funding. The 2014 plan found resources for victims were insufficiently funded, and there is not adequate shelter space to meet the growing needs of victims.

Each year the battle against human trafficking grew statewide. In 2015, legislation was passed allowing the State Grand Jury to investigate human trafficking cases and in 2017 SLED agents were

assigned to specifically work these cases.

In 2018, the Department of Social Services was allowed to respond to the needs of minors involved in sex and labor trafficking.

In 2023, there was an increase in cases involving minors being sex trafficked, according to the S.C. Attorney General's Office, leading to an emphasis on educating communities on how to protect their youth.

Last year, 460 minors were reportedly victims of trafficking across the state, according to the Task Force's 2023 Annual Report.

A statewide education program called TraffickProofSC was developed to help educators and middle and high school students recognize key indicators of human trafficking.

This is the first program brought in partnership with S.C. Educational Television and Public Radio (SCETV) and the S.C. Human Trafficking Task Force focused on the importance of educating youth on the realities of trafficking.

The task force has undergone significant growth since 2014. Goals for 2024 include increased support services for survivors and prevention techniques though new members on regional task forces.

A focus on labor trafficking will be offered to both law enforcement and the public in addition to a streamlined service for identifying cases and victims.

Materials detailed in the task force's 2024 goals will be distributed in various languages to reach the non-English speaking population.

For more information on statewide human trafficking prevention initiatives, visit <https://www.scag.gov/human-trafficking/>. For more information on Lighthouse for Life, visit <https://lighthouseforlife.org/>.

Call local law enforcement or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 if you are being exploited or trafficked.

MISSING: Barnwell man still missing after one month

FROM PAGE 1A

been confirmed by law enforcement if Still is thought to be alive or dead.

"First, I want to know where and then I want to know how and why and justice," said Melissa, who feels law enforcement is "doing everything they can."

Still is 47 years old and six foot two inches. He kept to himself and lived a private life, according to Melissa.

According to BCSO Chief Darlene Cook, "We have followed all existing leads to no avail. We will continue to follow any leads that arise."

Throughout the past month, Still's family has not only been grappling with his disappearance but sorting through numerous rumors that have been shared on social media. Members of the community have publicly

shared their own conclusions about how, when, and why Still went missing.

According to Melissa and her family, these rumors cause them more harm than good when not rooted in fact. Some rumors are alleging a connection between Still and other cases currently being investigated by law enforcement, such as the death of 17-year-old

Maylaysia Hogg.

However, BCSO explained in a statement that there was no concrete evidence connecting Still's disappearance to Hogg's death.

"He's a human being just like everybody else," said Melissa. "He meant something to somebody, and that was us...everybody matters."

Melissa urges the community to speak up

with any information they have pertaining to an active investigation— whether they think it's substantial or not.

"If you're scared to talk, tell me. I'm not scared," said Melissa. "You've already made my life a living nightmare. You've taken my life from me."

There is currently a \$3,000 reward for any information leading to the discovery of Still. The reward money is

donated by the Still-Chavis family and supporters in the community.

"People are steadily asking and wanting to give money to help," said Melissa.

BCSO has also offered a \$300 reward for any information. Anyone with info pertaining to Still's disappearance, or with information on an active case, can call BCSO at (803) 541-1078.

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| Family Medical Center of Blackville 803.284.1045 | |

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Brewing up coffee & community

Alexandra Whitbeck
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A Main Street shop has become a local hotspot for caffeine connoisseurs and those with a passion for pastries.

Accelerator Coffee & Pastry was opened in June 2023 by Bob and Dawn Snead. The Sneads are active in the Barnwell community; with Bob being the president of the Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber of Commerce and mastermind at the Palmetto Innovation Center, and Dawn revitalizing the Barnwell Farmer's Market and creating interactive programming at the Veggie Cupboard Community Garden and Greenhouse.

Their combined passion to help grow the local economy and offer new opportunities to residents, mixed with expertise from a decade of running a New Orleans bakery and coffee shop, birthed Accelerator Coffee & Pastry.

"The inspiration behind opening the coffee shop comes from a combination

Pastry is inspired by traditional European pastry shops, with fresh pastries made every morning alongside espresso-based beverages and now smoothies. However, it operates with a southern flair, as Dawn is a Charleston native who graduated with her culinary degree from Johnson & Wales University when a campus was housed in S.C.

Much of Dawn's inspiration drawn to fill the pastry case each day comes from "cherished family traditions and memories of baking with my grandfather," said Dawn. This results in comforting pastries with a rustic aesthetic.

She often finds herself incorporating locally grown and seasonal ingredients to even further connect with the community and reinventing some of her customer's own family recipes.

"The community's support for the shop has been nothing short of extraordinary. From the moment we opened our doors, folks have embraced us with open arms, spreading the word enthusiastically, and becoming regular customers who have integrated Accelerator into their daily



Adrian Searson (left) is the head barista at Accelerator Coffee, which is owned by Dawn and Bob Snead (center and right)

Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

"One of my favorite things about owning a space like this is getting to know my neighbors, being a part of the fabric of their daily lives and watching their families develop and grow," said Dawn.

The shop's location inspired its name. Being in the

The shop was recognized by the City of Barnwell for bringing something new to the downtown region and effort to energize local business. Aside from their namesake goods, Accelerator Coffee & Pastry also sells locally made products such as pottery from Paw Print Pottery in Barnwell, flower bouquets from Rivendell Farms in Williston, macaroons from The Pastry Case, and goods from Godbee's Goats.

"The business also exudes our passion for sustainability initiatives such as using ethically sourced coffee beans and eco-friendly compostable packaging with all of our products, and gives us a meaningful way to contribute to local non-profit efforts we are passionate about," said Dawn.

An integral part of Accelerator Coffee & Pastry is their head barista, Adrian Searson, who Dawn describes as essential in giving customers a special experience.

"I have worked in education for many years, so I wanted to branch out and do something different. Daily coffee shop runs before work were part of my routine and I just loved the amount of care and consideration the baristas put into their work," said Searson.

"Even though it was just coffee, the experience made it much more," she said.

Searson experiments with different flavor combinations to create custom drinks and encourages customers to try out something new, which is one of her favorite parts of the job.

"When creating drinks, I pull inspiration from my own experiences," said Searson, who often finds herself "MacGuyver-ing drinks."

She especially loves when customers ask to be surprised with the flavors in their morning drink; "I'm blown away by the amount of trust people place in my hands to get it right."

Searson and her husband, Allen, met the Sneads prior

to her employment at the coffee shop – only cementing her desire to work there as she saw their vision for the shop's role in the community.

Future plans for the shop are to let it grow organically. New barista Alyssa Wieland joined the team earlier this year, and Dawn has goals of hiring a morning baker before the end of the year; otherwise, they're going to see where the shop takes them.

The Sneads are currently in the process of renovating the former Berley's Drug Store on the Circle in downtown Barnwell alongside real estate development company Ashar Enterprises. The former pharmacy will reopen its doors as a diner later this year.

Find Accelerator Coffee & Pastry at 218 Main Street, visit 'Accelerator Coffee & Pastry' on Facebook, or call (803) 395-9244.

Accelerator Coffee & Pastry also offers delivery through their website and DoorDash.



Dawn Snead and Adrian Searson with Accelerator Coffee & Pastry were recognized by the City of Barnwell for their contributions to the community. Pictured with Snead and Searson are both past and present members of the city council.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

of personal passion, community connection, and the desire to have top quality coffee and delicious pastries in downtown Barnwell," said Dawn.

Accelerator Coffee &

routines," said Dawn. The community's enthusiasm has only fueled the team's passion to turn the shop into a place where locals can connect, create, and support each other.

same building as the Palmetto Innovation Center, a space built to help entrepreneurs and small businesses accelerate their ideas, it was fitting that the coffee shop emulated this initiative.



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BIRTH



Devin-James Allen Hutchins was born February 23, 2024.

Devin-James Allen Hutchins

Dean Hutchins and Darbi Merillat of Alanson, MI are proud to announce the birth of their son, Devin-James Allen Hutchins. He was born February 23, 2024 at 8:18 p.m. at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, MI. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19 inches. Grandparents are Toni Hutchins of Barnwell, S.C., James Hutchins of St. Ignace, MI, Davina and Johnny Baker of Roscommon, MI, and Kortnee and Bill Bagley of Traverse City, MI. Great-grandparents are Barbara Christian and Ken Hollenbaugh of Barnwell, S.C. and Marie Hutchins of St. Ignace, MI.

AWARD

Bryan Kinard named 2023 Snelling Firefighter of Year



Bryan Kinard was named 2023 Firefighter of the Year for the Snelling Fire Department during the department's Ladies Night dinner on January 27, 2024. He's pictured above with his family and at right with Snelling Fire Chief Neal Morris. "



BIRTH



John-Lee Theodore Scully was born February 20, 2024.

John-Lee Theodore Scully

John-Lee Theodore Scully was born on February 20, 2024, at 3:22 p.m. to Dionne and Deanian Scully of Barnwell. He measured 21 inches and weighed 8 pounds. He was born at Lexington Medical Center. He has one older brother, Alexander Scully. Grandparents are Glenoris Campbell of New York, Marcia Cain of Cayman Islands, Donald Bennett of Jamaica, and Orville Scully of Florida.

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Allendale County and Fairfax councils hold special called meetings

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
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The Allendale County Council and the Fairfax Town Council both held recent special called meetings in which they discussed local economic issues outside of their regularly scheduled meeting hours.

Fairfax Town Council special called meeting

On March 4, the Fairfax town council had a special called meeting in which it heard a proposal for a public-private partnership to create a manufacturing

facility in Fairfax for emergency vehicle warning systems.

The project is being proposed by Craig Brown, the Chief Transformation Architect of Xceleon, a technology consulting firm in Atlanta, Ga. In the meeting, Brown claimed to council members that the facility would create "100-plus high-paying tech jobs" with an associated training and apprenticeship program for local workforce development. The project would require 10 acres of publicly owned land in Fairfax, which Brown and the council have not chosen yet.

"We're planning on

bringing a full fledged organization there: logistics, administrative work, account management, inventory management, [and] generative AI," Brown told the council. "We want to build an entire compound on a 10-acre tract of land."

Council member Phyllis Smart said a previous meeting occurred in which the council met with Brown. Between that meeting and the March 4 special called meeting, Smart said, several parts of the proposal had changed, and further review of the proposal by the council is necessary.

