



Free for children ages 3 to 10 Inside, A8

The People-Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

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Bucket truck operator recovers after collision

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

On Tuesday, March 12, 2024 around 1:50 p.m., a tractor trailer struck the deployed boom of a bucket truck causing the operator inside to fall out.

The accident occurred at family. the intersection of Marlboro Avenue and Patterson Street in Barnwell. A Georgia registered tractor trailer pulling a 53-foot enclosed trailer was traveling south on Marlboro Avenue in the outer lane when it "struck the bucket and the subject in the bucket was ejected," states the

(BPD) report.

Stanley Richard Randolph, 56, of Blythewood, S.C., was installing cables to the overhead traffic lights to prevent movement during inclement weather when he was ejected. Randolph is employed with Grant Electrical Contracting based in Columbia, S.C., where he lives with his

According to BPD's report, Randolph fell onto a sharp body panel of the truck, severely lacerating his leg. He then fell to the ground.

Before first responders arrived moments later, a witness of the accident rushed to the scene and put pressure on Barnwell Police Department's Randolph's wound. According

to Chief Michael Butts, this good samaritan performed live-saving action until first responders were able to place a tourniquet on Randolph's leg.

A week later, Randolph is still in the hospital receiving medical care and has undergone three surgeries, according to a close family member who declined to be named.

"We just want him to heal, and be able to recover from this. It is a miracle that he survived that," said the family member.

The decision to call in a helicopter was made quickly by officials after the incident occurred. In cases requiring



The man who was struck while working in the bucket of a truck on March

See COLLISION, 10A 12 is recovering.



The People-Sentinel earned 26 awards from the S.C. Press Association, which were accepted at SCPA's March 15 awards lunch. Pictured from left to right: sports photographer Donna Miley, faith correspondent Donna-Maria Conzalina, publisher Jonathan Vickery, Report for America corps member Elijah de Castro, and reporter Alexandra Whitbeck.

Newspaper wins 26 S.C. Press Association awards

Alexandra Whitbeck named S.C. Weekly Journalist of the Year

Staff Reports The People-Sentinel www.thepeoplesentinel.com

The People-Sentinel brought home 26 awards from the S.C. Press Association, including General Excellence and Journalist of the Year.

The newspaper earned first place General Excellence in its circulation division.

"The People-Sentinel does a fantastic job of keeping its readers informed of news events, sports and upcoming activities. The ads you have are well-designed and attractive. *The People-Sentinel* reminds readers why newspapers continue to play an important part of their daily lives. Keep it up," stated the judge.

The judge highlighted the newspaper's "clean presentation." This included a "well-designed and attractive" front cover, "well-written" stories, attentiongrabbing headlines, "good artwork", variety of viewpoints on the Opinion page, "robust" sports pages, and the Community Calendar page.

"This award means a lot because it looks at the paper as a whole! This is a very competitive award! It's all due to our great team," said Publisher Jonathan Vickery.



Alexandra Whitbeck, reporter for The People-Sentinel, accepts the 2023 Weekly Journalist of the Year award from Richard Whiting, outgoing president of the S.C. Press Association, during the SCPA awards lunch in Columbia on March 15.

"This is the second consecutive Alexandra Whitbeck. year The People-Sentinel has been awarded the General Excellence award out of all weekly newspapers in the state, which I truly think speaks to how much energy and love is put into each week's edition by every member of our staff. We take pride in of all weekly newspapers in making sure our community has the trusted news source they deserve," said reporter

Journalist of the Year

For the first time ever, a reporter from The People-Sentinel won Journalist of the Year.

Whitbeck, who joined the team in May 2022, won the 2023 Weekly Journalist of the Year award out South Carolina.

See AWARDS, 3A

Felony charges sought for First Amendment "auditor"

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

A local "First Amendment auditor" has been arrested for being a fugitive of justice. On March 9, 2024, the Blackville Police Department (BPD) responded

to Hampton Avenue in Blackville, near Farrell Lane, in reference to a person pointing a weapon. During the response, officers identified Joshua David Washburn, 40, of Walterboro, S.C. After

identifying Washburn, BPD coordinated with central dispatch and learned he had six warrants in Hamilton County, Indiana dating back to 2015.

Once apprehended, Washburn was served with the outstanding



Washburn

Indiana warrants by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office on March 11 for being a fugitive of justice. These warrants include possession of a narcotic drug (a Level 6 felony), possession of

paraphernalia,

resisting law enforcement, invasion of privacy, possession of marijuana, and disorderly conduct, according to Indiana public court records. BPD is also seeking felony charges

for the incident of pointing and presenting a weapon in Blackville. BPD has been in communication

See ARREST, 10A

JDA donates big to animal shelter

Contributed **Barnwell County** Animal Shelter

The Jefferson Davis Academy (JDA) Lower School students donated \$1,849.34 and a surplus of food to the Barnwell County Animal Shelter (BCAS) after they held the Pennies for Pets fundraiser throughout the month of February.

According to first grade teacher Beverly Burton, the Little Raiders were very serious about helping out the animals in the shelter bringing in Ziplock bags full of

coins from their piggy banks.

"They even brought in birthday and Christmas money," said Burton of the 3K through sixth grade students.

The kids were inspired to help BCAS after connecting with one of its former residents, Burton's four-legged child, Roxie, a pitmix. Burton adopted Roxie from the shelter in December 2023 and her students were very invested in their teacher's new addition.

Burton would update her inquiring students about Roxie's veterinarian appointments,

See ANIMALS, 10A



JDA teachers Beverly Burton, Beth Bodiford and BCAS employee Erica Ellis with all of the donations.



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Sports......1-4B

WHAT'S INSIDE

OBITUARIES, 7A

Diane Hewitt Hughey - Fairfax

Dean Theodore Koukos - Bluffton

Johnny G. Morris - Graniteville

Rocks & recognition discussed by Williston council

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

At the Williston Town Council's March 11 meeting, resident Michelle Caldwell received some clarity on how the passenger window of her car was smashed by an airborne rock while driving

into town. "We definitely think it's a group of kids, hiding in the bushes, throwing rocks," said Mayor Brett Williams, who noted he is aware of two incidents in addition to Caldwell's.

Caldwell was driving on Marie Street and Chester Street on March 1 around 7:35 p.m. when the incident occurred.

In response, WPD has increased patrol near the

According to WPD Chief James Gainey, the department has been continuing with code is also considering enforcement efforts in relation to vacant properties and have been getting a good response. Chief Gainey has

also been looking into innovative ways to advance his department while saving the town money. "We're trading in our

weapons," said Chief Gainey.

WPD followed necessary channels to be able to exchange their current weapons and those agedout of evidence holding for new ones - something the department has not had in 15 years, according to Chief Gainey. Officers will not only be receiving new weapons, but also new holsters.

In addition, Chief Gainey is currently writing two grants – one for new walkie talkies, and another for new in-car cameras. By 2025, their current walkie talkies will be no longer usable and the department's current car cameras are

Chief Gainey also informed the council that



Barnwell Road between Shannon Mundy is recognized for 28 years of organizing town events. Mundy is the mastermind behind the annual Christmas parade and Easter egg hunt.

Department. If accepted,

allow both departments to

Keep Barnwell County

Huggins asked council

members to make it a

priority to attend local

trash pick-up events.

problem in the county,

Huggins expressed she

volunteers to attend clean-

Saturday, April 20 from

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This

event will be part of a

county-wide KBCB clean-

up initiative for Earth Day

meet at Folk Funeral Home

on April 22. Volunteers can

Upcoming trash pick-ups

in Williston include July 13

another.

up efforts.

in Williston.

and October 12.

Recognitions

Litter control

the Town of Williston Shannon Mundy has has not seen any recent been the mastermind major crimes, and has behind the town's annual been primarily dealing Christmas Parade and with shoplifting and Easter Egg Hunt for 28 consecutive years. Mundy The department was presented with a plaque at the meeting "for everything that you do for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the Town of Williston,"

with the Springfield Police said Mayor Williams. "The time, the sweat, the tears that you put into it, this agreement would we really appreciate it,' provide mutual aid to one said Mayor Williams.

Mundy holds these events rain or shine, with the annual Easter Egg Hunt Beautiful (KBCB) set for March 30, 2024 at 1 representative Margo p.m. at the town park.

Public works director Dennis Williams was recognized for six months of dedication to While littering is a visible improving the town's water infrastructure.

"Our infrastructure is has difficulty getting one of our main concerns," said Mayor Williams.

Multiple water projects The next pick up have been underway in in Williston will be on the town funded by S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Some water lines were excluded due to an unprojected increased bid cost. Administrator Michael Beasley hopes a \$1.5 million forgiveness loan grant will address the water lines omitted from

Foundation

Walk With Ease



works director, Dennis Williams, who has played a major role in water system advancements.

calendar cycle begins in

From December 2023

to February 2024, WFD

responded to 71 calls with

the majority being first

responder calls followed

WFD purchased new

extraction tools last year

with American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) funding

to help with entrapment

crashes. Since acquiring

this equipment, first

responders are able to

extract an individual

from a vehicle in under

ten minutes, showing a

significant decrease in

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equipment.

by structure fires.

December.

the previous grant projects.

This loan grant will be forgiven over time and will be no cost to the town, according to Beasley.

'Another \$1.5 million toward our water system improvements will help tremendously," said Beasley.

Dennis Williams has been essential with aiding in implementing these projects, according to Mayor Williams. Since becoming employed by the town, Dennis Williams has obtained the needed certifications to keep the town from using outside resources.

"It's been years since we've had a public works director with the licenses Mr. Dennis has, and we don't have to depend on outside entities to help us," said Mayor Williams. "Working together, Williston is going to move forward thanks to guys like him that want to invest time into this town and this community.'

Mayor Williams said he expects a big change in the quality of Williston water in the future.

Fire Update

Williston Department (WFD) Chief John Melton provided the council with a first quarter update as the department's On May 4, 2024, WFD will be holding their annual smoke alarm blitz. This year, they will be installing fire detectors in 12 homes.

Similarly to WPD, WFD is also applying for grants The department submitted a grant for \$13,000 for new bunker gear, boots, and helmets, as well as a \$700,000 grant to replace

the service truck. The \$700,000 grant would require the town to provide a 5 percent match if awarded; making the total cost to the town \$35,000 in next year's budget cycle.

Administrator Update Administrator Beasley's contract renewal for a twoyear term was unanimously

approved by the council. Administrator Beasley also updated the council about meeting with Dominion Energy about changing street lights to LED. Dominion Energy is crafting a proposal to pitch to the council.

The fencing at the Academy Street park is ready to be installed. The total cost of the fencing is \$43,000, paid for by the \$66,000 Parks And Recreation Development (PARD) grant the town previously received. The remaining \$23,000 is set for improvements to other parks and playground





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- (March 26-April 30, 2024)









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AWARDS: Newspaper receives 26 awards, including Journalist of the Year

exemplifies local, local, local. She covers her community from top to bottom with human interest and coverage

"This year's honoree of important local issues that matter to her community," said Taylor Smith, SCPA attorney.

Though Whitbeck knew

LIVE ESTATE AUCTION Saturday, March 23, 2024 - 9:30am 1157 Galilee Road- Barnwell, SC 29812 SELLING THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR. LEROY CARRIGG AND TWO OTHER PARTIAL ESTATES. AUCTION IS PACKED!



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she was receiving awards, this award was kept a surprise. She said she is 'grateful" to receive the prestigious Journalist of the Year award, which is one of the most "memorable and meaningful moments" in her career so far.

'Receiving this award was a total shock, and I am eternally thankful our publisher/owner Jonathan Vickery thought highly enough of my reporting to nominate me and secretly coordinate to make sure my parents were here from New York! I am excited to continue working to ensure Barnwell County is informed with hyperlocal, unbiased reporting," said Whitbeck.

Vickery nominated Whitbeck for the award due to her strong work ethic, quality journalism, and for the many hats she wears, including reporter, photographer, video editor, and managing website advertising.

"Alexandra covers a variety of topics for our newspaper. Whether covering a 100-yearold's birthday, talking to loved ones of someone who died, or writing about local government, she handles each assignment with professionalism, respect, and tenacity. Her stories are factual and unbiased. I have to make very few edits," said Vickery in his nomination

Originally from rural upstate New York, Whitbeck didn't know anyone in Barnwell County when she moved here. However, she has quickly worked to build relationships and contacts that are vital to a journalist.

"She is friendly with everyone, but she doesn't let relationships get in the way of her reporting. She has also gotten plugged into the community by volunteering on animal advocacy boards since animals are important to her," said Vickery.

Whitbeck said "this award has further cemented that I landed in the place I am meant to be, working with and for this community."

Writing Awards

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BATTERY

REPLACEMENT

Members of The People-Sentinel's team took home awards for writing and reporting.

Whitbeck won third place for Investigative Reporting for ongoing issues with the Red Oak Volunteer Fire Department. She also won first and third places in the Beat Reporting category for cops and court related

'This read like a beat report; concise, succinct, and informative. It referenced laws/orders and then also broke down the info into laymen's terms and explained what they were and why they applied. Very well done!" said the judge of Whitbeck's first-place Beat Reporting entry.

'This is the second time I have had the honor of attending the S.C. Press Association Annual Awards Banquet, and I truly thought nothing could top the awards we received last year," said

For Breaking News Reporting, Whitbeck and Vickery jointly won a first-place award for their coverage of the August 2023 fire at Hagood Avenue Baptist Church.

Incredible reporting and updating community with posts and photos. Highlights the voices of the pastor and firefighters as well as the community members who have been affected," said

"We are here for our community in the good times and bad times. The tragic fire at Hagood was both in that we saw our community come together, as they often do, to help a hurting congregation and staff after the loss of their church home. It's our job to provide information but it's also our job to provide comfort," said Vickery.

Vickery also won first place for News Feature Writing for a story on an Aiken man who pleaded guilty to reckless homicide in the death of a Barnwell teen following a traffic collision.

"The writer did a great job of objectively sharing the stories of both families in this tragic case," said the judge.

He also won first place in the Obituary category for a story on Alma Battle.

"Beautifully written. Quotes are well chosen and paint a picture of the woman Battle was," said the judge.

Another first place award was in the Reporting-In-Depth category for a story on how a discussion over redistricting got "heated" at Barnwell City County.

information. This article does a great job of informing the public on the actions and words of those in charge," said the judge.

Other awards include third

Short Story, third place for Breaking News Reporting, third place for Business Beat Reporting, and third place for News Headline Writing. He and Whitbeck won third place for Feature Headline Writing.

Reporter Elijah de Castro, who is a Report for America corps member, joined the newspaper in July 2023. He won three awards, including first place for Series of Articles on how wild deer and pigs are affecting rural

"I feel this is an important article which deals with serious problems to those who produce the food that feeds us and the crops that provide us with necessities. It was very well written and explained. A top-notch entry done well," wrote the judge.

Other awards de Castro won were third place Enterprise Reporting for a story on the public housing crisis affecting rural Allendale and second place Reporting-In-Depth for a story on the decline of the number of Allendale grocery

"It feels great to win these awards, but reporting on some of the most painful issues that Allendale and other rural communities face would not be possible without the dozens of community members who trusted me with their stories. These awards are just as much Allendale's to celebrate as they are mine. In 2024, I want to see our team continue deepening its trust with the community so we can elevate everybody and create a shared reality for the community; something we proved ourselves capable of in 2023," said de Castro.

Faith correspondent Donna-Maria Conzalina won third place for Faith Reporting for three stories one on a new pastor, one on a YMCA prayer group, and the other being a spiritual column about her personal

"Faith has always been the center of my life and being given the opportunity to help bring a bit of good news to our readers through The People-Sentinel is one of my greatest blessings. The fact that publisher Jonathan Vickery supported me with prayers, patience and encouragement this past year as I struggled to write again after unexpectedly losing "Gives a voice to all. my sweetheart; and then he Does not sugar coat the nominated that comeback column in dedication to Glenn, which won an award along with two other special township, well, I'm simply beyond honored to be part place for Lifestyle Feature of this winning team. There's

Writing, third place for no doubt God's smiling on Jonathan as he works so dedicatedly hard leading us. And with a team like that, all of our community wins!" said Conzalina.

Photo, Video & Design **Awards**

The People-Sentinel team also won awards for photos and videos.

Vickery won second place in the Spot News Photo category for a photo of the Hagood Avenue Baptist Church congregation praying as their church building burned in the background.

Whitbeck won three individual photography awards, including first place Humorous Photo for a photo of a Blackville-Hilda graduate dancing,

"The expression, the action/pose, the context it's highly satisfying. The cutline says he's dancing across stage, but he looks like he's just seen a mouse, which makes it more amusing. I would absolutely read whatever came with that photograph," said the judge. Whitbeck's other awards

were second place in Personality Photograph for a graduation photo at Williston-Elko High and third place Feature Photo for a photo of veteran Natasha Sept being hugged by students at a Veterans Day celebration. Donna Miley, a

contributing sports photographer, won first place for Sports Feature Photo for a photo of a Barnwell player helping a fallen opponent up. "Good kids and good

sportsmanship caught on camera is so precious," said the judge.

Miley said she "felt so blessed to be a part of this group. Sitting in the awards ceremony today, with so much talent all around me, I felt so very honored to have one of my sports images chosen for an award."

In the News Video category, Whitbeck won second place for a video she produced on the Hagood church fire.

Vickery also won a thirdplace award for Page One Design.

"I am very proud of our dedicated team. Though we don't do what we do in order to win awards, it's certainly nice to be recognized because it validates our work," said Vickery.

He thanks everyone who upports the newspaper, including those who read, subscribe, and advertise.

If you want to subscribe or stories about people in this advertise, or just have news tips or ideas, please call (803) 259-3501 or email jvickery@ thepeoplesentinel.com.

Barnwell County Arrest Reports

Andrew Jacob Benton, 21,

was arrested on March 12,

2024 by BPD for Simple As-

Arthur Lynell Bing, 42, of

42 Peachtree Lane, Williston,

2024 by the Barnwell Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for (3) counts of Failure

to Pay Court Fines. Bing

was booked and released to

man Street, Barnwell, was

arrested on March 2, 2024 by

BPD for Domestic Violence.

released to BCDC.

Terry Bowers, 29, of Fur-

and released to BCDC.

ter (BCDC).

BCDC.

Arrest reports listed below are public record and have been provided by local law enforcement agencies. All persons named are presumed innocent



until their cases are determined

Holly Hill Complex at Cribb Street, Holly Hill, SC North Complex at

Allendale Complex at

Bluff Road, Allendale, SC Blackville Complex at

Branchville Villa complex at Branchville Lane, Branchville. SC

Hampton Ave., Blackville, 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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Nicolas Olin Carlock, 19, of Sarasota, Florida, was arrested on February 23, 2024 by BPD for Motor Vehicle

Theft. Carlock was booked and released to BCDC. Juan C. Cervantes, 53, of

Mahogany Lane, Allendale, was arrested on February 11, 2024 by BPD for Driving Under Suspension. Cervantes was booked and released to BCDC.

Vincent Edward Chesser, 43, of 127 Garden Road, Barnwell, was arrested on

Sheila Barker, 45, of Chesser was booked and

Concord Church Road, released to BCDC. Larry Dennis Craddock, Allendale, was arrested on February 16, 2024 by the Jr., 29, of 351 Elberta Circle, Barnwell Police Depart-Barnwell, was arrested on March 17, 2024 by BCSO for ment (BPD) for Breach of Trust. Barker was booked Trafficking Meth. Craddock and released to the Barnwas booked and released to well County Detention Cen-BCDC.

Ronald Edward Darnell, 67, of Double Pond Road, of Freedom Road, Barnwell, Blackville, was arrested on March 4, 2024 by BPD for Assault & Battery Third sault. Benton was booked Degree. Darnell was booked and released to BCDC.

Amanda Nicole Dempsey, 40, of Apache Road, Bamberg, was arrested on Februwas arrested on March 14, ary 9, 2024 by BPD for Shoplifting. Dempsey was booked and released to BCDC. Robin Patricia Ann Dono-

van, 36, of 421 Woodland Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 5, 2024 by BCSO for Driving Under Suspension and Possession of Meth Donovan was booked and released to BCDC.

Bowers was booked and Donna Sue Dyches, 52, of 2533 Bull Swamp Road, North, was arrested on March 14, 2024 by BCSO for (2) counts of Distribution of Meth, Possession of Meth, (2) counts of Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute, and (2) counts of Misprision of a Felony. Dyches was booked and released to BCDC.

Carmelo Earls, 18, of 2118 Kennedy Drive, Augusta, G.A. was arrested on March 9, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Court Fines. Earls March 13, 2024 by BCSO for was booked and released to Failure to Pay Child Support. BCDC.



The People-Sentinel

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Frances Ward celebrates 99th birthday

Jonathan Vickery Publisher

jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

ong-time Williston ⊿resident Frances Ward celebrated her 99th birthday on March 11, 2024.

Her family of close to 60 members came together to celebrate, including her six children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her three living sisters, and other relatives. A few close family friends also joined.

"I've been blessed with a good husband Jo W. Owens. and family, including six all stand equal in my sight," said Ward.

Born into a family of 10

blessed plenty by the Owens. good Lord," she said.

years, L.B. Ward, in 1945. Williston in 1953 when member. L.B. took a job at the became home.