Brown said the project would be funded by \$5



A proposed manufacturing facility for emergency vehicle warning systems claims it will bring over 100 high paying jobs to Fairfax.
Adobe Stock Photo

million in capital obtained through grants as well as the company itself. However, the company does not have a grant writer and Brown expressed interest in getting grants for the project with help from the town's recently hired grant writer, Brandon Upson.

"The last time you presented us at our council meeting, this was supposed to be a lessee and lessor [agreement]," Smart said. "Now we're entering into a partnership where the town has to provide 10 acres of public land, pursue \$5 million in grants [and] facilitate necessary permits and inspections. It

seems like we have taken on some responsibility other than leasing out our space."

Since the meeting was regarding a proposal, the council took no action on moving the project forward and has plans to review the project in more depth.

Allendale County Council special called meeting

On February 29, the Allendale County Council had a special called meeting in which it discussed the county's sources of income. Allendale County expects to bring in \$2.9 mil-

lion from fees in lieu of taxes, a type of payment that allows companies to avoid paying taxes by instead making a one time payment.

In South Carolina, fees in lieu of tax laws apply for corporations that invest over \$2.5 million in the state; this allows them to avoid up to 40 percent of property tax burdens, among other tax liability reductions.

At the meeting, Esther Bridges, the county's finance director, said the county is waiting on several fees-in-lieu-of-tax payments, including one from the Department of Energy.

Public Notice of Candidate Filing Allendale 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. |
| County Council Seats (2 seats) (Districts 1 & 4) School Board Seats (2 seats) (Districts 1 & 5) | Allendale County Board of Voter Registration and Elections 158 McNair Street Allendale SC 29810 803.584.4178 |
| Town of Allendale: Mayor Town Council (3 seats) | Allendale Town Hall 196 Main Street North Allendale SC 29810 803.584.4619 Pay fees at Town Hall and bring receipt to VR Office for filing package or you can find forms on https://scvotes.gov . |

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 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 1: 9 a.m. – Noon

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](https://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](https://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.

Lady Tigers celebrate end of season at USC game



The Lady Tigers of Allendale-Fairfax High School celebrated the end of their basketball season by attending a women's basketball game at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. The Lady Tigers watched the Lady Gamecocks defeat Alabama 72-44. After the game, the Lady Tigers met the USC players and head coach Dawn Staley.

Photo Contributed / Allendale County Schools

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Lenten services continue journey through Jesus' last words

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
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The 2024 Lenten services continued its look at the last statements of Jesus. "We may be divided by denominations and our various beliefs on the tertiary of the centrality of the gospel but the gospel is what unites us," said Rev. Brandon Howard, youth pastor of Hagood Avenue Baptist Church, who spoke at the Feb. 28 service at Barnwell United Methodist Church. His message focused on Jesus, as He hung from the cross, talking to his mother Mary and disciple John as found in John 19:26-27: "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

Howard offered three observations from this scripture.

Jesus Cares for Us

The first observation is that Jesus cared for His mother and also cares for us.

Mary watched her son endure physical pain on the cross. Though she knew Jesus was God and there was a purpose, that didn't alleviate her pain.

"Just as us who know Jesus, knowing Christ and loving Him does not alleviate the pains of this life. Now it helps us make it through, but it doesn't take it away. God's grace and spirit sustains us in those moments, but it still hurts," said Howard.

At times, Howard said we fear God has abandoned us as we go through hard times. But that's not true.

"We ought not fear that



Rev. Brandon Howard speaks to the crowd at Barnwell United Methodist Church gathered for the Feb. 28 Lenten service.

Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

God has forgotten us. We needn't fear that our salvation will be robbed from us based on our perfor-

mance; if that were true, we'd be in dire straits," he said.

Righteousness

The second observation is that Jesus is fulfilling all righteousness.

"Sometimes we forget He didn't come just to die but came to live. There was something He was accomplishing in His life; He needed to live before He died," said Howard.

Howard was discussing how Jesus paid the "sin debt" by dying on a cross. "What happens on the cross and what happens when we come to faith in Jesus, our sins our credited to Christ's account on the cross and paid for, and his righteousness is credited to our account," said Howard. "God doesn't judge us based on our failures but on Christ's success."

A New Family

The third observation is that Jesus is making a new family.

On a small scale, Jesus did this by making sure his mother had family to

care for her after He was gone. However, it's also about the global mission of forming a family of believers who are "not divided by race or nationality but are one in Christ in which Christ is all in all. Those of us who have no family will find one in Christ, in the church," said Howard.

Circling back to his first observation, Howard said God can turn our suffering into good.

"It may come in unexpected ways and it may not be exactly what we want, but He doesn't leave us or forsake us, ever," said Howard.

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. Find the schedule on the Community Calendar page 3B to see locations.

Natural Affections

Is it a bird, a plane or...?



Donna-Maria Conzolina

naturalaffectionscolumn@gmail.com

A couple of months ago I was walking through the yard and saw a flock of birds flying off to the right, quite distantly above me. Well, I thought that's what it was anyway. Turned out to be a torn retina. Not my first either. When flashes of light fluttered in the same area as the "birds" I was pretty certain what was on my horizon. Another laser surgery. However, last time those symptoms were in my left eye; the result of a

head injury. So, I was surprised that my right eye now, years later, would suffer the same. No recent trauma set it off. Was it like a set of guitar strings, I wondered, simply another stressed one, destined to snap at an unpredictable moment? No matter though. It was what it was, and I'd have no choice but to deal with it.

But, like a lot of us, I'm not comfortable touching my own eyes, let alone entrust their care to another's hands. And yet, that loom of discomfort quickly became my secondary concern.

On the forefront came an unwelcome awareness of my post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The condition, some of you know,

has a tendency to come and go without warning. If life were a movie, it'd be kin to an emotional ghost, haunting me. Picture it. There I was, pleasantly walking through the yard, enjoying the beauty in nature, then, "Boo!"... it's baaaack! Out of nowhere, catching me off guard. Reason for the trauma response is, that first eye surgery; the head injury, resulted from an abusive, angered physical assault. So, there in the yard as my vision began to worsen, said memory triggered me directly back to an all too familiar fight or flight, fear zone.

Now trust me, I know this is an unpopular topic, and one I'll always hesitate to mention. But, as I ask Father God to help me

to write what He directs; this is where He's led me today and I have to believe through it, He will help another. Yet, just typing this, reflecting back, my heart rate increases. My hands shake. And truly, in my humanness, I'm not proud to admit, I'd prefer to disobey His prompt and write about ANYTHING else. But, I have to, and overall spiritually, I want to obey His lead. You see, since those dark days, He's brought me so far; safely, joyfully and blessed me with so much support from His Holy Spirit, Heavenly and "Earthly Angels." Yes, I'm convinced, for lack of a better term, Earthly Angels, by appointment do exist. Read on, you'll see why.

These days it seems, more than ever, we need all the Heavenly support we can get. Especially while life's ups and downs challenge to make us, "bitter or better." I imagine many individuals can relate. Too many know what it's like, feeling trapped inside one's own thoughts. And sometimes PTSD creates a lonely, anxiety filled, scary place. For wartime battlefield veterans, or any trauma scenario victim it's an unavoidable reality. And sadly, very few folks outside of the scarred are readily trusted with those wounded personal details. It's not that we don't want to open up and trust. Nor do we intentionally set out to dismiss genuine concern. It's just an unexplainable level of anxiety that's yet to be easily overcome. And day to day the quest continues by building a closer relationship with God, therapy with a trusted counselor, supportive family and friends to arch the gateways of healing.

So, that day in the yard, as I rationalized my fears

with God, I knew I had to go, but couldn't see to drive myself to the ER. And sure enough, it was a dear sister in Christ that I turned to for help. Her work schedule keeps her unusually busy, but, as God ordained the moment, she happened to be available and stepped up without hesitation. She's also one of those few folks who knows enough about my story to understand the situation's anxiety level and actually told me what I was feeling before I even opened my mouth. Indeed, an earth angel in disguise.

To make a long story short, all turned out well. Emergency surgery happened with the assistance of a few other earth angels, Heavenly placed; monitoring my progress and transporting me back and forth through countless check ups. I can't thank God or them enough.

As the days passed, physical and emotional healing had me feeling secure in my surroundings again. That is, until a week ago. This time that old PTSD hellian showed up at a public meeting. I was there, waiting for my turn to speak when preceding me, a disruptive, disagreeable situation occurred. A couple of folks, choosing bitter over better, vocalized their issues to the leaders in a most unkind manner. As their anger and ugliness escalated, that old fight or flight response of mine was ready to book it out of there as quickly as possible. Emotionally, once again back in time to memories I'd rather forget. But, I had a mission to be there. Others were depending on me. So, with a prayer, reminding myself: God carried me through previous perils, certainly, I could count on Him to do it again. And sure enough, He did. As I opened my

eyes from a moment of meditation, our community's Men in Blue arrived and secured the scene. Talk about Earth Angels. They're some big, strong ones! I thanked God, spoke my business and left for my car as readily as possible. I wanted only to be home. Surrounded by the safety of my own quiet walls. But, alas, God needed something else to be accomplished first. Not knowing that at the moment, to my dismay, the position of various officers' vehicles blocked my car and all others from moving forward. Trying to stay calm but, sitting there almost in tears, suddenly I heard the voice of a friend saying hello to me. He had no idea what was happening inside. He simply drove by and showed up, he said, because he'd "been out looking for something to do." Still God, as our discussion proved, led him there to be used as another one of His Earth Angels that evening. Seeing my shaken state and learning that I was anxious to leave, with his guidance and kindness, he was able to direct me, steadily in backing out of the parking lot maze.

Throughout these recent events, this Scripture keeps coming back to me. I hope it helps and encourages you too. Psalm 91:11 "He will command His Angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways." It's His Promise, and never forget, HE IS THE PROMISE KEEPER.

And ya know, from time to time my eyes may still suffer from "flocks of birds" blinding their vision but, nothing will ever keep me from seeing His Grace, Lovingkindness and the Earth Angels He sends our way. Look around...they're there on your path too!

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 158th Anniversary

Contributed

The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Blackville, South Carolina invites everyone to join them as they celebrate their 158th Church Anniversary. The Celebration will begin with a Revival Starting Monday, March 11 through Thursday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. nightly. The Guest Speakers are: Reverend Joseph B. Williams, Pastor of Frost Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Elko, SC; Reverend Dr. Lucious Dixon, Pastor of Honey Ford Missionary Baptist Church in Denmark, SC; Reverend Joe Banks, Pastor of Jordan Missionary Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC; Reverend Anthony F. Gadson, Pastor of St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Elko, SC.