"The house she's living in right now is



Frances Ward was all smiles on her birthday as she was surrounded by family.

children, in which they two things that Frances enjoys working with has always cherished wood," said Wilson. and valued.

children, Ward grew up a Christian home. She her for business." in a small community in has always been very devoted to her church during the Great "We had little but were and to her family," said Depression, Ward

Ward married her late raised as members of she has carried with her husband of nearly 52 Winfield Heights Baptist throughout her life. Church in Williston They first moved to where Ward is still a save a dollar," said

"Mom lives what she Savannah River Site. taught. You saw Jesus Ward cans vegetables That job was short-lived through everything she and has even raised her and they returned to did. His love shown own beef. She is also Tennesse. However, L.B. through her with her a skilled seamstress was soon called back service to Him, her who sewed a lot of her to SRS and the family family, and others. She family's clothes while moved back to Williston shares her Christ with growing up. in 1954. The town soon anyone who will listen," said daughter Edie Ward Ward has always sought

the house they bought system has seen dozens valuable life lessons and in 1954," said daughter of Ward family members skills they need to be

come through its doors of learning and go on to become Blue Devil

"She has had a child, grandchild, or greatgrandchild in the Williston school system since 1954. There are two sets of five generations in the family," said JoAnne Wagnon, one of Ward's 11 grandchildren.

Though she had some secretarial and bookkeeping jobs over the years, Ward was mostly a stay-at-home

"She is very talented and should have been Faith and family are an engineer because she "She is smart financially "She brought us up in and has a good head on

Having grown up learned to be thrifty and Her six children were resourceful – two things

"She knows how to

As a great gardener,

As a mother of six, to help her family. The Williston school This includes teaching



Frances Ward (center, seated) of Williston celebrated her 99th birthday on March 11, 2024 with family, including her three sisters, Nancy Jenkins, Brenda Penix, and Jane Miller.

successful in life.

unreachable as a mother. in her senior years. Her then I'll be doing well," Ward Moody of Lake said Wilson.

children, they are now Wilson of Williston, and things."

returning the favor to Elaine Ward Boyleston "Mom has set the bar make sure she is cared for of Williston. "My children care for If I'm half the woman children are Arthur Jann me very well and I feel and mother my mom is, Ward of Gilbert, Sharon well loved," said Ward. Though she doesn't Murray, Jo W. Owens of know the secret to a long

After dedicating Williston, Lloyd Ward life, she said, "I know years to caring for her of Williston, Edie Ward God has a reason for all

Winfield Heights Christian Kindergarten names Valentine Prince & Princess



Connor Jackson (left) and Willow-May Johnson (right) were crowned the Valentine prince and princess at Winfield Heights Christian Kindergarten in Williston.



Ellie Jennings and Cal Jones at the Winfield Heights Christian Kindergarten Valentine's party.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

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**

Ongoing

Association Inc. (aka BDA) 20 Wall St., Barnwell BarnwellDA.com BDAinc029.com **Ist Tuesday each Month**

Generations Unlimited Board Meeting Administration Office, 10915 Ellenton St., Barnwell 4th Wednesdays 10am

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

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

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-I2pm

<u>Thru Mar. 22</u> **Blackville Recreation** Baseball Signups

Copy of birth certificate is needed. TBall ages 4-6, Baseball ages 7-12, Softball ages 7-12. Blackville Town Hall. Call 803-284-2444 for questions.

Wed., Mar. 20 **REVIVAL**

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

Mar. 20 & 21 **BBBA Spring Revival** Wed., Mar. 20: Trinity Baptist

Church, Barnwell; Speaker is Bert Baynham. Thurs., Mar. 21: Olar First Baptist Church; Speaker is Chris Harvey. Hosted by the Bamberg-Barnwell Baptist Association. 7pm nightly

<u>Thurs., Mar. 21</u>

Meet & Greet Drop In Join the City of Barnwell in welcoming new Chief of Police, Michael A. Butts. Barnwell Police Department, 105 Burr St. Generations Unlimited Hosted by the City of Barnwell. 5-7pm

Allendale County Council Meeting Allendale County Courthouse,

J.W. Wall, Jr. Council Chambers, 292 Barnwell Hwy., Allendale.

<u>Fri., Mar. 22</u> Pancake Supper & Benefit Auction Calvary Mennonite School

(2436 Healing Springs Rd., Blackville) Menu: pancakes, bacon, sausage, Youth eXplosion!

eggs, homemade cinnamon rolls Cost: adults \$12, children (4-10) \$7 Auction items include handstitched quilts and comforters, crafts, tools, homemade baked goods, in-home meal tickets, local beef, and more. 5-8pm

<u>Sat., Mar. 23</u> Easter Egg Hunt Lemon Park, Barnwell

Free entry. 10-11am Free

Sat., Mar. 23 Canine Vaccinations BLACKVILLE Blackville-Hilda High School, 76 Atkins Circle 10am-lpm

Mind Your Business Brunch The Atrium, USC Salkahatchie, 465 James Brant Blvd., Allendale. Free admission. Business owners, entrepreneurs, and business students. For information contact Phyllis Smart, 803-508-5837 or ps6952@yahoo.com. 10am-lpm

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.

Miss Blue Fire Pageant Williston-Elko Auditorium

(12233 Main St., Williston) Presented by the Williston-Elko Blue Fire Drumline. 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@

A Taste of Blackville Downtown Blackville

bccsd.net.

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. I0am-4pm

Double Pond Baptist Church Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Easter egg hunt, the Resurrection story, games, and hotdog lunch to follow. If able, please have child bring 4-5 prepackaged eggs. Children of all ages welcome. 357 Double Pond Rd., Blackville.

10:30am

Kenneth Cathey Memorial Fishing Day Hosted by Barnwell County

Career Center FFA. Join us for a day full of fishing, fellowship, and fun. Barnwell State Park. Donations will be collected to begin a scholarship fund for senior FFA members at the Barnwell Career Center. Ilam-2pm

<u>Sun., Mar. 24</u> Easter Cantata "More Than a Carpenter" Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.,

10574 SC Hwy, 37, Blackville. <u> Wed., Mar. 27</u>

Board Meeting Administration Office, 10915 Ellenton St., Barnwel

Fri., Mar. 29

Good Friday Service Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell. I2pm **Stations of the Cross**

Meet at the Church of the Holy Apostles, Barnwell. Guest speakers: local sheriff

departments, drug rehab enter, local teen groups. Dinner will be provided. Door prizes. Main Street Church of Christ, 11065 Hwy. 78, Williston For information: 803-645-8166

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. Ipm

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

Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church

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

Hilda 3rd Annual **Easter Egg Hunt** Egg hunt, snacks, parachute games and more! Special visitor.

4-5pm Praise in the Park Presented by Fairfax Community Coalition. Location: Town Gazebo, 7th St. &

Sumpter St. Fairfax. Bring your own chairs. 3pm **Blackville Community** Garden Work Day

South Boundary St. in Blackville Sun., Mar. 31 **Blackville Public Schools** Alumni Association's

8th Annual Hall of Fame

Corner of Solomon Blatt Ave. &

Induction Application available upon request until March 31. For more info, email bville publical umniassoc@gmail.

Fri., Apr. 5 **USC Salkahatchie Golf Tournament Fundraiser** Sweetwater Country Club, Barnwell. Four-man captain's choice. JoyeJL@mailbox.sc.edu

<u>Sun., Apr. 7</u> Gospel Program White Pond Community Center, 321 White Pond Rd., Williston. Sponsored by the

INCLUDES HOLE SIGNAGE

Barnwell Library Events ADULTS

Adult Book Club Tues., Mar. 26 We will be discussing The Marvelous Monroe Girls

by Shirley Jump 3pm

CHILDREN/FAMILY Wed., Mar. 20 CATCH Ages 5 and Up

Learn about nutrition through fun physical activities. Sponsored by SNAP-Ed 3-4pm

STORY TIME 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. Ham

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

Traveling Stars of Blackville. Contact: JoAnn Wiggins at 803-300-9180 or Dwight Wiggins at 803-383-3211.

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 20 Spring Trash Bash Williston Presented by Keep Barnwell County Beautiful. Meet in the parking lot of Folk Funeral Home a bit before 10am. Bring a drink. All other trash pick-up materials will be provided.

10am-12noon

SWEETWATER FUNDRAISER COUNTRY CLUB FOUR-MAN BARNWELL, SC FRIDAY, APRIL 5 PRIZES 9:00 AM CORPORATE SPONSOR \$500. INCLUDES RECOGNITION AT BASEBALL FIELD, 18 HOLES OF GOLF FOR 4 PLAYERS, CART FEES, & HOLE SIGNAGE INDIVIDUAL TEAM \$300 INCLUDES; 18 HOLES OF GOLF FOR 4 PLAYERS & CART FEES HOLESPONSOR \$150

USC SALKEHATCHIE BASEBALL

Allendale County **Library Events**

or fax it to (803) 259-2703.

To promote your event, email the information to

drichardson@thepeoplesentinel.com

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.

> -Blackville-**Library Events**

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

> Williston **Library Events**

Wed., March 27 Wed., April 10 & 24 **Story Time** Ham

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



Sun., April 21 Literacy & Arts in the Park Read, draw, dance, learn, grow. Free food & giveaways. Blackville Community Center, 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville 4-7pm

Sat., April 27 2nd Annual Women's Conference Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 10620 Dunbarton Blvd.,

Barnwell."I've Cried My Last Tear" Genesis 16:13. Lunch will be served. Dress attire: shades of green. 803-300-7835 or 803-571-6179. 10am-2pm

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, **Healthy Spirit** New Young Rosemary Baptist,

Williston. Multiple vendors and various speakers will be on hand with vital information. I 0am-2pm

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

Sat., May II **Ist Annual Uganda Missions** Golf Tournament Sweetwater Golf Club Haygood Baptist Church fund raiser. 4 man Captain's Choice. Team entry \$400. Registration Call of text Nick Owens, 803-671-4371. 9am Tee off 9:30am Lunch

Fri.-Sun., May 17-19 **CERT Basic Course** 20.5 hour standard basic CERT curriculum for disaster preparedness. Prerequisites: IS-317 (Online CERT Course)

FEMA IS Course 317; https:// training.fema.gov/is/ FEMA IS 100, 200, and 700 are recommended for participants. Barnwell Public Library, 40 Burr St, Barnwell. To register: https://www.scemdlms.org/TRS/ courseDesc.do Fri. 5:30-9:30pm Sat. 8am-4:30pm

Sun. 8am-4:30pm

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.

Blackville Library

10am-2pm

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

Williston Library

5121 Springfield Rd., Williston (803) 621-6000 Hours of Operation Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10am-lpm 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 (II403 Ellenton St., Barnwell) 803-259-4599

BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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



WEDNESDAYS Lunch served 12-12:30pm

Service 12:30-1pm March 20

Second Baptist Al Rivet, speaker March 27

Gateway Church Judson Barnes, speaker

Puzzle on Page 6B

Clo

Crossword Puzzle Solution



Sudoku Puzzle Solution Puzzle on Page 6B

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

3

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

The People-Sentinel

Poor communication, financial management holding back projects in Town of Allendale

Elijah de Castro Report for America elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

pattern of poor communication between council members and other municipal employees in the Town of Allendale is holding back several community projects, as discussed at the Town of Allendale's March 12 monthly meet-

Additionally, vegetation growth in the town of Allendale's sewer system has created issues for public works foreman Lonzado Badger and other municipal employees.

Community center delays

In October 2023, council member Marlon Creech received a \$25,000 grant from the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Hometown Economic Development Council to reopen Allendale's community center. According to a budget report distributed at the March 12 meeting, \$40,000 has been center repairs.

At the time that Creech



At the March 12 Allendale Town Council meeting, council members Pookie Smith and Marlon Creech raised frustrations regarding communication between council members and the handling of the town's money. Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

the building's interior —

meeting, Creech attributed know the answer." this to a lack of behind-thescenes financial organiza- Financial issues tion and communication

essary repairs - which so our downtown area include repairing a leaky can look like something," roof and refurbishing Creech said. "Why everytime somebody has a could be made by the new question about money, we don't know the answer? However, work on the If the citizens come up community center has yet and ask a question about to begin. At the March 12 money, we still don't

In addition to financial allocated for community in the town's administra- issues regarding the community center project, the "I need to know what I Allendale town council received the grant, Creech need to do to make these had issues with commu-

said he hoped that the nec- projects come to fruition nication regarding movement of town funds.

"I did see something today that somewhat disturbed me: having a negative account," said mayor pro tem Pookie Smith. "I didn't have any knowledge that we're at that point... There's nobody that can make any decision about moving any monies to any account without the full body agreeing, no

between all council mem- the Town of Allendale.

the town is facing, Smith said; Making clear who is doing what must be a priority going forward.

"To be transparent to the citizens and the council, I ask moving forward that not one brown penny of town money moves without the full body agreeing to it," Smith said.

Sewer System issues

The growth of vegetation in Allendale's wastewater treatment plant was a major issue this winter due to it being the warmest winter in history, a result of global climate change. Lonzado Badger, the town's public works foreman said at the meeting that he and other municipal workers have had to work overtime to address the issue.

"The vegetation is out of control," Badger said. "We need to address that situation sooner rather than later."

These issues were discussed by Sonya Johnson and Madison Leonard of Water Systems, Inc., a This issue stems from a water system servicing lack of larger coordination company that works for

bers about ongoing issues Leonard said the town's wastewater system is facing "major issues" that range from the town's pumps and wastewater plants.

"As far as the wastewater plant, we are seeing some excessive growth in the lagoons and the ponds themselves," Leonard said "It was a warmer winter, I think we can all agree to that, and spring is on the way. We need to prioritize getting that vegetation removed from ponds."

Other issues discussed

- The town has received 37 applications for its open town administrator position, two of whom were office managers.
- Bob Snead, president of the Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber, has proposed creating a satellite location in Allendale by repurposing an old hotel owned by the town.
- The town passed the second reading of an ordinance that would amend the town's budget and would increase revenue and expenditures for water and sewer use and appropriate insurance proceeds.

Town of Fairfax restructuring debt, working on digital payment system

Elijah de Castro Report for America elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

t its March 18 meeting, Town of Fairfax voted to restructure its debt, which has accumulated late fees as a result of lack of repayment. Additionally, the council updated the community on a your bills." new payment system for residents' bills.

Digital Payment System

The town is in the process of increasing its digital presence through the software company QS1. This includes adding a digital payment option for water bills and taxes; Currently, residents of Fairfax have to do this in person.

upgrades, said council member Phyllis Smart, are currently underway. However, this first requires updating the Town Hall's digital systems. The town's efforts to strengthen its digital presence includes creating digital copies of town records, be able to get to the point The People-Sentinel.

"Everyone has been waiting for us to get QRS is made more complex and water bills online, but we [need] to upgrade the town system," Smart said. more convenient for you The People-Sentinel, prior all so you don't have to mismanagement of town come to Town Hall to pay documents has held back

Restructuring Town Debt Freedom of

The council passed a motion to use \$82,000 of its certificates of deposit (CDs) to pay off the town's debt. These were of the town's smaller CDs. Sauls said and the town has \$200,000 in CDs it hasn't

was built up over previous years and hasn't been paid off as a result of a failure to repay on time. As a result, late fees have been got to be smart about how you spend your money,"

as previously reported by where we can get our bills paid."

This issue, Sauls said, by the disorganization of documents and records in the Fairfax Town Hall. "We're trying to make it As previously reported by

Information Act

The Town Council went into executive session for an hour and a half and listed eight items on its agenda. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), councils are required to list the reason they are go-This debt, Sauls said, ing into executive session as well as the exception they are citing under FOIA for each executive session agenda item.

The agenda did referaccumulated and "You've ence parts A, 1, 2 and 5 of section 30-4-70 of FOIA law, however, each agen-Sauls said. "We've had to da item must specifically pay portions [of debt] to cite the exemption un-



progress in the Town Hall.

has accumulated late fees.

der FOIA that allows the we can do that." council to go into executive session.

At the meeting, The People-Sentinel raised these issues with the council.

"I will do a better job in doing that," Sauls said. "What we're discussing do[es] fall under these guidelines, but you want us to be more specific about which regulation falls under which one, and

At its March 18 meeting, the Town of Fairfax voted to restructure some of its debt, which

After the meeting, The People-Sentinel spoke with Jay Bender, the South Carolina Press Association's attorney, who said much of what is in the ing expenses". agenda does not comply with FOIA; The verbal and bid from South Carolina written descriptions do not explain why the items must be discussed in executive session.

Other issues discussed

Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

- The town also voted to give the Fairfax Police Department \$35,000, half of the town's municipal fund, to help with "operat-
- The town accepted a roofing contractor Quality Roofing for the town hall's roof, which has been leak-

\$10,000 Grant from Savannah River Mission Completion Creates 'Remarkable' Results at Allendale School

Contributed by SRS

The students at Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School are experiencing newfound enthusiasm as they build science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) camps using LEGOS purchased with a grant from Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC).

Allendale-Fairfax mentary School was able to acquire learning materials thanks to a \$10,000 grant provided by SRMC, the liquid waste contractor at Savannah River Site (SRS), during the 2022-



Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School students are pic-

tured building a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) camp using LEGOS with materials purchased with the Savannah River Mission Completion Photo Contributed by SRS

2023 school year.

opportunity to supple- and enhance the learning ment existing learning kits experience in their STEM that allowed the school to lab. The LEGO materials offer an even more compre- purchased with the grant

hensive and engaging cur-The funds provided an riculum to their students

gives the students handson learning activities to explore STEM concepts and principles in an interactive manner. They constructed models that demonstrated scientific principles, engineering solutions, and mathematical concepts. The LEGO sets served as tools for fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork among the students.

SRMC President and Program Manager Dave Olson said the investment in Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School is paying

dividends for the students. "The success experienced by the faculty and

students is exactly what SRMC hoped for when making the donation," Olson said. "The school has a thriving STEM program and is reaching new heights."

Principal Sheila Leath said the results have been truly remarkable and that student engagement has reached an all-time high, with scholars eagerly participating in collaborative activities.

"Savannah River Mission Completion's contribution has created a newfound enthusiasm in our students, and it is translating into effective problemsolving strategies," Leath said. "We have witnessed our students tackling challenges in innovative ways. SRMC's belief in our mission and commitment to education has made a lasting impression on our school community." SRMC comprises parent

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



ebration of Life service for Johnny G. "Moon" Morris, 85, of Graniteville, formerly of Barnwell County, will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Souls Harvest Church 18699 Atomic Road, Jackson, S.C. 29831 with the Reverends Bradley Jay and Kevin Morris officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until the time of the service at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the church. The family has asked that Memorial contributions be given to Lakeside Baptist Church (4280 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Clearwater, S.C. 29842); Crescent Hospice (4257 Whiskey Road Suite A, Aiken, S.C. 29803) or to Souls Harvest Church

Johnny G. Morris

Jackson, S.C. 29831).

Mr. Morris passed away at home on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Born in Hilda, S.C., he was a son of the late Nicholas E. Morris and Bessie Mae Hutto Morris and was married to Linda K. Brown Morris. Johnny worked as a telephone Technician for Western Electric for 24 years then later for Bell South/AT&T until he retired after 42 years. In his early years, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle then he later traded for riding his golf cart. He loved fishing and watching NAS-CAR. Johnny was a family man, a great father, grandfather, great-grandfather and loved watching his grandchildren play sports. He liked to do crossword puzzles and listen to country music with Gene Watson's Farewell party being one of his favorite songs. He served in the South Carolina National Guard.

Survivors include his loving wife, Linda of the home; a son, Ray (Teresa) (18699 Atomic Road, Morris of Jackson, S.C.;

daughters, Penny M. (Jimmy) Anderson of Beech Island, S.C. and Tricia Morris of Jackson, S.C.; 8 grandchildren, Sara Elisabeth Morris, Ali (Josh) Stephens, Kimberly (Jonathan) Lamb, Kyle (Christie) Anderson, Daniel (Kate) Anderson, Randall Anderson, Samantha (Elb) Porras and Penni Anderson (Zac Herndon); 20 great-grandchildren; his sisters, Shirley Purcell of Augusta, Ga. and Audrey Morris of West Columbia, S.C.; a brother, Kerry (Elaine) Morris of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and a number of nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

The family wishes to thank Crescent Hospice, nurses Lisa and Julie and the rest of the staff for the love and care shown to them over the last several

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

> The People-Sentinel 3/20/2024



FAIRFAX - Diane Hewitt Hughey, age 68, passed peacefully at home on March 17, 2024.

She was born on February 9, 1956, the daughter of the late Leroy and Elease Faircloth Hewitt. She was

Diane Hewitt Hughey

Baptist Church.

She is survived by a loving husband of 48 years, John H. Hughey Sr.; two cherished children, Teresa (Lee) Bowen and John (Gretchen) Hughey Jr.; three cherished grandchildren, Emily (Steven Layfield) Bowen, Kayla Hughey and Nicholas Hughey; three cherished great-grandchildren Abel, sisters and one brother.

She will be remembered for her love of the

a member of Mt. Arnon mountains and how much she loved her family and friends.

> The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at Keith Smith Funeral Service (128 Water Street, Allendale, S.C.).

Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Harrison Cemetery, Brunson, S.C.

Sign the online guest-Rylan and Jaxson; and four book at keithsmithfuneral service.com.