The anniversary will conclude with a Worship Service on Sunday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. The anniversary message will be given by Reverend Dr. Floyd Hughes, Sr., Pastor of Macedonia.

This church was the first African-American Church in Barnwell County. It was founded in 1866, when Reverend James Tolbert walked from Augusta, Georgia and preached in Blackville under a brush arbor.

The first sanctuary was built in 1868. The church held the first State Convention of Black Baptists, which was held in 1875. The second sanctuary was built in 1887. The present sanctuary was built in 1976.

The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Association which promoted the education of area blacks opened the Macedonia School, grades one through 12, on US Highway 78, known as Beaver Dam Road in Blackville, South Carolina in 1890. A new Macedonia school was built in 1954, on Jones Bridge Road, Blackville, S.C. Upon integration of the public schools in 1970; Blackville and Hilda merged, where Macedonia became an elementary school. As a result of the merger we now have Mace-

donia Elementary-Middle School and Blackville-Hilda High School both located in Blackville.

Macedonia is the mother of eight churches: St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church of Elko, Frost Branch Missionary Baptist Church of Elko, Ebenezer Baptist Church of Blackville, Tabernacle Baptist Church of Blackville, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Blackville, Sunshine Baptist Church of Blackville, Shrub Branch Missionary Baptist Church of Blackville, Central Baptist Church of Denmark, and the former Friendship Baptist Church of Blackville.

Reverend Dr. Floyd Hughes, Sr. is currently serving his 43rd soon to be 44th year as senior pastor of Macedonia.

Come with Joy and Thanksgiving in your Hearts we celebrate 158 years of Giving God The Glory and Being a Pillar in Barnwell County.

"TO GO BE THE GLORY FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!"

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James Richard "Jim" Harelson



S.C. 29812 or to the Gideon International, P.O. Box 86, Williston, S.C. 29853.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of the late Walter E. Harelson and Mary Clark Harelson. He was a member of the Barnwell First Baptist Church and was previously the Vice-President at Ebert Sportswear in Columbia. He was a handyman who could repair most anything and was an avid wood worker. He spent many hours in his woodworking shop and he loved his tools. Jim enjoyed eating out and spending time with Maggie and Daisy, his dogs who will miss him deeply. He enjoyed watching T.V. spending time with his family.

Survivors include his loving wife of 49 years, Wanda Gail Black Harelson of Blackville; his daughter, Nicole (Eric) Phillips of Waxhaw, N.C. and their

children, Evan, Georgia, and Becca Phillips and his daughter, Brantley (Richard) Freeman of Lexington and their children, Katherine Grace, Annalise, Emma and Sophie Freeman; sister-in-law, Katie (Tim) McCormick of Blackville; nieces, Ashley Harelson, Heather (Michael) Peters, Katelyn (Ryan) Delk, Tori (B) Hugins; a nephew, Kevin (Jill) McCormick; and great nieces, nephews, and cousins that he dearly loved.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Billy Harelson.

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

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Reverend Charlie M. Bowen



ELKO - Reverend Charlie Monroe Bowen, 94, of Elko, passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Funeral services were held at 3 o'clock p.m., Sunday, March 3, 2024 at Elko Baptist Church with the Reverends Tom Baker and Mark Dickinson officiating; burial followed in the Williston Cemetery. The family received friends at the church one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be given to Elko Baptist Church, P.O. Box 277, Elko, S.C. 29826.

Born in Liberty, S.C., he was the son of the late Hamilton Walker Bowen and Lorena Christine Fletcher Bowen. Charlie was a graduate of Furman University and attended New Orleans Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Alta, pastored many churches throughout South Carolina, including Camden, Walterboro, Lake City, and St. George. In 1971, they moved to Elko and ministered at Elko Baptist Church for a total of 40 years. He served as minister for 23 years and after his retirement he was Minister of Music for an additional 17 years.

Charlie and his family were all very musically inclined and were always willing to sing whether it be in church or other social settings. He also enjoyed playing the fiddle, guitar and his kazoo. Charlie was quite a humorist, with a

quick wit and loved telling jokes. He was very involved in the community, having previously served as a volunteer fireman, president of the Williston Lions Club, and an actor in several community plays and many church skits.

Survivors include his loving wife of 68 years, Alta Mae Davis Bowen; daughters, Sharon Courtney of Rock Hill and Elaine (Mark) Dickinson of Hartsville; a sister, Mary Lou Madden of Liberty; grandchildren, Nathan (Rheanna), Jeremy, Rachel (Jake), Elise (Phillip) and Anna (Mike); and great-grandchildren, Ashlyn, Joseph, Joshua, and Leah.

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

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Mary Lue Brown



as a Post Master for the U.S. Post Office for over 35 years.

Mary will be remembered for the love she had for her family and friends, and she will be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, Mary entered eternal rest at Opus Post-Acute Rehabilitation Center in West Columbia, South Carolina.

There waiting to welcome Mary to her heavenly home are her parents, Carnett Breedland, and Deloris Brown Roberts; grandparents; one brother-in-law, Roy Baxley; two uncles, Robert Aiken, and Ben Taylor; and three aunts, Betty Taylor, Margaret Aiken, and Venzela Williams.

Mary leaves to cherish her beautiful memory: her loving daughter, Vandi R. Bradley of Barnwell, South Carolina; loving son, Clement A. Fenty of Barnwell, South Carolina; seven grandchildren, Envi L. Brown, Justin Brown, Micah Bradley, Madison Bradley, Ky-Mani Rivera, Clement "CJ" Fenty Jr., and Caleb Willingham; two brothers, Andra (Carrrie) Brown, and Michael

Brown, both of Barnwell, South Carolina; two sisters, Vicie M. (Roosevelt) Goode of Martin, South Carolina, and Willie L. "Doris" Baxley of Barnwell, South Carolina; four aunts, Edith (Eddie) Allen and Vinnie Hay, both of Barnwell, South Carolina, Annie West of Allendale, South Carolina, and Shermanie Breeland of Monroe, North Carolina; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Services were held Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Union UMC in Kline with Reverend Lisa Way, pastor, and Reverend Linda Priester, eulogist.

Pallbearers were Envi L. Brown, Justin Brown, Roy Baxley Jr., Roosevelt Goode Jr., Andre Freeman, and Stacey Hartzog.

Flower attendants were the Class of 1980.

Interment followed the service at the Union UMC Cemetery in Kline.

B.F. Cave Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at bf.cavefh.com.

The People-Sentinel
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Debra Denise Elias Brown



ALLENDALE - Mrs. Debra Denise Elias Brown, aka "Deb", age 65, was born in Savannah, Georgia, on November 27, 1958, to the late Mary Lucille Collins, but reared by the late Lottie B. Hall.

Seeking God's direction and guidance she joined the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Allendale, South Carolina where she was a faithful member until her health began to decline. Debra was also a faithful member of the SBBS Society.

Debra received her education in the public schools of Allendale, South Carolina, and graduated from CV Bing School High School in the class of 1977. She worked as a personal care-

giver for many years.

"Deb", as she was affectionately known, was a loving and kind person and will be remembered for the love she had for her family and friends.

Besides her parents and grandparents, she is preceded in death by two brothers, James R. Graham and Ulysee Graham, and four sisters, Rosa Robinson, Mable Graham, Laura Graham, and Charolette Springs.

Debra entered eternal rest on February 15, 2024, at the Aiken Regional Medical Center in Aiken, South Carolina.

Debra leaves to cherish her beautiful memory five loving children, Marquita (Mickenzie) Atterberry, and Levander Allen (Kera), both of Aiken, South Carolina, and Cynthia Mingo (Donnie), Stacey Elmore (George) and Norman Allen III, all of Allendale, South Carolina; thirty-two grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mary C. Reeves of Savannah, Georgia, Jacqui Brown of Newark, New Jersey, and

Patricia Elias of Allendale, South Carolina; one brother, Ronald Elias of Newark, New Jersey; two sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; a special friend, Dora Chaney of Allendale, South Carolina; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and sympathizing friends.

Services were held Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11 a.m. at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Allendale, with Pastor Desmond Antley serving as eulogist.

Pallbearers were Levander Allen, Norman Allen, Isaac Wright, Elvonta Jackson, Donnie Sanders, and Jermaine Williams.

Flower attendants were the Class of 1977.

Interment followed the service at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Allendale with repast in the church's fellowship hall.

B.F. Cave Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at bf.cavefh.com.

The People-Sentinel
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Darlene Williams



February 14, 1993.

After a brief illness, on February 13, 2024, God decided it was time to bring His angel home.

Darlene was preceded in death by her sister, Helen Louis Holmes; two brothers-in-law, David and Joseph Williams; and sister-in-law, Maggie Scurlock.

She leaves to cherish her beautiful memory: husband, Richard A. Williams of the home; daughter, Tisha Patterson; two granddaughters, Ava Marie and Syn'sere Armoni Patterson; sister, Juanita Simmons; brother, Kevin (Zora) Simmons of the Bronx, New York; nieces, Olivia Holmes, who she raised, of CT, and Princess K. Simmons of Bronx, NY; great-niece, Zanaeah Wilson of CT; three sisters-in-law, Vivian Thurmond, Barbara Patterson, and Dorothy

Williams of Barnwell, S.C.; aunt, Dorothy Elleby of New York; three godchildren, Shaquille O'Neal, Skylar Brown, and Cadence Brown of Williston, S.C.; devoted and loving friend, Tina Brown of Williston, S.C.; along with a host of other loving relatives, extended family, and cherished friends.

Services were held Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church (10620 Dunbarton Boulevard, Barnwell) with Elder Bobby Dukes, pastor, and Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Cave, eulogist.

B.F. Cave Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at bf.cavefh.com.

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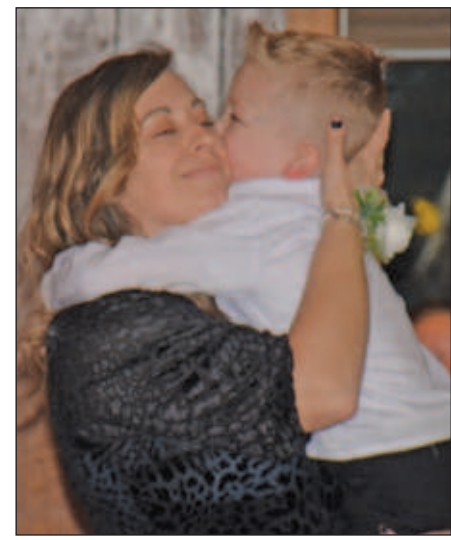
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YMCA 'Sweetheart Dance' raises funds, creates memories



The Barnwell County Family YMCA hosted their 8th Annual Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 23 at Barnwell State Park. "The Sweetheart Dance is always a special event for us. While it is in support of our Annual Campaign, it's important that we continue to provide quality events and activities to families. We know how quickly time passes and each year this allows time to slow just a bit for families to enjoy and create memories with their little ones," said YMCA director Chantsie Pickelsimer.



Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Corder's Creative Corner: 5 books that were not worth the hype



David B. Corder
Literary Columnist

I love to read. I like to think myself as a fairly well-read person. However, in my lifetime as a reader, I have come across books that were just not worth the hype. Here are some of them.

1. The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones by Cassandra Clare
I remember reading this

Young Adult phenomenon when I was in high school. The movie was about to come out, and I thought I would give the book a try. I finished it, but didn't like it. The novel was urban fantasy, with a female protagonist who is exposed to a world of ghosts, fae, and demons. But there wasn't a lot of action, which left me disappointed, and the author used vocabulary that I thought rather pretentious. I never continued the series.

2. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
I don't have a good relationship with Jane

Austen. Probably because I took an entire class on her and she basically uses the same plot for each of her books. Pride and Prejudice was boring for me before I even opened it, and I ended up cliff noting the entire thing. One might say that I didn't give the book a fair chance, but when I tried to read it a second time, I still couldn't get into it. I'm afraid I'll just have to live without the love story of Elizabeth and Darcy.

3. Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
My readers may remember my distaste for this famed YA-fantasy-

novel-made-into-a-Netflix-show book. There's no easy way to say it: this book sucked. Protagonist was a Mary Sue. Writing was mediocre. It just wasn't a good book, and I will vehemently disagree with anyone who claims otherwise.

4. Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman

I know lots of people love Gaiman's writing, and there are many people who love his book, *Neverwhere*, which explores the London underground as being a haven for the people that society forgets every day. But...it was just

weird, and not in a good way. Gaiman's plot and story were unnecessarily abstract, and it was not very exciting. Definitely not a book that I would recommend to people.

5. This Present Darkness by Frank Peretti

Christian-thriller author, Frank Peretti, took the world by storm with this novel featuring spiritual warfare between supernatural forces with humanity caught in the middle. While I mildly enjoyed the novel, I don't think it deserved the hype that many people give it. Peretti's writing is rather stale and without flavor,

and his perspective in storytelling is too black-and-white. Despite being an advocate of Creative Christians, I can't say that I liked this novel by Peretti.

Please note that everything I wrote above is just my opinion. Different books have different impacts on different people, and what I presented above is the effect that these books had on me.

Do you agree or disagree with what I wrote?

What are your thoughts on these books? Send me an email at dbcorderwriter@gmail.com and let me know!

SEPTIMA: Charleston theatre group visits Allendale with historical play

FROM PAGE 1A

activist and educator. "The most important thing is ... [showing] she was incredibly gifted and talented and driven and brave and courageous and flawed in her own ways," Graci said. "That's always the challenge as a director is trying to move your work into a place where you are expressing as full of a picture of a human being as you possibly can." The performance of "Septima" in Allendale was part of PURE Theatre's performance tour in the lowcountry. After being approached by the Charleston chapter of the voting rights organization League of Women Voters about retelling Clark's story, PURE Theatre began

working on the script. In her early life, Clark was an educator on John's Island after being barred from teaching in Charleston. Thus began her lifelong dedication to increasing education for Black people in South Carolina; This ranged from grassroots organizing workshops to demanding more resources to white supremacist political leaders like Strom Thurmond. Clark's workshops went on to inspire Rosa Parks shortly before Parks began the Montgomery Bus Boycott. "I love this show because we can re-educate about who she was and about how important she is," said Keith Alston, who played Clark's father among other



Septima aims to capture the personal life of civil rights leader Septima Clark through singing. Elijah de Castro / Report for America

ensemble roles. "She did a lot for teachers' rights and voting rights, it wasn't just civil rights. She was all encompassing." However, Clark's

contributions are not among the mainstream historical consciousness of the Civil Rights Movement unlike other civil rights leaders. This is something, Graci

and the cast said, they hope the play helps rectify. "Even people who drive across the Septima Clark parkway [in Charleston] don't know who she is," cast member Josh Wilhoit said. "It's a story that needs to be told, and that's part of our mission." The play had a six-member cast: Cummings as Clark, Sonja Reed as Clark's mother Victoria Poinsette, Alston as Clark's father, along with Wilhoit, Shiva Patel, and Michele Powe on ensemble. Due to the small cast size and large number of characters in Clark's life, many of the actors played multiple roles. "Septima was a real person, so we became storytellers for people who

did not know anything about her," said Reed. "So, we were responsible for getting that message across. There was learning for us as well." As the tour goes forward, Graci and the crew want to share the story of Clark in smaller communities outside of Charleston. The cast also said they would enjoy performing at the Carolina Theatre in Allendale again. "One of the things that we are known for is telling stories of our community and we are deeply and proudly southern," Graci said. "So, smaller communities that don't have as much opportunity to participate in the arts, we serve those communities as well."

MEMS celebrates Black History Month



The Retired Teacher's Ensemble performed two selections for MEMS students and staff. Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Student group Harriet's Tribe performed a moving tribute of *Stand Up* from the 2019 Harriet Tubman biography.

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Macedonia Elementary-Middle School (MEMS) students and staff honored a month of learning at the February 27 Black History Program.

Students Tyriq Odom and Mylia Brown presided over the event, acting fittingly as Barack and Michelle Obama. The pair introduced each presenter and performer, welcoming both student and alumni acts.

To kick off the ceremony was a song by fourth and fifth graders. Student Abigail Smith welcomed teachers hailing from Jamaica, Kenya, and

Nigeria to give greetings in their native tongue.

The MEMS Rhythm Band performed with Victor Jones of the Phoenix Project based in Blackville. Jones is involved in numerous music and arts initiatives in the county, and has been working with MEMS students in traditional drum and percussion.

A tribute to HBCUs was given by Christalen Norman. Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) are academic institutions established before 1964 whose mission is the education of Black Americans.

Regional HBCUs include Denmark Technical College and Voorhees Col-

lege in Denmark, Claflin University and S.C. State University in Orangeburg, and Benedict College and Allen University in Columbia.

Jewel Parker read an impactful poem encouraging those in attendance to stand tall amidst adversity, and pre-K through third grade each performed a song.

Sixth grade students did a tribute to Dawn Staley, American basketball Hall of Fame player, Olympian, and current head coach for the South Carolina Gamecocks.

The student group the Macedonia Praise Dancers danced to *Wade in the Water*, a spiritual song used to share messages



Pre-K students showcased their voices by singing *I Came to Tell You* by Trinity Inspirational Choir.



The Macedonia Praise Dancers took to the floor for a performance to *Wade in the Water*, a song used to give direction to enslaved people during their escape.



The MEMS Rhythm Band kept the beat under director Victor Jones.



K-2 students performed a song with a bit of dancing included.



Fifth graders put together a *Say My Name* presentation honoring and remembering the lives lost to police brutality and hate crimes in recent years.

between enslaved people when escaping slave owners in the mid-1800s.

The Retired Educators Ensemble sang two selections; each showcasing the range of each member's voice. The ensemble includes retired MEMS teachers Sandra Beach, Lucille Kearsse, Lydia Grayson, Lily Hughes, Mamie Matthews, and Sybrenda Holiday.

Harriet's Tribe, comprised of three MEMS students, sang *Stand Up* a tribute to Harriet Tubman from the soundtrack of the biographical film, "Harriet."

Fifth graders put together a *Say My Name* presentation honoring and remembering the lives lost to police brutality and

hate crimes in recent years. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Ahmaud Arbery were the names read aloud by students and staff.

Video recording and social media played a part in capturing each of these victim's murders, allowing the masses to see these crimes as they were committed.

Seventh and eighth graders put on a hair show in honor of Madam CJ Walker, an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political and social activist recorded as one of the first female self-made millionaires in America.

Madam Walker built her fortune on cosmetics and hair care products made

for Black women in the late 1800s—a group that was not well represented in the beauty industry at the time.

Students modeled various hairstyles emphasizing the importance of feeling confident with your natural attributes.

Each grade at MEMS was an integral part of bringing this event together, and all were thanked by principal Chelsea Calhoun in her closing remarks.



MEMS teacher Trudy Lott smiles with one of her students.

Notice

SOUTHEASTERN
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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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Blackville seniors celebrate black history



Joyce Bolen, instructor and owner of Line Dancing with Lady J, leads a class of senior ladies every Tuesday and Thursday at the Blackville Community Center. One Thursday in February, the ladies dressed in traditionally-patterned African clothing and enjoyed dancing and fellowship with a lunch buffet in celebration of Black History Month. *Contributed Photos*



ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK *'Thumper' likes to be lap cat*

Thumper is this week's Adoptable Pet of the Week from the Animal Advocates of Barnwell County. "Thumper is a very friendly and sweet cat around 6 years old. He is good with other cats and also with cat friendly dogs. He is playful and can be a bit mischievous at times. He likes to be a lap cat also and is good with kids. He would be a fun and outgoing cat for a loving family," 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.

EMS: Thorne Ambulance out as county's EMS provider after less than 6 months

FROM PAGE 1A

with our employees has created substantial doubt amongst our team and has further hindered our recruitment and retention abilities," said Thorne.

The county also agreed to not solicit, recruit, or hire TAS staff as it directly impedes TAS' ability to fully staff Barnwell County ambulances, per the contract.

According to Thorne, Barnwell County emergency personnel were asking TAS employees about their current compensation, benefits, "and 'promised' better pay rates with the county's new provider. They furthered their comments by stating, 'Thorne is on their way out,'" states the Nov. 16 letter.

Thorne notes these actions by county officials were a large contributor to staffing issues, which was a primary complaint by the county.

In November 16, 2023 correspondence from Chairman Creech to TAS, concerns were expressed regarding staffing. According to TAS, the

physical ambulances have remained in the county, and have been staffed with one paramedic and one Emergency Medication Technician (EMT) "wherever and as much as reasonably possible," according to the contract.