> The People-Sentinel 3/20/2024



BLUFFTON - Dean T. Koukos, D.O., 75, of Bluffton, SC died Tuesday, March 12, 2024. He was born in Darby, Pennsylvania on August 10, 1948. He was the son of the late Theodore and Helen Koukos.

He is survived by his wife, Dale Koukos of Bluffton, SC; one son, Chris (Carly) Koukos of Phoenixville, PA; step-daughters, Lauren Belvedere of Lancaster, PA, and Brittany Berliere of Phoenix, AZ; step-son, Brett Belvedere of Wayne, PA; one grandson, Luke Koukos; and one

Dean Theodore Koukos

Berliere.

Dean graduated from Upper Darby High School in Darby, PA in 1966. He graduated from Saint Joseph's College in Philadelphia, PA in 1970 and then received his D.O. degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1974. He attended his internship and General Surgical Residency at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital. He began his medical career as Assistant Director at the Emergency Department at Washington Memorial Hospital in Turnersville, NJ and went on to become Director of the Emergency Department at Paoli Memorial Hospital in Paoli, PA. He owned and operated a private practice, Occupational, Industrial and Family Medicine, in West Chester, PA from 1987-2005. He and his wife then moved to Bluffton, step-grandson, Harrison S.C. and he began practic-

ing at Barnwell Family Medicine where he worked from 2005 until December 22, 2023. While in Barnwell, he served as Chief of Staff at Barnwell County Hospital. He was a career long member of the American Osteopathic Association and also a member of the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society where he even held the highest title of President from 2008-

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 beginning at 2 p.m. until the hour of the service at 3 p.m. at Sauls Funeral Home, 90 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton with burial following at Maye River Cemetery, Bluffton.

Sauls Funeral Home of Bluffton was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at saulsfh.

> The People-Sentinel 3/20/2024

Faith

Community welcomed to worship h BCSO on March 23

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell County Sheriff's Office's (BCSO) second annual Community Worship Service will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 1 p.m. at the Barn-

well Elementary School on

Marlboro Avenue.

"We invite the community to take part in this event," said BCSO Lieutenant Eric Kirkland. "We are delighted to have law enforcement officers from [across] the state of S.C. taking part in this community event."

Readings of scripture, prayer, and song will be led by varying law enforcement officers. Youth from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy will be in attendance to reap the benefits of a room full of career officers.

The primary focus for this event is to highlight the commonalities that tie together law enforcement officers and those they protect through worship and fellowship.

For more information, contact Lt. Kirkland ekirkland@barnwell countysheriff.net.



The Barnwell County Sheriff's Office is welcoming the community to their second annual Community Worship event. Pictured are attendees from last year's event. Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

"What are you thirsting for?"



Rev. Bart Kelley speaks to the crowd at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church gathered for the March 13 Lenten service. Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Jonathan Vickery Publisher jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

That are you Vinit are yes.
thirsting for?" That was the question Rev. Bart Kelley, senior pastor of Barnwell First Baptist Church, posed to the crowd gathered at the March 13 Lenten service held at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist in Barn-

With this year's Lenten services focusing on the

last statements of Jesus, Kelley's message came from John 19:28-29: "Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips."

Though Jesus was likely physically thirsty after carrying the cross through the streets, having a crown of thorns placed on His head, having spikes in His hands and feet, and being mocked as He hung on the cross, Jesus was referencing a different

kind of thirst.

"He was saying 'I thirst' to complete the scriptures and prophesies. What Jesus desired was to see all - you and me, every one of us – to be a man or woman made whole, to be saved, and to be made righteous," said Rev. Kelley.

The solution to this type of thirst isn't found in any earthly bottle, but rather in the Holy Spirit which is an "eternal thirst quencher," said Kelley.

He then asked the crowd what they were

thirsting for. "Everybody's thirsting for something in life. Is it heavenly things or earthly things?" he asked.

Kelley said the answer can be found in one's actions.

"Are you desiring to have His word in your life? Do you throw your Bible in the back seat (after church) or are you on your third or fourth because you wear it out or give it away?" Kelley asked.

Matthew 25:35 states: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

"Are you sharing the eternal thirst? Are you greater in your walk with

Christ than the day you accepted Him?" asked Kelley.

He encouraged everyone to reflect on what they are thirsting for in life.

Only two Lenten services remain for 2024 -March 20 at Second Baptist Church in Barnwell and March 27 at Gateway Church of Barnwell. A free lunch is served from noon to 12:30 p.m. with the service following from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

A love offering will be held at the end of each service to help the Barnwell County Ministerial Coalition with its efforts to help the community.

Coloring Contest Rules: 1. Contest is open to children ages 3-10. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors Contestants may use crayons, markers or colored pencils to color the pictures. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but may not assist in coloring. 3. Entries are considered property of this newspaper and may be printed by this newspaper. 4. All entries must be postmarked before March 22, 2024 by noon for consideration. OLORING CONTES

The Easter Bunny himself invites you to enter our Easter coloring contest for a chance to win some very eggcellent prizes, compliments of our contest sponsors!



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Parent's Name:		Phone:	
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Mail or drop off at the office: The People-Sentinel, PO Box 1255, Barnwell, SC 29812 | 22 Burr Street, Barnwell, SC

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

The People-Sentinel

WEHS culinary students explore international cuisine





Contributed by WEHS

Kimberly Walters' Culinary Arts Management I class held an International Cuisine Exposition on November 30, 2023 in the Culinary Arts room.

The assignment was to explore different cuisines outside of the United States and create a tri-board display to accompany the food they would prepare. As students completed research and prepared different foods, they learned of different flavors, food textures, cultures, food customs, food preparation, and food demonstration.

It was great having our incoming Superintendent for Barnwell County School District, Dr. Crissie Stapleton, witness the exposition!





The following are the Principal and A/B Honor Roll recipients for Macedonia Elementary/Middle School **Second Quarter**



Principal's Honor Roll:

1st: Reese Holman, Kaisley Isaac, Everleigh Mims, Bailey Hunter, Aurora Wieland

2nd: Mauriyah Akins, Jesus Perez-Vasquez

3rd: Xyron Bongcawel, Jace Bryant, Rayven Howard, Khilee Howze, Jaycee Mims

'Mirackle Alomar, Ayden Carrigg Ian Hughes, Eli Walker

6th: Heather Nickens

7th: Abigail Smith

A/B Honor Roll

1st: Terrie Close, Connor Collins, Angela Henry, Karmyn Jackson, Savannah Jones, Kendaya Sanders, Kash Woodley, Elsie Futrell, Zuria Hammonds, Jordyn Ware 2nd: Ranazmay Curtis, Tamia Foust,

Kylie Hammonds, Imani Jones, Kirahyo McCreary, Jace Reed,

Lebron Staley, Kaylee Brown, Ashondre Rowe Earl Walker, Maurice Williams Jr.

3rd: Hailey Cutherbertson, Ava Eady 4th: Stacy Bongcawel, Dareal Webster, Jewel Parker

5th: Sylvia Chavis, Chase Harrison, Ethan Jeter, Ivori Roundtree, Mauriyah Williams

6th: thuya Aung, Maurice Williams, Tarriah Johnson, Daquan Stroman, Lauren Frazier, Jackie Holman, Kahrin Mixon, DeMaurice Odom, Braylon Owens

7th: Davis Tyler, Sanaa Jenkins, Bryson Jones, Nevaeh Joyner, Tatiana Pernell, Tyliah Williams, Kenya Tyler

8th: Mylia Brown, Taylor Evans, Emmilee Moors, Tariq Odom, Rainey Priester, Kalayah Williams, Trevor Kinard, Faith Washington



WEHS ninth grader "gears up" to become entrepreneur

Contributed by Yata Tobin Voorhees University

Voorhees **A**versity GEAR UP student has dared to be different and soared to new heights in reaching her dream of entrepreneurship at an early age.

Camille Wallace is one of many bright ninth-grade scholars from one of 10 school districts who attended STEM-U/ S.O.A.R. (Success Opens Additional Resources). The Williston-Elko High School student expressed interest in starting and developing her own business as an eyelash technician.

"She was very inquisitive and volunteered to share her business venture in front of her fellow GEAR UP mates. Not only was she excited about attending SOAR, but she was also looking forward to absorbing all the information from the wonderful speakers. Camille communicated that she started doing lashes after watching YouTube videos and practicing on her friends and family," stated a press release from Voorhees.

Camille indicated that she has a business plan, which she created on her own. She even designed a logo along with her business cards. Camille plans to take classes to become certified.

Christopher Williams, the director of STEM-U, hosted the S.O.A.R. He is providing scholars with a unique approach to success and leadership.



Williston-Elko High School student Camille Wallace attended STEM-U/S.O.A.R. Contributed By: Voorhees University

He was so impressed with Camille's motivation and desire to succeed, that he invested in her entrepreneurial dream by giving her a \$1,000 business start-up donation.

"She was so ecstatic that GEAR UP afforded her this opportunity and that they were all willing to back her! Not only did GEAR UP and STEM U invest in her business, but her future as well. Camille walked away with a deeper understanding of how success and leadership work hand in hand. She fully understands the value of education, working hard and never giving up," stated the release.

GEAR UP, its staff, and STEM U continually show that they really care about their students in and outside of the classroom. STEM U allowed our scholars to unpack and break down the meaning of success and GEAR UP is the constant that desires to give their students every opportunity to succeed in life.

College Notes: Locals earn academic excellence in colleges, universities

Fall 2023 President's and Dean's Lists **USC** Salkehatchie

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie is proud to recognize 94 of its exceptional students for achieving the honor of President's List or Dean's List for the Fall 2023 term. To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a 4.0 GPA in all coursework attempted. To qualify for the Dean's list, a student must earn at least a 3.5 GPA in all coursework attempted.

"We are proud to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of our students who have performed at the highest academic levels. The recipients of these awards should take pride in their success," Dean April Cone said. "Excellence in the classroom provides a transformative opportunity for our students that will help them realize their career goals and improve not only their lives, but also the lives of their families and those in our community."

President's List (4.0 GPA)

Andrew Bradley, Jessica Conley, Caleb Cook, Makayla Craven, Ahava Folk, Gabrielle Goldab, Rocshe Green, Nora Holmes, Bená James, Jeremy Morris, Brittany Mullis, Shehzeen Muqri, Jalyn Perry, Kaitlin Settle, Megan Williams, Mia Zito, Scarlett Zorn.