Between October 19, 2023 and February 12, 2024, the county fined TAS roughly \$120,000 for not maintaining four, fully staffed ambulances. Guidelines in TAS's contract with Barnwell County include an \$800 fine every time an ambulance is not staffed and a \$5,000 fine if ten occurrences of understaffed ambulances happen in one month.

The county began fining TAS the same day the 45-day implementation and grace period ended.

TAS has since appealed the fines, which is allowed per the now-void contract, due to a lack of data supporting these liquidated damages.

According to Bennett, the county is determining when ambulances are not available through dispatchers routinely

documenting the status and location of units in the county.

While TAS is required to have four staffed ambulances, the county is also required to have adequate facilities to house them.

According to Thorne as of November 2023 correspondence, "resources have been unable to move into a permanent location in Williston due to the poor health and safety conditions presented by the former Medshore location."

The Town of Williston completed renovations to the EMS building on Rescue Squad Road in December 2023, and housed TAS at the adjacent Williston Fire Department until January 2024, according to Town of Williston Administrator Mike Beasley.

However, the county was responsible for ensuring TAS had locations to establish resources upon beginning service in September 2023.

Another alleged breach is related to the foundation on which TAS submitted

their initial bid of service to the county in June 2023. TAS submitted the bid "based upon the creation of a 'regionalized' ambulance service," as TAS also serves Bamberg County.

Barnwell and Bamberg counties were working together to bring TAS services into the shared rural region. Contractual terms in both counties allowed TAS to participate in mutual aid: "TAS may enter into subcontracts and mutual aid agreements with licensed ambulance providers, as deemed necessary by TAS to meet coverage throughout the Service Area," states the contract.

When the county passed a resolution stopping all mutual aid, TAS's ability to support both counties with units and personnel was halted. The resolution was crafted with the goal of keeping available ambulances in Barnwell County.

"The County removed Thorne's ability to utilize mutual aid partners with the adoption of a recent resolution, effectively

suspending mutual aid to adjacent counties – in turn, reducing and/or eliminating Thorne's ability to receive mutual aid," said Thorne.

According to Thorne in Nov. 2023 correspondence, Bamberg County officials felt this resolution worked against the "spirit of the agreement" that had been developed and designed by Barnwell and Bamberg counties, collaboratively.

Bamberg County's contract with TAS requires a \$533,119 for the first year with an over \$15,000 increase each year afterwards for two fully staffed ambulances.

On March 4, TAS filed a lawsuit against Barnwell County for breaching the contract.

"The county's response stated that Thorne is in breach of its EMS contract with the county. The county further asked the court to require Thorne to pay the county liquidated damages and to further require Thorne to comply with the lame duck provision of the contract. The civil action follows

a failed attempt by the county and Thorne to reach agreement in mediation held on Friday," said the county in a statement.

Before the county decided on TAS in June 2023, they received bids from numerous services across the state. One of which being AmeriPro EMS of S.C.

AmeriPro EMS quoted the county \$1.48 million annually, and \$124,147 monthly—an increase from TAS's first-year rate of \$1.164 after negotiations.

"While we are disappointed in the actions of county officials, we remain committed to serving the citizens and visitors of Barnwell County through May and wish the community the best as Barnwell County seeks an alternate provider for these critical services," said TAS in a March 1 statement.

AmeriPro EMS has locations in Atlanta, Ga., Jacksonville, Fla., Oxford, Miss., and Copperhill, Tenn. TAS will continue to operate in the county until April 1 when AmeriPro EMS takes over.



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| 2021 BMW X3xDrive30i..... | \$35,900 ⁰⁰ |
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| 2018 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR L BLACKLABEL..... | \$56,900 ⁰⁰ |

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Blackville-Hilda's Jamarion Priester signs with Voorhees



Jamarion Priester is surrounded by family, Athletic Director Paris Mason, and track coach, Rushani Burke at his signing to run track for Voorhees University, Tuesday, February 27.

Photo By: Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

Blackville-Hilda's star track athlete Jamarion Priester signed to run track for the Tigers of Voorhees University this past Tuesday, February 27.

Jamarion will look to continue his track and field success running hurdles at the nearby University. Voorhees is located in Denmark, South Carolina, so Jamarion will

be close to home.

Blackville-Hilda track and field coach Rushani Burke was asked about Jamarion signing to run track at Voorhees and said, "It's fantastic news as Jamarion signs with Voorhees. This is a testament to his hard work and dedication. His passion and commitment to excellence ensure he'll make a significant impact on the Voorhees track team. With his natural athleticism and drive to succeed, Jamarion is set to represent Voorhees with pride on the track."

Jamarion's achievement is groundbreaking for the Blackville-Hilda High Track & Field program, marking the first-ever

track scholarship in its history.

"This historic milestone is inspiring a new generation of athletes, with Jamarion's success already motivating others to pursue hurdles both in his community and the region. We eagerly anticipate Jamarion's continued success and the positive influence he brings to Voorhees and beyond," said Coach Burke.

Blackville-Hilda High School Principal Christina Snider was excited about Jamarion's signing.

"Jamarion (JP) is a wonderful, humble, and well-mannered young man, who has overcome a lot this year. To be able to receive a full ride track scholarship is a

huge accomplishment and a first for Blackville-Hilda High School. We all are so proud of the work he puts in everything he does and it is paying off for him. I am excited for him this season, knowing he has the talent and skills to perform at the highest level. I wish him the best of luck in everything he does," said Snider.

When asked about how he felt getting the opportunity to run track at the next level for Voorhees, Jamarion stated, "It really feels good knowing that I'm going to be doing something I love. I really like the environment out there and Voorhees seems to have a pretty good track and

field team."

Priester was asked about his favorite memory as a Hawk and said, "Winning my first medal in the 110-meter hurdles."

Jamarion had some advice for any of the younger athletes that might want to follow in his footsteps and compete at the collegiate level. "Keep pushing to do the things you love, even when you feel nothing is happening or when times are getting hard," he said.

We wish Jamarion all the best as he finishes his high school track career for the Hawks and gets ready to begin his collegiate career running hurdles for the Tigers.

VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

- Friday, March 8
• Colleton County @ Barnwell 6:00
- Monday, March 11
• Andrew Jackson Academy @ JDA 7:00
- Tuesday, March 12
• Barnwell @ Ridgeland-Hardeeville 5:00 (doubleheader)

SOFTBALL

- Wednesday, March 6
• Barnwell @ Colleton County 6:30
- Friday, March 8
• Orangeburg Christian @ JDA 5:00
- Colleton County @ Barnwell 6:30
- Monday, March 11
• Williston-Elko @ Ridge Spring-Monetta 6:00
- Tuesday, March 12
• Barnwell @ Ridgeland-Hardeeville 6:00

BOYS SOCCER

- Thursday, March 7
• Barnwell @ Bamberg-Ehrhardt 7:00
- Tuesday, March 12
• Ridgeland-Hardeeville @ Barnwell 7:00

GIRLS SOCCER

- Friday, March 8
• Barnwell @ Saluda 6:00
- Tuesday, March 12
• Ridgeland-Hardeeville @ Barnwell 6:00

TRACK & FIELD

- Wednesday, March 6
• Williston-Elko @ Calhoun County 5:00
- Thursday, March 7
• Blackville-Hilda @ Hampton County (time TBA)

GOLF

- Monday, March 11
• Bamberg-Ehrhardt @ Williston-Elko 4:30

Barnwell girls soccer nets 2-0 win over Horse Creek Academy



Barnwell goalkeeper Samariona Mayes and the Warhorse defense earned the 2-0 shut-out against Horse Creek Academy.

Photo By: Kelley Wood



Hayden Rowell (13) scored a goal in Barnwell's 2-0 win over Horse Creek Academy.

Photo By: Kelley Wood

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse girls soccer team hosted the Stallions from Horse Creek Academy last Thursday, February 29.

This battle of horses went in favor of the Warhorses from Barnwell by a score of 2-0. Goals were scored by Hayden Rowell and Juliyah Brown, with an assist from Libby Vanacore. The win was a great way to start the young season for the Horses. Barnwell head coach Noel

Conaway was asked about her 2024 Barnwell Warhorse girls soccer team and responded saying, "This year we aim to daily grow as soccer players and make Barnwell girls soccer a program our school and community are proud of. I think we took a good first step in that direction last week. We did not have a strong first half against Horse Creek but we made the necessary adjustments at half time and were able to get the win. We've been working hard since the first week of January and I've put a lot of new information in front of the girls. I can instruct all day long, but ultimately it's up

to the players to implement the things we've been working on and they've been doing exactly that. They deserve all the credit for being coachable, hardworking players and I'm confident they'll see more success throughout the rest of the season."

The 2024 Warhorses are led by seniors Kaydrian Poplin, Hayden Rowell, Emmaleigh Herring, Shariyah Priester, Sara Rudd, and Amaika Adi. Junior players are Gracie Bates and Zakiya Workman. Sophomores Samariona Mayes, Libby Vanacore, Quilan Boyce, and Samantha Arce-Carrillo will be an important part of this team. Freshmen Shelby McHenry,

Ruthee Hamby, Michelle Noonan, Ginova Villalobos, and Juliyah Brown make up a large group of freshmen players that should insure the Warhorses have a strong foundation on which to build for several years to come.

The Horses will be travelling to Saluda this Friday night for a 6 p.m. kickoff against the Tigers. Their next home game will be Tuesday, March 12 battle against Ridgeland-Hardeeville with kickoff set for 6 p.m. Come out and support coach Conaway and the BHS girls soccer team. Your support is always appreciated.

Sweet Family Favorites to Celebrate Lent

FAMILY FEATURES

If you're in search of a meatless meal – whether you're observing Lent or simply adhering to your own dietary restrictions – remember you don't have to sacrifice on taste. Enjoying a delicious dish without the meat can be an easy feat with just a few everyday ingredients.

Start with the craveable texture and crunch of Envy Apples – a leading apple variety – that provide balanced sweetness with flesh that remains white longer, even after cutting. While they're often best served fresh or paired with cheese boards, sandwiches or mocktails, their sweetness also helps play up meatless favorites like Seared Salmon with Apple Slaw.

The flaky baked fish is complemented perfectly by Asian-style barbecue sauce and fresh herbs then paired with a sweet homemade apple slaw for a classic Lenten

dish with a tangy twist. For a family meal that doubles down on freshness, try pairing with roasted broccolini or a light salad.

Firing up the grill isn't only for beef, chicken and pork – you can prepare a tasty recipe over an open flame while skipping the meat with Grilled Apple Portobello Burgers. Simply substitute beef with thick portobello mushrooms and naturally white Envy Apple slices that maintain their beauty while cooking so your finished "burgers" look as delicious as they taste.

These plant-forward meals featuring the uplifting aroma and flavor of apples offer an invitation to savor small moments around the table and can help you celebrate Lent and beyond with an ultimate apple experience that introduces your loved ones to new ways to rethink weekly favorites.

Find more meatless meal inspiration by visiting EnvyApple.com.



Seared Salmon with Apple Slaw

Servings: 4

- 4 portions boneless salmon
- 4 tablespoons Asian-style barbecue sauce
- 2 Envy Apples, cored and sliced into matchsticks or julienned
- 1 cup sliced or shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup sliced or shredded white cabbage
- 1 celery stick, finely sliced
- 1/2 red onion, finely sliced
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh herbs such as dill, parsley or cilantro
- 1 lime, juice and zest only
- 1 tablespoon toasted white sesame seeds, plus additional for garnish

1 teaspoon black sesame seeds, plus additional for garnish

Preheat oven to 375 F using grill or broil setting and line baking tray with cooking paper. Arrange salmon portions on paper and spread barbecue sauce over each portion. Bake 5-8 minutes, depending on thickness and size, or until just cooked in center and caramelized on top. In bowl, combine sliced apple sticks, cabbage, celery and red onion slices; toss lightly. In separate bowl, whisk mayonnaise, herbs, lime juice and lime zest. Fold dressing and sesame seeds into slaw and toss together. Divide apple slaw between serving plates and top with glazed salmon. Sprinkle with extra sesame seeds.



Grilled Apple Portobello "Burgers"

- 1 Envy Apple
- 2 portobello mushrooms
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup herbed goat cheese
- 2 brioche buns
- 2 parge pieces butter lettuce
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise

Heat grill to medium heat. Slice apples horizontally into thick round wedges and remove seeds using fork. Remove portobello stems. In small bowl, combine 1/8 cup olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano and salt. Using basting brush, coat portobellos on both sides with olive oil mixture. Grill stem sides down 2 minutes then flip. Add goat cheese to portobellos and grill 2-3 minutes until cheese is melted. Remove from grill. Use remaining olive oil to coat apple rounds. Grill apple rounds 1-2 minutes per side to lightly char. Serve portobellos with apple rounds on brioche buns with lettuce and mayonnaise.



Scan to Find Ingredients

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 23 No. 14 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name:

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

Night Patterns

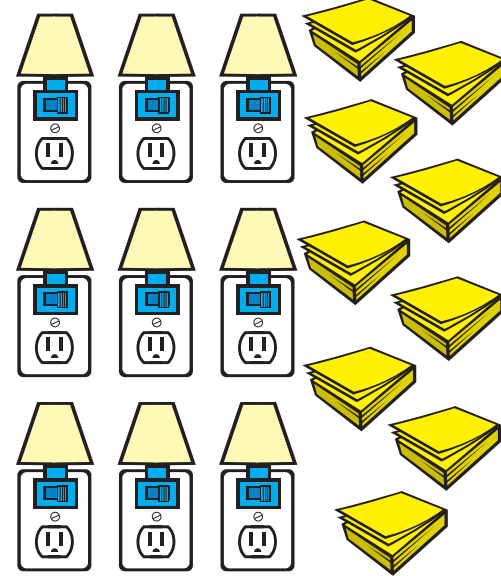
Circle the picture that should come next in each row to continue each pattern.

Row 1: Moon, Star, Moon, Star, Moon, Moon, Star

Row 2: BedTime Stories, Toothbrush, BedTime Stories, Toothbrush, BedTime Stories, Toothbrush, BedTime Stories

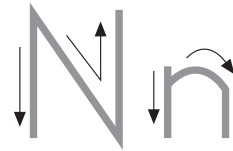
Row 3: Toothbrush, Star, Toothbrush, Star, Toothbrush, Star, Star, Toothbrush

Row 4: BedTime Stories, Moon, Toothbrush, BedTime Stories, Moon, Toothbrush, Moon, BedTime Stories



My Letters

N is for Night
n is for night



Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter N. 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 N makes in the word **night**?

My Numbers

How many ?
nightlights

How many ?
notepads



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

My Rhyme Time

Winken, Blinken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe;
Sailed off on a river of crystal light,
Into a sea of dew.

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.

GO At night I **STOP**

Sunday

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

Monday

Math Play
Point to the number 9 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Day or Night?
Look at pictures in the newspaper and ask your child if it is day or night in each picture. After they answer, ask why they think it is day or night.

Wednesday

Uppercase and Lowercase
With your child, find and circle an uppercase N. Find and circle a lowercase n. Connect the two with a line.

Thursday

What is the opposite?
Look for newspaper pictures that have an easily recognizable opposite. For example, find a daytime picture – its opposite would be a nighttime picture. What would be the opposite of something **open**?

Friday

Drawing on the Lines
Turn one page of the classified ads to a horizontal position. Use the lines that divide the columns as guides for early writing practice. Have your child draw straight lines or "stripes" in the columns.

Saturday

Nine Noses
Find and cut out 9 noses from the newspaper. Glue the 9 noses onto one sheet of paper. Find and cut out a large number 9 and glue it onto the paper also.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature

Date



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

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

The People-Sentinel

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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**

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

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

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**

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**

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 6-7pm**

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., Mar. 6
"Death & Taxes" Play Auditions
 Circle Theatre (325 Academy St., Barnwell) Additional dates will be added if needed. **6:30pm**
 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. Efen 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, Yarnville. **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 2nd Pastoral Anniversary of our very own Elder Lamonte and Lady LaLonda Boyd!!

Sunday school at **9am**. Morning service at **10am** with the Preached Word coming from Overseer Patrick Stephens of Christ Community Center Church in St. Matthews. **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. **10am**

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

March 11-17
Macedonia Baptist Church 158th Anniversary
 Theme: "Look What the Lord Has Done"
 3572 Dexter St., Blackville
 Schedule: Monday, March 11 at 7 p.m. (Rev. Joseph B. Williams of Frost Branch Missionary Baptist), Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. (Rev. Dr. Lucious Dixon of Honey Ford Missionary Baptist), Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. (Rev. Joe Banks of Jordan Missionary Baptist), Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. (Rev. Anthony F. Gadson (St. Peter Missionary Baptist), anniversary celebration Sunday, March 17 at 11 a.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 Fire Department, 13120 Main St. **10am-1pm**

Paddle with a Ranger
 Barnwell State Park (meet at office). Kayak around the lower pond with Ranger Ashley. Learn about some local flora and fauna. Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets will be provided. Bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, and shoes that can get wet. Price: \$15 per adult (\$10 if bringing own kayak) **REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** Register by phone at 803-284-2212 or by email at barnwellsp@scprt.com. **9am**

Sun., Mar. 17
Silver Spring Missionary Baptist Church 35th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Freddie L. Bush and First Lady Mary Bush, 347 Woodrow Doby Road, Williston, SC. Everyone is cordially invited to come out and help our church family celebrate. Guest speaker for this special occasion will be Dr. Evert Comer, Jr of Denmark, SC. **10am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service**

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., N.C. **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. **5-8pm**

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. **10am-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. **1pm**

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**

Thur., Mar. 28
Maundy Thursday Service
 Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell. **6pm**

Fri., Mar. 29
Good Friday Service
 Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell. **12pm**

Stations of the Cross
 Meet at the Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell. **6pm**

Sat., Mar. 30
Williston Easter Egg Hunt
 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

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
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. 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**

Thurs., Mar. 21
Story Time: Read Rattle & Roll
 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**

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 available upon request until March 31. For more info, email bvillepublicalumniassoc@gmail.com.

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

VIRTUAL STORY TIME
Thurs., 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

Thurs., Mar. 21
After School Fun!
 Calling all school-age kids for afternoon fun and snacks. **3pm**

Wed., Mar. 27
Seniors' Fun Day
 Calling all Seniors! Join us for an hour of Bingo fun. **3pm**

Blackville Library Events

Tues., March 12 & 26
Tues., April 9 & 23
Tues., May, 21
 Story Time **10:30am**

Williston Library Events

Wed., March 13 & 27
Wed., April 10 & 24
 Story Time **11am**

Thurs., March 28
After Hours Book Club
The Light We Lost by Jill Santopolo **6pm**



Thurs., March 28
After Hours Book Club
The Light We Lost by Jill Santopolo **6pm**

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit
 New Young Rosemary Baptist, Williston Multiple vendors and various speakers will be on hand with vital information. **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**

Lenten Services

| | | |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| 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 7B

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 7B

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



Letters to the Editor

Acknowledgement

The family of Jonathan Raysor wishes to express their deepest appreciation for all your prayers, visits, phone calls, words of encouragement, and acts of kindness during our hours of bereavement.

Thank you from Scottie Moore

Dear Community,

I would like to thank everyone who sent such comforting messages on Facebook about the loss of my husband (Tim Moore). I assure you that I read every single one of them, and they spoke to me in such a personal way.

My husband was my "rock" and I miss him so much already. He always encouraged me to be strong, and I am trying hard. He was such a caring, kind, intelligent, Christian man who loved his family, community, church, and country. He took care of so many and especially me. He supported all of my many careers and "projects". He helped with baton contests, camps, school trips, etc., and I could not have managed without him. He was always by my side. Just like the football coach that he was, he encouraged me to go the "extra mile". He helped me achieve so much more than I would have without him.

The outpouring of love this week has been overwhelming. I have heard from friends from all over the country. I know what Don Sartell always said about baton twirling being family. I firmly believe that. Our sport bonds so many people together for the love of the sport. We need to keep our twirling family together and strong. Thank you for all your messages. And my former students from school and baton who have come by and sent messages have been so comforting. Those that came to the visitation and gave me those much-needed hugs were just the best. I will always feel your loving arms around me.

My husband was a "giant" of a man and wore many hats. Of course all of you knew he actually did wear many real hats and that was part of who he was. Some people called him "a bulldog with a teddy bear heart". I could go on forever but those who knew him knew his big heart and the love he gave so many.

I know he is in heaven cringing because he can't proofread this message. He was the world's best proofreader and could ALWAYS find a mistake. I know for sure where he is now, and my faith, family, and friends will keep me strong. There are no words that are adequate right now so just know how much each of you mean to me.

With love,
Scottie Moore,
Snelling

Remembering Tim Moore

Dear Editor,

Few are considered true Renaissance men. Tim Moore was one. He had a wide range of intellectual and athletic interests, read widely (history, non-fiction and fiction), had a commitment to the U.S. military, loved animals (especially cows), and also loved the law.