Dean's List (3.5 – 3.99 GPA) Amaika Adi, Moses Aguilar-Diaz, Kye Alberto, Gage Boykin, Julia Brand, Grace Breland, James Brown, Noah Brown, Jaiden Cancela, Noah Catterton, Nishant Chinnasami, Jai'Viaun Chisolm, Lillian Christensen, Jada Christian, Allen Colson, Molly Copley, Hailey Craven, Hannah Craven, Makayla Creech, Windell Crews III, Candis Cromedy, Bryan Crosby, Isaac Cubero, Caio Dias Reno Santana, Jahmai Dixon, Jessica Donaldson, Recartez Dredden II, Sydney Driggers, Ameerah Evans, Sarai Frazier, Thiago Friedrich Cunha, Matthew Frye, Haley Grace Furr, Bradley Garland, Nicola Gray, Allen Herndon, Ethan Hodges, Rylee Hoeller, Mason Hutto, Leroy Ikejiaku, Reese Jordan, Sydney Kashner, Donovan Kirk, Charryl Gwyne Lacanin, Cade Linder, Cindy Lopez, Taylen Lyons, Angel Minchew, Jake Muir, Jeremy Orr, Diya Patel, Leah Polite, Aiden Pomnitz, Andre Portal Jr., Makhi Rivers, Keyanna Roden, Allison Rose, Alexandra Rosier, Dakota Sanders, Laynie Sanders, Ashlyn Sarvis, Amanda Sharpe, Jaylin Shaw, Islene

Silva Gutierrez, Ka'Liyah Taylor, Ella Tevid, Leah

Tevid, Lillie Thompson, Shontavia Tyler, Alicia Vasquez, Joelliane Vasquez, Laney Vaughn, Janaysha Walker, Mackinsie Ward, Jabari Washington, Sarah Williams, Nyasia Wright

Olivia Hartley named to Wofford College's fall 2023 Dean's List

Olivia Hartley of Barnwell has been named to the fall 2023 Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for at least 12 semester hours of graded courses and attain a semester grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg. It offers 27 major fields of study to a student body of 1,875 undergraduates. Nationally known for the strength of its academic program, outstanding faculty, experiential learning opportunities and successful graduates, Wofford is recognized consistently as a "best value" and for its commitment to student success and accessibility for low- and middle-income students. The college community has 12 sororities and fraternities as well as 20 NCAA Division I athletics teams

ARREST: Washburn facing extradition for out-of-state charges

with the Hamilton County many of his interactions with The People-Sentinel. "These Sheriff's Office and South municipal employees and Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) throughout

Washburn will remain incarcerated at the Barnwell County Detention Center until extradited to Noblesville, Indiana for the six charges, according to the Barnwell assisted in the arrest.

Washburn, a self-titled 'First Amendment auditor," has been vocal about bringing education to the disciplinary practices, and transparency within local public," said Washburn in the budget expenditures. government, often filming a Feb. 21 interview with Washburn explained he

agencies, such as BPD, and posting on YouTube and infringed upon all the time. social media.

involving video and audio County Department of recording in public spaces.

County Sheriff's Office who exposing the corruption through a Freedom of

people do not know their rights and they are being

On February 21, First Amendment audits Washburn alongside are part of a growing social two other "auditors" movement across the country went to the Barnwell Motor Vehicles (DMV) "What we're doing is requesting information going on in the county of Information Act (FOIA) Barnwell, and it's all over request such as names South Carolina, and we're of employees, salaries,

information via YouTube.

According to an article by the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC)'s Uptown, auditors, "armed with mobile devices and a YouTube channel, have been pushing the boundaries of the First Amendment by entering public buildings, disrupting business and recording reactions" with the primary goal being "to provoke a reaction."

It is well within an individual's First Amendment rights to photograph, film, or audio record public officials in public spaces. However, auditors with a larger audience can earn profit from posting their video to social media through advertisements and views - causing out-ofstate organizations like the New Hampshire Municipal Association to question whether their motives are truly in the effort of increasing governmental transparency. While the First Amendment

allows for freedom of speech and the press, grants the right to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances, municipalities can place policies on properties they own or certain public areas to ensure normal operations, according to MASC.

On February 5, the City audio, or recording as a we're adopting this policy."

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of Barnwell approved the reason for probable cause in a First Amendment Audit policy; an ordinance that sets guidelines for public has been the recipient of spaces and expectations for municipal employees.

According to Mayor Ron Still, individuals entering municipal facilities "can be a little bit intimidating to some employees," and this ordinance "curtails" that.

On February 13, the Town of Williston passed a similar ordinance that sets guidelines to prevent "activity that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of administration of municipality business." The ordinance further

properties as limited access areas, such as employee offices, mailrooms and break areas, and maintenance and warehouse facilities. Only employees, elected and appointed officials, and those invited can access

limited access areas for the "express purpose of conducting business.' According to the Town of Williston's ordinance, law enforcement can approach those recording video or audio in public spaces if

find the action suspicious. cannot use photography,

a complaint is made from

municipal employees who

potential future investigation.

The Town of Blackville numerous FOIA requests by local "auditors" and interactions with town employees have been shared across social media.

At the town's February 20 meeting, Washburn alongside another local auditor, John "Ethan" Hutson, spoke during public comment stating the town has failed to provide timely fulfillment to submitted FOIA requests.

Hutson detailed interactions between himself and town administrator Fonda Patrick, as well as interactions with BPD Chief deems certain municipal Ray Crawford which he recalls being "scared" during. Many of these interactions were filmed and are available on the social media accounts of "auditors."

At the town's March 18 meeting, the council passed an ordinance titled the First Amendment Audit Policy. This ordinance similarly sets guidelines for the use of public spaces and requirements of municipal employees.

"We do not want to impact anybody's rights," said Mayor Pernell. "You have the right to certain things, but at the same time there However, law enforcement is a guideline that needs to be followed, and that's why

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*Coupon can't be used if the

Cheeseburger Basket is the

Special Of The Day.

ANIMALS: JDA students donated to shelter



Ms. Burton's first graders and Ms. Bodiford's second graders loading up the donated items to send to the shelter.

and a bit about where she came from. When she told her students the shelter always was in need of animal food and supplies,

to JDA and Ms. Beverly shelter director Marlena Ms. Burton with her rescue Burton's Class. We could Ray.

transition from the shelter, see that each one of them genuinely cared about our animals and their stories. They were so proud to be able to do so much for them. BCAS is touched by they immediately wanted their outpouring of love for Barnwell County's "We are very grateful abandoned animals," said



dog Roxie.

COLLISION: Bucket truck operator remains in hospital after on-the-job injury FROM PAGE 1A

patient is transported to the Barnwell Regional Airport off of Ellenton Street via ambulance and then transferred via helicopter to

However, a tire issue with the responding ambulance resulted in the helicopter changing route and landing in an adjacent lot to the

NO ALCOHOL

Crews were on scene for over an hour.

The 2016 Ford bucket truck in which Randolph was operating from was legally parked facing north against the curb in the outermost lane, according to BPD's control measures in place

a medical helicopter, the headed to Augusta, Ga. Michael Butts, two orange cones were placed in front and behind the truck.

> BPD is not pursuing charges in relation to this accident.

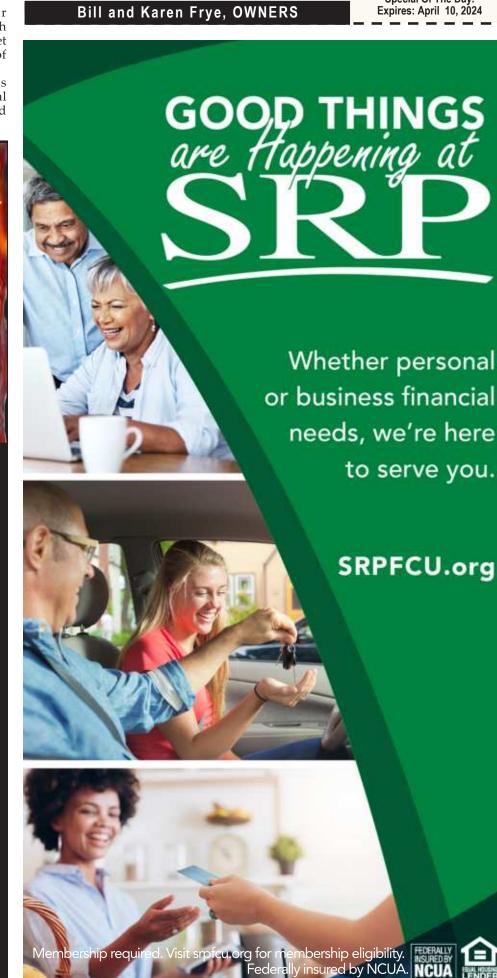
The tractor trailer reportedly had \$500 worth of damages, and the bucket



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The People-Sentinel Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Warhorse softball wins four straight



Jaidyn Devore pitched a masterful 7-inning no-hit shutout against a good Silver Bluff team, striking out 15 in the victory.

Photo By: Donna Miley

VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL **SPORTS SCHEDULE**

BASEBALL

Wednesday, March 20 JDA @ Heathwood Hall 6:00 Thursday, March 21

- Bamberg-Ehrhardt @ Barnwell 7:00
- Williston-Elko @ Horse Creek Academy 5:00
- Monday, March 25 • Edisto @ Barnwell 6:00
- Williston-Elko @
- Calhoun County 6:00 Tuesday, March 26
- Wagener-Salley @ Barnwell 7:00

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, March 20 • Barnwell @ Wagener-Salley 6:30 Thursday, March 21

• Williston-Elko @ Horse Creek

- Academy 5:00 Friday, March 22
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt @
 - Barnwell 6:30 Monday, March 25
- Edisto @ Barnwell 6:30 • Williston-Elko @ Calhoun County 7:00
- Tuesday, March 26 Wagener-Salley @ Barnwel

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday, March 21 • Bamberg-Ehrhardt @

- Blackville-Hilda 5:30 Friday, March 22
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt @
- Barnwell 7:00
- Monday, March 25 • Barnwell @ Edisto 7:30
- Blackville-Hilda @ Ridge Spring-Monetta 6:00

<u>GIRLS SOCCER</u> Friday, March 22

- Barnwell @ Midland Valley 6:00
- Monday, March 25

• Barnwell @ Edisto 6:00 TRACK & FIELD

Wednesday, March 20 Blackville-Hilda and Williston-Elko @ Calhoun County 5:00

GOLF

- Wednesday, March 20 • Barnwell/Edisto/Horse Creek Academy @ River Birch 4:00 Thursday, March 21
- Barnwell/Silver Bluff/Pelion/ Midland Valley @ Sweetwater CC 4:00
 - Region Match @ Williston-Elko 4:30
- Monday, March 25 • Barnwell/Wagener Salley/ Silver Bluff @ Indian Trail 4:00
 - Tuesday, March 26 • Barnwell/Williston-Elko/ Bamberg-Ehrhardt@ Sweetwater 4:00

TENNIS

- Wednesday, March 20 • Fox Creek @ Williston-Elko 5:00
- Friday, March 22
- Williston-Elko @ Hannah Pamplico 5:00
- Monday, March 25 • White Knoll @ Williston-Elko 5:00



The Barnwell Warhorses won 4 straight, beating Ridgeland-Hardeeville (twice), Branchville, and Silver Bluff over a three-day period.