When in Tim's presence, one could recognize a deep thinker in many different areas. He was a tremendous judge of talent, both academically and athletically. Tim had a well-reasoned and insightful political philosophy which included government working for the betterment of those less privileged.

Those close to him were keenly aware that there was no better family man. He was the ultimate son, husband, father, and grandfather. Additionally, all in a tremendously large extended family called on him for advice on all issues.

Many from the highest echelons and lowest levels of financial struggle called Tim both a friend and counselor. I am one of the many that will miss him terribly.

Most respectfully,
Terry E. Richardson Jr.,
Barnwell

Remembering Tommy Rivers

Dear Editor,

One can only imagine the heartache of the citizens of Williston at the loss of Tommy Rivers, one of their finest fellow citizens and leaders.

I have known him since I was in Miss Jean's kindergarten with his younger son. While I imagine anyone might have a bad day, I can honestly say that I can never recall a single time that he did not exude cheer and cordiality.

I can easily picture him in heaven joining Billie Jean Sprawls in prodding the Almighty to shower bountiful blessings on Williston, the town they loved.

Jennings Rountree,
Barnwell County

Better Business Bureau BBB encourages homeowners to verify licenses and do research before hiring contractors



Kelvin Collins
Better Business Bureau

Whether you're in need of HVAC system installation, electrical work, a new roof on your house, or you're ready for a bathroom remodel, it's extremely important that you check out prospective contractors before you enter an agreement. You'll want to verify that they have a strong customer service track record and hold any required local and state licenses.

If you hire a contractor who doesn't hold proper licensing to perform the contracted work, not only do you risk that the workmanship could be inferior - or even dangerous - but you as the homeowner may be held liable for completed work that doesn't comply with building codes or results in property damage.

Unfortunately, Better Business Bureau (BBB) usually finds several unlicensed contractors who advertise work in our community. In some cases, they even make false claims of being licensed, so it's extremely important that you take the steps to confirm their licensing status. If our organization confirms that a company is operating without a required local or state license, we'll report this as an alert on the company's BBB profile. The lack of licensing also impacts a company's BBB rating, resulting in an F rating - the lowest issued by BBB.

Licensing requirements vary in Georgia, and there are some residential home improvement services that are exempt from licensing requirements if the work falls below the \$25,000 threshold, including roofing installation. You can learn more by visiting sos.ga.gov/state-licensing-board-residential-and-general-contractors.

Here are some additional tips from your BBB as you search for trustworthy companies to provide home related services:

• Be proactive in identifying trustworthy companies. Consider

asking family, friends, and neighbors for recommendations of companies they've been satisfied with. BBB encourages you to still check for BBB Business Profiles on the companies at bbb.org to verify their customer experience record, rating, and more. If you don't already have companies in mind, you can also use BBB's site to find BBB Accredited Businesses who have been vetted and have made a commitment to uphold BBB's Standards of Trust in the areas of licensing, truth in advertising, customer relations, and more.

• Receive at least three quotes. BBB strongly recommends that homeowners looking to contract services for any work receive at least three quotes from separate businesses before settling on a final decision. Be sure that you are comparing equivalent products and services among the quotes and keep in mind that the lowest bid for your project may not necessarily be the best bid. If an offer is significantly lower than others, it could be a sign that the contractor is not using the same level of quality for materials.

Don't hesitate to ask the companies questions to be sure you fully understand what is and is not included in the quote and be sure that everything is presented in writing. BBB also recommends you ask the company to include proposed project start and end dates.

• Never pay the total project cost upfront. Even if the contractor offers a significant discount for paying the project's total cost upfront, BBB always recommends staggering payments throughout the length of the project. Staggering payments allows you as a homeowner to inspect the work at specific milestones, ensuring that the work is completed to your satisfaction before releasing the next payment installment.

Homeowners should avoid contractors practicing aggressive tactics or insisting on receiving full payment before beginning the project, and most deposits should range between 10-30% of the total project cost. Some contractors may require a more significant down payment due to the price of materials or other communicated issues. Still, BBB recommends that homeowners should avoid con-

tractors that ask for more than half of the total project cost upfront, unless a viable reason for a higher deposit is confirmed.

• Review previous work. As you zero in on the right contractor for your project, look into their previous work. This can offer insight into their experience and professionalism, and it might even provide fresh inspiration for your project.

Some ideas on reviewing a company's previous work include viewing photos or videos of a company's completed project on their BBB Profile, website, or social media channels. (Social media is usually the best option to find recently completed work). Also, consider asking prospective contractors to share recent project photos that share similarities with your needs.

• Consider asking for references. If you don't feel you've received enough information about the company's work to feel confident yet in hiring them, you may want to request a list of local references you may contact.

As you check their references, consider the following questions:

How was the overall experience with the contractor? How was the contractor's communication? How is the quality of their work? Did the contractor stick to the project's estimated budget and completion date? Is there anything you would have done differently? Would it be possible to inspect the contractor's work yourself?

If you have questions or you need more information and related tips on home building and improvement projects, please visit BBB.org/HomeHQ.

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

Doc Johnson wasn't one to sit and take up space on earth



Phil Hudgins
Contributor

Foxfire: Stories of People, Passions and Practices from Southern Appalachia, a book Jessica Phillips Henricks and I wrote to benefit the Foxfire Fund.

He accompanied me on a road trip to Kentucky, his home state, where we gathered three more stories for the book. Our first stop was to interview Carl Foster, a longtime eccentric friend of Doc's.

"Does this guy know we're coming?" I asked Doc.

"No, I couldn't get in touch with him," he said.

Turned out, Foster didn't have a phone or email. "If something happened," Foster said after he fed his dogs leftover biscuits and we settled down in his kitchen, "like a doctor wanted to raise my insulin, now he'll have to send me a postcard."

Next on the agenda was interviewing Carl "Feel Bad" Davis, who collected tractors and trucks, and then Hollis Thrasher, who owned and worked a pack of Belgian mules. They knew we were coming.

Doc Johnson knew a lot of people, because he mastered a lot of different things. He had been a police detective, youth counselor, teacher, artist, lecturer, archaeologist, historian, naturalist, defender of Native Americans, musician, welder,

fiddle maker, writer, social worker... the list goes on. If you wanted something made or welded, Doc was the man to see. I possess one of his "canjos," a banjo with a round, metal can as the head.

Doc didn't subscribe to cable TV or satellite service because he paid the city to take garbage out, and he wasn't paying anybody to bring it back in.

Joseph Lloyd "Doc" Johnson—who started calling himself "Sleeping Dog" about three years ago—was one of the most generous people I've ever met. If someone needed help, or wanted something he'd made, he most likely would accommodate.

Doc, incidentally, was so nicknamed because his father lost a poker game to a doctor friend from World War II. Doc was better than Delmus, the doctor's real name.

Several times, Doc and I went fishing and rock hunting together. One time, on a lake near our home, he walked out into the water about mid-thigh deep, rested a chair on the bottom, sat down and flyfished for whatever was biting. And if there was an Indian artifact somewhere, he would spot it.

Julia, his wife, knows I'll miss my talks with Doc. He was a good friend.

But, as he said, we all have to croak sometime.

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MAIL TO:
ATTN: EDITOR
P.O. BOX 1255
BARNWELL, SC 29812
THE PEOPLE-SENTINEL 803.259.3501

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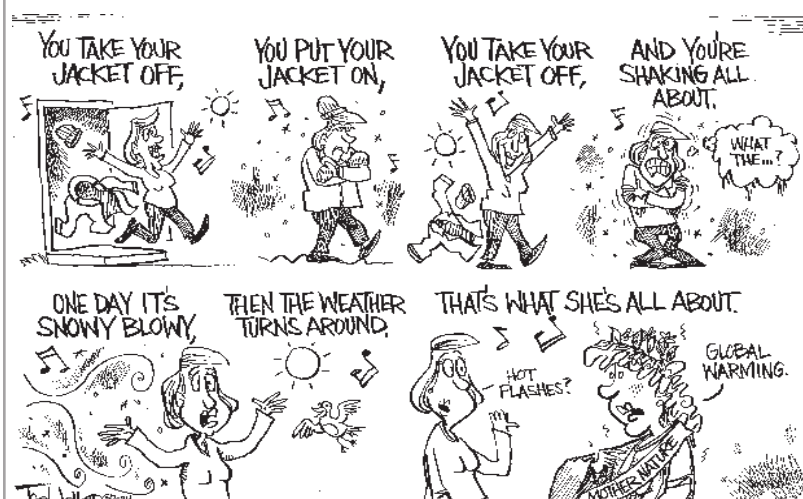
In-county:..... \$40
Two-year In-county:..... \$72
Out-of-county: \$45
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www.thepeoplesentinel.com
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Combatting Loneliness in Older Adults

FAMILY FEATURES

The bonds found in friendships and other relationships are an important factor in health and wellness – even science says so.

According to the American Psychological Association, forming and maintaining social connections at any age is one of the most reliable predictors of a healthy, happy and long life. Studies show having strong and supportive friendships can fend off depression and anxiety, lower blood pressure and heart rates in stressful situations and change the way people perceive daunting tasks.

However, statistics show approximately half of U.S. adults lack companionship and feel socially disconnected, according to the U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community. In fact, 12% don’t have anyone they consider a close friend, per the Survey Center on American Life. This “epidemic of loneliness,” as coined by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, can take a severe toll on mental and physical health.

As people age, the risks of isolation increase. With America’s older population growing rapidly – the 65 and older population reached more than 55 million in 2020 – discussing how older adults can combat loneliness is relevant to public health and individual well-being.

Consider volunteering, which is one of the best and most rewarding ways to combat loneliness.

Volunteering Combats Loneliness

People often volunteer to find a sense of purpose, learn new skills, improve their



communities or establish new routines after retiring or becoming empty nesters. For many, making friends through volunteer work is a welcome bonus. The act of volunteering provides proven benefits for older adults.

Forming connections can make all the difference in a person’s volunteer experience and sense of well-being. People who meet through volunteer work inherently share a

common interest and something to bond over. These friendships can carry over outside of volunteer work and lead to bonding over other hobbies and interests.

Connection-Focused Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to making friends with fellow volunteers, many older adults also form

relationships with the people they’re serving, especially if those recipients are their peers.

For example, AmeriCorps Seniors is the national service and volunteerism program in the federal agency of AmeriCorps that connects adults aged 55 and up to local service opportunities that match their interests. Its Senior Companion Program pairs volunteers with other older adults or those with disabilities who need companionship or assistance. Volunteers may help with tasks such as paying bills, shopping or getting companions to appointments. In some cases, volunteers may also provide support and respite for family members caring for loved ones with chronic illnesses.

“We often think of volunteering as ‘giving back,’ but we’ve seen firsthand that it often becomes so much more than that,” said Atalaya Sergi, director of AmeriCorps Seniors. “By spending a few hours each week with another older adult in need of support, our volunteers are not only giving back to others, but they’re adding meaning to their own lives and establishing new connections. They’re helping to fight the loneliness epidemic one visit at a time.”

Growing older can come with challenges, but some of those can be minimized with a positive mindset and commitment to remaining connected and engaged – whether with friends, relatives or fellow community members. Fostering relationships is a key ingredient to a healthier and more fulfilling life.

For more information and to find volunteer opportunities near you, visit [AmeriCorps.gov/YourMoment](https://www.AmeriCorps.gov/YourMoment).

Meet Friends Who Connected Through Service

Ray Maestas felt unfulfilled post-retirement and began volunteering with the AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program. He was connected with Bob Finnerty, a man with blindness looking for assistance a few days each week. They quickly struck up a routine of errands, reading and conversation that’s since become a friendship they both cherish.

“The Senior Companion Program has provided an avenue to enrich the lives of not only the participants but the people who are volunteering,” Maestas said. “Bob and I have gotten to the point where he’s a very important part of my life.”

Finnerty echoed those sentiments and shared his own appreciation for Maestas’ friendship. “I’ve always relished my independence and I feel Ray is not just a person who reads for me – he’s a friend,” Finnerty said.

In the last few years, Maestas moved and now serves with a different chapter of the Senior Companion Program. He and Finnerty keep in touch. Maestas said they talk about every third day.



Bob Finnerty and Ray Maestas

The People-Sentinel

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE!

Call (803) 259-3501.

NOTICES

LEGALS

Address: 775 South Toby Creek Road, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
2024-50 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: James Thurmond Moody Sr.
Date of Death: January 26, 2024
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00037
Personal Representative: Esther C. Moody
Address: 1007 Moore Drive, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
2024-51 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Virginia T. Augustine
Date of Death: October 31, 2023
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00044
Personal Representative: Cheryl Tune
Address: 90 Georgia Street, Williston, S.C. 29853
2024-52 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in

NOTICES

LEGALS

written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.
Estate: Elbert Timothy Moore Jr.
Date of Death: February 20, 2024
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00045
Personal Representative: Frances Scott Turner Moore
Address: P.O. Box 160, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
Co-Personal Representative: Richmond Turner Moore
Address: 6007 Woodley Road, McLean, VA 22101
Co-Personal Representative: Edward Foy Moore
Address: 6709 Pennington Road, Columbia, S.C. 29209
2024-53 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.
Estate: Helen Regina Hutto fka Helen R. Hallingquest
Date of Death: January 7, 2024
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00038
Personal Representative: Roosevelt Hutto
Address: 2507 Moore Road, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
2024-54 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.
Estate: Kenneth Levern Black
Date of Death: February 13, 2024

NOTICES


LEGALS

Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00047
Personal Representative: Gregory B. Black
Address: 25 Andover Drive, Graniteville, S.C. 29829
2024-55 3tp 3-20-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.
Estate: Juanita H. Williams
Date of Death: November 7, 2023
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00048
Personal Representative: Tracy Hallingquest
Address: P.O. Box 1072, Trussville, AL 35173

NOTICE
STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES V. BENITA TRAMMELL
The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services has filed a petition in Hamilton County Juvenile Court, seeking to terminate the parental rights of Benita Trammell to the children, Deziah Bentley, born July 6, 2014, Calvin Trammell, born December 26, 2018, and Isaac Williams, born April 2, 2019.
A trial in this case is set for April 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Benita Trammell must appear before this Court on that date to determine whether her parental rights to the subject children should be terminated and forever ended. The Court is located at 1600 E. 3rd Street, Chattanooga, TN 37404.
If Benita Trammell does not come to the trial, the state will ask the Court to allow it to proceed without contest. That means that the state will ask the Court to let it present proof without having any lawyer appear and defend Benita Trammell's rights in Court.
Any appeal of this Court's final disposition of the complaint or petition for termination of parental rights will be governed by the provisions of Rule SA, TRAP, which imposes special time limitations for the filing of the transcript or statement of evidence, the completion and transmission of the record on appeal, and the filing of briefs in the appellate court, as well as other special provisions for expediting the appeal.
You may obtain a copy of the Petition and any subsequently filed legal documents or hearing dates in the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office at the address shown above. This will constitute appropriate service on her for all future filings in this case.
2024-57 4tc 3-27-24

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THEME: MARCH MADNESS
ANSWERS ON PAGE 3B

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Window addition?
 - Huge software company
 - Spill the beans
 - Watcher
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - Words to live by
 - Ocean-dwelling ----- ray
 - Polynesian necklace
 - "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
 - *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
 - **One ---- Moment"
 - Like jalapeño
 - Give off
 - Bean counter?
 - *Dominate opponent, slangily
 - *-----elimination tournament
 - Bricklayers' carrier
 - Wood sorrels
 - Jeweler's unit
 - Alight, past tense
 - Swings around
 - Spice Girl
 - Bubonic plague carriers
 - Away from wind
 - D'Artagnan's sword
 - *Elite Eight, or the ----- round of tournament
 - Bono's bandmate, with The
 - Make a mistake
 - Landlord's due
 - Small lump
 - *State Farm Stadium state
 - *Not pro
 - Chocolate substitute
 - Hot temper
 - Derived from oats
 - Cuckoo
 - Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
 - Baby at a recital
 - Have supper
 - Young newt
 - Many affirmatives
 - Brush alternative
 - Culture-growing turf
 - Long forearm bone
 - Satyr
 - City in Poland
 - *Delta Center location: ---- Lake City
 - Hole-in-one
 - Type of polyhedron
 - Raisin's breakfast companion
 - Denim innovator
 - Port in Yemen
 - Toker's pipe
 - Professional reviewer
 - Not pathos
 - Not hers
 - Shoulder rank display
 - Winnowing leftovers
 - Chicken in Mexico
 - Farewell in Paris
 - *School with most NCAA basketball titles
 - Back of the neck
 - Search blindly
 - Lightsaber beam
 - Olden days anesthetic
 - *-----player
 - Garden starter
 - D.S., in sheet music
 - Dance club light
 - Female chicken
 - Speech at a funeral
 - Lacking guile
 - What speakers do
 - LSD, e.g.
 - Indian princess
 - Turkmenistan's neighbor
 - *Type of defense
 - One tenth of a dime
 - Lineup postings, acr.
 - Type of pool
 - What means justify
 - Churchill's "so few"

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Kid Scoop Together:

Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.



Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

St. Patrick's Day Exclusive! "Leprechaun Lips" Tells All!

NEWS FLASH! We found a leprechaun to answer questions about these mysterious little people! He wouldn't really show himself to us. Mostly what we saw during the interview were his lips, oversized sunglasses and his hat.

Q: How do leprechauns get all that gold?

A: We make shoes for the fairies. Silly fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. We are always busy making new shoes for them. They pay us with gold. Lots of gold!



Leprechaun's shoe shelf has toppled. Can you match the pairs of fairy shoes?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects; identify matching attributes.



Q: How big are leprechauns?

A: Wee folk are we. Three feet tall at most.

Can you read inches of the newspaper columns that are equal to 3 feet?

Standards Link: Measurement: Use standard measurement. Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate materials.

Q: How do you catch a leprechaun?

A: It isn't easy. If you should see a leprechaun, get as close as you can without him seeing you.

Quickly take him in your grasp and don't take your eyes off of him. Then ask where his pot of gold is hidden.

He will try to talk you into looking away. If you do look the other way, he will be gone when you look back.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade appropriate words correctly in context.



Extra! Extra!

What's green? Look through the newspaper for words and pictures of things that can be green. List them here.

Bonus Challenge: Can you list them in ABC order?

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

Q: Why do leprechauns play tricks on people?

A: We play tricks on people who don't believe in us. We especially like to bother teachers who try to tell children that we don't exist.

Leprechaun Lips Tricky Story

Ask your teacher or a friend for verbs, nouns and adjectives. Use these words to fill in the blanks of this story.

One fine morning, I went for a walk in the woods. I tripped on a _____ . When I looked down, I saw a _____ little _____ with a green _____ .

" _____ ," he said. "My name is _____ . I'm a leprechaun. If you want my _____ of _____ you'll have to _____ me first!"

I tried to _____ him, but he was too _____ for me.

He just laughed and called out to me, " _____ St. Patrick's Day!"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.

St. Paddy's Patterns

Which leprechaun comes next in each row? Circle it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Relate ideas of an experience.

Double Double Word Search

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

LAUGHED
LOOKING
LIPS
GOLD
PAY
SHOE
DANCE
GREEN
GRASP
WOODS
EYES
EASY
GONE
ASK

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| D | P | S | A | R | G | K | Z | E | G |
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| N | U | A | H | C | E | R | P | E | L |
| C | H | S | M | U | K | G | I | A | B |
| E | I | Y | Y | A | S | K | L | S | Y |

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's phrase: **GIFT OF GAB**
 If someone has the "gift of gab," it means the person is a good talker. The word *gab* comes from *gob*, the Irish word for mouth.

Katie had the gift of gab, which sometimes got her in trouble for talking too much during school.

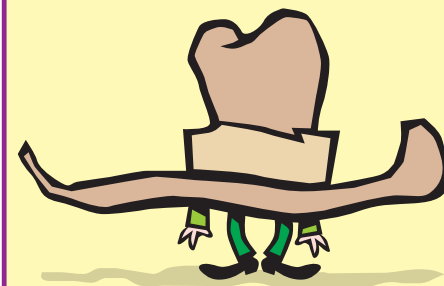
Try to use the phrase gift of gab in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Abbreviations

St. is an abbreviation for Saint. Clip six examples of abbreviations from the newspaper. Write the whole word for each abbreviation.

Standards Link: Word Analysis: Recognize common abbreviations.



What would you get if you crossed a leprechaun with a Texan?

ANSWER: A pot of chili at the end of the rainbow.

Write On!

Favorite Jokes and Riddles

Write down a list of your favorite jokes or riddles! Share with your friends.



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