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse softball team had a busy week, playing four times last week, against Ridgeland-Hardeeville (twice), Branchville, and Silver Bluff. The Warhorses ran the table and won all four games to improve to 5-1 on the season and 2-0 in Region 6 AA competition.

On Tuesday, March 12, the Horses loaded the bus and traveled to play a doubleheader against their region foes from Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School. Despite playing in Ridgeland, there was no home field advantage for the Jaguars. Barnwell pitched two shutouts on the way to 16-0 and 10-0 wins.

In game one, freshman hurler Laney Grubbs struck out seven Jaguars in three innings for the complete game shutout. Offen-

ing 1 for 1 with 2 RBIs and scored 2 runs. Kaylen Mays was 1 for 1 at the plate. Bre'Anna Buckmon went 1 for 3 with 2 runs and an RBI. Brooklyn Gordon scored 2 runs. Kendall O'Berry was 1 for 3 with a run scored. Kah'miyah Williams had an impressive game, going 2 for 2 with 2 RBIs and scoring 2 runs.

In game two, Tiera Arnold pitched 3 scoreless innings with 7 strikeouts and threw a complete game shutout. Kaylen Mayes and Brianna Croft led the Horses offense, both going 2 for 3 from the plate and both adding an RBI and scoring runs for Barnwell.

"The double header was our first two region games. I'm proud of our team on the two wins to become 2-0 in the region," said Barnwell head coach Michael Beasley.

After playing twice the night before, the Horses hit the road again to face a tough Branchville team the next night. Barnwell had sively, Grubbs went 1 for 2 from to fight for this one, but pulled the plate, with a run batted in out a 5-4 win over Branchville.

doubles, scored 2 runs, and had an RBI. Brooklyn Gordon went 2 for 4 with 2 RBIs, scored a run, and hit a homerun.

"We headed out again on Wednesday to take on a very good Branchville team and Jaidyn Devore got the start and held Branchville to 1 hit that came in the top of 7th. Our hitting was the difference maker, we hit for three doubles, a triple and a two-run homerun by Brooklyn Gordon. I was also proud of our defense that made solid routine plays," said Coach Beasley.

The Barnwell Warhorses played their fourth game in three days when they hosted the Silver Bluff Bull Dogs on Thursday, March 14. Barnwell played a tough Bull Dog squad, but came out on top 2-0 securing their fourth victory of the week. Jaidyn Devore collected the hard-fought win, pitching 7 scoreless innings for the complete game shutout. Jaidyn struck out 15 Bull Dogs and only allowed 2 walks on the night. Offensively, Jaidyn walked twice, matching (RBI), and scored a run. Jaidyn Jaidyn Devore pitched 7 innings the total she allowed for the this really good Warhorse soft-Devore went 2 for 3, had an RBI, and collected 10 strikeouts for whole Silver Bluff team. Abigail ball team. and scored 3 runs. Brianna Croft Barnwell and was a star at the Corley led the Warhorse offense, was 1 for 2 and scored a run. plate for the Horses. Offensively, going 1 for 2 for the game with a Abigail Corley had a big game go- Devore went 3 for 4, hit two triple, a walk, and scoring both



Brooklyn Gordon hit a homerun to help Barnwell win a tight 5-4 battle over Branchville.

Photo By: Mike Beasley

runs for the Horses.

"On Thursday evening, we squared off with rival Silver Bluff. We didn't muster many hits, but we didn't need many with the pitching performance of Jaidyn Devore, pitching a no hitter and striking out 15," said Coach Beasley.

Coach Beasley was pleased with his team's effort. "I'm proud of our team for the growth that they are displaying in each game we play. The team is believing in each other and supporting each other. This team can be special if they continue to strive together towards improving each practice and game. I also would like to thank everyone in our community for their support of our players. Please continue to support them, they work really hard," said Coach Beasley.

Barnwell will travel to Wagener-Salley on Wednesday, March 20 for a 6:30 game and will host Bamberg-Ehrhardt Friday, March 22 with first pitch scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Come out and support

Blackville's Tamari Daniels and Jamarien Priester shine at Pelion track meet

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@tĥepeoplesentinel.com

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team, coached by Rushani Burke, traveled to Pelion last Saturday, March 16 for a multi-team track meet. The Hawks had several athletes that improved upon their personal bests, but the two names Coach Burke first mentioned were Tamari Daniels and

SPORTS

LI SPORTS

2nd overall in the 200 meters.

Tamari Daniels posted a 10:83 time in the 100 meters and he finished

Coach Burke was asked how he thought the meet went, and replied, "It went really well. We had some of our athletes improving on their personal records. The most impressive was Tamari Daniels running a 10:99 in the 100-meter preliminary and then went back and ran a 10:83 in the finals. He also came 2nd overall in the 200-meter dash. Jamarien Priester also stood out and was the overall winner at the meet in



Jamarien Priester was the 1st place finisher in the 110-meter hurdles

the 110-meter hurdles."

Tamari Daniels is a familiar name to Hawk fans. Tamari was a standout football player for Blackville's football team and has signed to play college football at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tamari has been recruited to play slot receiver, punt returner, and kickoff returner for the Golden Bulls.

Jamarien Priester is a true track star. Jamarien just recently signed to run track at Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina. Priester is a hurdle specialist who can compete in other events, but

Photo By: SCFCA

his love is running the hurdles. When asked about his favorite memory as a Blackville-Hilda Hawk, Jamarien said his favorite was "winning my first medal in the 110-meter hurdles." Coach Burke said Priester has "natural athleticism and a drive to suc-

Coach Burke has high expectations for his Hawks track and field team and will push his athletes to continue to improve in life's biggest challenge, the battle to beat their personal bests, over and over again. Good luck Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team.

Local football athletes showcase talents at combine

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

ocal athletes from Blackville-Hilda and Barnwell high schools participated in the Carolinas' Coaches Combines this past Saturday, High School.

Some of Blackville-Hilda's and Barnwell's best high school football players attended and competed at the invitation only combines to showcase their skills and talents and see how they stack up against others from all over the state. Results from these combines are monitored by players, fans, high school coaches, and colleges looking for future prospects.

The Carolinas' Coaches Combines is a series of combines that are hosted throughout the states of South Carolina and North Carolina. The players selected are the top players in the classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 in the states of South Carolina and North Carolina. This is an invitation only event for athletes and specialists to show off their athletic abilities. The combines are in conjunction with the South Carolina Football Coaches Association (SCFCA) and the North Carolina Football Coaches Association (NCFCA). This series of combines provides football players with the opportunity to display their abilities through a variety of measurable combine stations, as well as participate in competition activities to showcase their skills.

Blackville-Hilda rising seniors that partici-

pated were Jaquel Holman, Namair Anderson, Samari Williams, Timothy Beard and Jabarius Johnson. Barnwell had rising seniors Cam Austin, Jayden Pinckney, Logan Sturkie, Tony Cherry, and Ja'Quan Peeples participate.

"I was really proud of March 16 at Woodland how our kids competed and tested. We know going into the fall that we have a lot of players returning and we also know we are blessed with a significant amount of team speed," said Blackville-Hilda head football coach Kevin Jones. "We are fortunate to have a lot of naturally talented kids but the kids in the track program have seen a



Barnwell's Cam Austin, Logan Sturkie, Ja'Quan Peeples, (coach Isaac Cooper), Jayden Pinkney, and Tony Cherry participated in the Carolinas' Coaches Combines held at Woodland High School.

Coach Jones said, "Jaquel Holman is someone everyone knows about due to his big season last year. For him to go out at his size and run a laser timed 4.45 40yard dash, which was the fastest of the session, and then also run the fastest

Speaking of his athletes,

3-cone drill at 4.22 seconds is hard to imagine. Samari 3-cone drill time and also Anderson got off track on his forty, hit a cone and still turned in a 4.6 and

forty while throwing up 21 reps on the 185-pound bench press. Jabarius Johnson put a 4.8 forty on the board from his linebacker

Barnwell's head football coach Brian Smith was pleased with his players' showings at the combines saying, "I am very excited and proud of the way our guys competed at the Carolina Coaches Combine. This group has represented our school and community well."

Smith was quick to point out Barnwell's quarterback, Cam Austin, ran the second fastest time for the combines in the 40-yard dash, posting a laser measured 4.54 seconds. Wide receiver Logan Sturkie ran a 4.68 40yard dash.

Both teams also took several underclassmen to the combines. Blackville's Messiah McFadden, Jayden Dash and Kaiden Aiken along with Barnwell's Jackson Bedingfield, Copeland Owens, Damajhai Devoe, Torye Pickens, and Henri Creech all participated.

McFadden ran a 4.6 forty Williams turned in a great which is a great time, but even better when you reran a 4.5 forty. Namair alize he posted that time while being almost 6 feet, 4 inches tall.

With such great athletes was dominant in DB drills. for both schools, it looks Timothy Beard is our nose like Blackville-Hilda and guard and offensive tackle Barnwell will have exciting and even he ran a sub 5 football seasons to come.



Blackville's Jabarius Johnson, Samari Williams, (coach Kevin Jones), Timothy Beard, Namair Anderson, and Jaquel Holman participated in the Carolinas' Coaches Combines held at Woodland High School.

Photo Contributed

significant jump in speed spring and early summer over the last year. We are about the possibilities for excited heading into late 2024."



Blackville-Hilda's Jaquel Holman had the fastest 40-yard dash and shuttle runs at the combines. Photo By: Kevin Jones







The People Sentinel

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🌃 Elearnor's Corner

Barnwell baseball wins three in a row



The Warhorses watch and cheer for their teammate at the plate in an extra-inning win against 4A May River.

Photo By: Aerial Baxley

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse baseball team had a good week, winning three straight games to improve

to 5-1 early in the season. After taking both games of a doubleheader played at Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School, the Horses beat the 4A May River team fashion.

On Tuesday, March 12,

the Ridgeland-Hardeeville Jaguars for a doubleheader. In game one, Barnwell cruised to a 14-0 shutout behind the excellent pitchtwo days later in dramatic ing from Case Davis. Davis tossed 5 scoreless innings, striking out 13 Jaguars and only allowing one hit and one walk. Offensively, Tommy Reid led the Horses going 3 for 4 from the plate and scored 2 runs.

Game two saw Kaleb Mc-Cormack take the mound for an inning, striking out 3 Jaguars and only allowing one walk. The Warhorse offensive attack was led by a trio of hitters that all went 3-for-3 from the plate. Cam Austin went 3-for-3 with 3 RBIs, and scored 3 runs. Jaevin Santos went 3-for-3 at the dish, scored 3 runs, and contributed 4 RBIs. Trey Boleman hit 3-for-3, scored 3 runs, and drove in 6 runs for the Horses.

Barnwell head coach Cody McCollum was asked about his thoughts on the tive to have a guy out there In game two, I was very pleased with our approach Boleman in the 4th inning.

Barnwell traveled to face at the plate. Our guys took Holding May River scoreadvantage of good pitches when they were thrown. I believe we tallied eighteen hits in two innings. We always talk about playing in May, well starting 2-0 in the region helps us to accomplish that goal."

Two days later, the Warhorses hosted a good 4-A baseball squad when May River rolled into Barnwell. May River jumped out to an early lead, but the Warhorses continued to battle, tying up the game at 5-5 after five innings. From that point on, both teams' pitching would not allow another run over the next 4 innings.

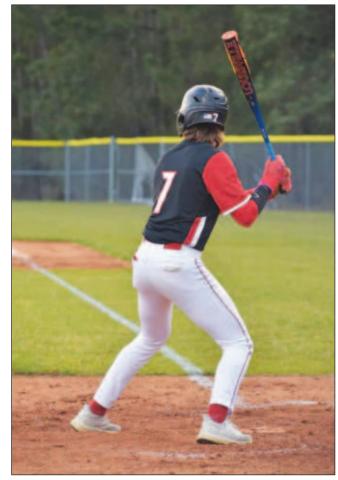
At the end of nine innings, the score stood at 5-5. Kaleb McCormack scored the winning run in the 10th inning to give the Horses a hard fought 6-5 win.

Coach McCollum was happy with his team's comeback win, saying, "I am super proud of this team for battling the way doubleheader wins and we did. May River is a very said, "In game one, Case good baseball team and Davis gave an unbelievable will compete for a region pitching performance. In title in Class 4A. We trailed games like this, it is impera- 5-1 at one point in this game and the guys never that will throw strikes and flinched. Cameron Austin that is exactly what he did. gave us a chance to win coming in in relief of Trey

less for the next 6 innings. Kaleb McCormack worked a leadoff walk in the 10th inning which ended up being the winning run."

Barnwell will host local rivals from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School on

Thursday, March 21 with first pitch scheduled for 7 p.m. Come out and support this tough Warhorse team as they look to keep adding to their win total.



Trey Boleman went 3/3, scored 3 runs, and had 6 RBIs in one game vs. Ridgeland-Hardeeville. Photo By: Aerial Baxley

Warhorse girls soccer scores 3-0 win over Jaguars

Sports Writer

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6-5 win over May River.

Cam Austin pitched 6 scoreless innings in Barnwell's

Photo By: Aerial Baxley

The Barnwell Warhorse girls soccer team hit the road for a region match against the Ridgeland-Hardeeville Jaguars last Friday, March 15 and came away with a 3-0 region win. The victory moved the Warhorses to 5-1 on the season, but more importantly, it was a Region 6-AA win.

The Warhorses have been playing a much-improved game under new head coach Noel Conaway. When asked about getting that first region win and her outlook for her team, she responded by saying, "Last week was like a whole new season for us as we started region play. The girls played well and pulled out an important win. We're looking forward to keeping the momentum going with a couple of non-region matchups this

The Warhorses are playing a lot of underclassmen, and those young players are producing for the Horses. All three goals in



Coach Noel Conaway talks to her much improved Barnwell Warhorse squad. Photo By: Heather Brown

win were scored by underclassmen. Shelby McHenry (freshman), Ruthee Hamby (freshman), and Libby Vanacore (sophomore) accounted for all of Barnwell's scoring in the win.

Barnwell is getting some unselfish, tough play from Rudd and Kaydrian Poplin her seniors. Kaydrian Poplin had an assist and is mariona Mayes and fresh-

Warhorse defense.

As far as leadership goes, Coach Conaway said, "We've got a mix of leaders in our senior class as well as our freshman and sophomore classes. Seniors Sara along with sophomore Saalways tough on defense. man Shelby McHenry are

the Ridgeland-Hardeeville Senior Sara Rudd is also making big contributions an important part of the on defense. We've also got a mix of kids from all classes making offensive contributions as well. We will miss our seniors next year but we've got talented underclassmen group who will continue to grow and take over increasing leadership roles over the next few years as well."

Coach Conaway went

of kids who want what's best for the team and are important for the team's willing to play anywhere I put them. During Friday's game, we were able to move cesses. With that mindset, a lot of people around in and continued improvedifferent positions and that ment from the younger versatility will help us continue to be successful down leadership from the up-

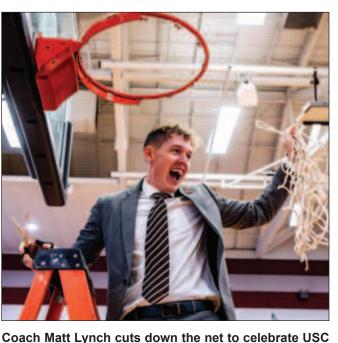
"team first, me second" atti- now, and for years to come.

on to say, "We've got a lot tude. The best teams always seem to know that what is success is far more important than individual sucplayers, along with strong perclassmen, this team is This sounds like a true looking to be a contender



Libby Vanacore scored a goal for the Horses in their 3-0 win over Ridgeland-Hardeeville. Photo By: Heather Brown

Salk wins Region 10 Championship, heads to national tournament



Salkehatchie's Region 10 Tournament Championship.

Photo By: Grace Sorrells

Contributed by USC Salkahatchie

The USC Salkehatchie men's basketball team capped a run through the Region 10 Tournament with a 69-58 victory over regular-season champion Caldwell Tech.

The win earned the team a trip to the 32-team NJCAA national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas where they will face Hutchinson in the first round. It is Salkehatchie's first trip to the men's national tournament since 2020.

was able to accomplish over the course of the season was nothing short of spectacular," said Head Coach Matt Lynch. "Every coach in the country dreams about his team playing its best basketball in March. I'm living that dream."

The team celebrated by the game. With the wire-towire victory Salkehatchie two weeks ago. improved to 20-13.

the youngest team in the 8 out of the last 10), with conference with a fresh- 2 of those wins coming trol of the game early and man-only roster, came to- against a nationally ranked gether down the stretch, opponent in Caldwell Tech. winning its final three Our guys deserve all the meeting, Caldwell Tech "What this young group games of the regular sea- credit for the work they put surged back into the game.



USC Salkehatchie basketball team is Region 10 Champions! Sitting: Tyler O'Neill, Justin Baxter, Makhi Rivers, Isaac Cubero; Standing: Assistant Coach Maurice Crowder, Finley Batchelar, Leroy Ikejiaku, Jaiden Cancela, Rhys Grocott, Darcy Pares, Head Coach Matt Lynch, Jay Chisolm, Declan Kom, Kye Alberto, Nevarda Higgins, **Grayson Kirk, Assistant Coach Christian White.**

win over Caldwell Tech

Salkehatchie, which had won 6 games in a row (and

have shown throughout the grind that is a college "Fourteen freshmen have basketball season," Lynch

> Salkehatchie seized concarried a 36-24 lead into the half. Unlike the previous

each run with one of its

lead to 61-55 but would get no closer as Salkehatchie, which overcame injury and foul trouble, made 8 of 10 free throws in the final 90 seconds to seal the victory.

Salkehatchie defeated

cutting down the nets after son, including a dominant in and the resiliency they But Salkehatchie answered Brunswick and Richard Bland in the first and second rounds of the Region Caldwell Tech sliced the 10 tournament to reach the

> Be sure to follow @USC-SalkMBB on Facebook, X, and Instagram for updates and livestream information.

JDA baseball wins two in a row

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

team faced Wardlaw Acad-



(Above) JDA's Logan Croft struck out 5 Blue Devils in the win over Williston-Elko. (Below) Tucker Fields and the JDA Raiders cruised to a 16-1 win over Wardlaw Photos By: Donna Miley / Contributing Photographer



The Jefferson Davis emy and Williston-Elko Williston-Elko. We played by Logan Croft who went Academy (JDA) last week, and came away Raiders baseball with wins over both. The ing fast and disruptive first was an expected easy win, but the Williston-Elko win surprised quite a few

> On Thursday, March 14, the Wardlaw Academy Patriots visited Blackville for a baseball game against the JDA Raiders. The Raiders had previously beaten the Patriots 6-0 at Wardlaw's home field, so JDA was pretty confident they would win again. This time the JDA home crowd got to cheer the Raiders on to a 16-1 one-sided game. JDA took control early and never looked back.

The next night, the Friday night Raider crowd was a little less certain as the Williston-Elko Blue Devils baseball team invaded JDA's stadium for a Barnwell County showdown. What a showdown it was with the underdog Raiders claiming a hard fought 6-4 victory.

"I think we played our best complete game versus

our brand of baseball, beon the bases, moving the runners, getting timely hits when needed, and leaning on our outstanding pitching staff," said Raiders head coach Manny Wright. "Offensively, we were led season."

2-for-2 with 1 RBI. He also came in to close the game going 4 strong innings, giving up 2 hits and striking out 5 Blue Devils. We are 7 pitchers deep which will keep our pitchers fresh for the deep stretch of the

With the win over Williston, Jefferson Davis now has a 5-2 record as they get ready for region play and hopefully a playoff run. Good luck to JDA as they will travel to Heathwood Hall on Wednesday, March 20 for a 6 p.m. game against the Highlanders.

Raiders softball wins 2 in a row

Jeff Miller Sports Write sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

he Jefferson Davis Academy (JDA) Raiders softball team collected two wins last week when they faced the Wardlaw Academy Patriots and then the Blue Devils from Williston-Elko High School the following night.

The Wardlaw Academy Patriots hit the road to take on the JDA Raiders last Thursday, March 14. The game was stopped in the fifth inning when JDA took a 13-3 lead and secured the victory by the 10-run rule. The 10-run rule declares the game completed after a 10run lead is attained.

"The game against Wardlaw started off slow but in 4th and 5th innings our bats came alive and we ended in 5 innings with a 13-3 score," said JDA head coach Bart

The next night, Friday, March 15, the Raiders would face a stronger opponent when the Williston-Elko Blue Devils would visit for a contest between Barnwell County softball teams. JDA's star pitcher, Reagan Still, took to the circle looking to send the local rivals home with a loss, and that is just what she did.

"Reagan Still pitched well in the win on Friday against Williston. We took the lead 3-0 early, then they tied the game at 3 each, before they took the lead. We were really good in the 6th and 7th innings, scoring 5 runs to win 8-5. Reagan Still pitched all 7 innings and was lights out in the 6th and 7th innings on the mound to get the win," said Coach Owens.

The JDA Raiders will get a little time off from playing with spring break coming, but will resume play on



Reagan Still pitched a complete game and earned the win over Williston-Elko.

Photo By: Tammy Still

April 8 when they hit the road for a game against Calhoun Academy, with the first pitch scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Come out and support the Raiders softball team!





Sophomore Justin Baxter with coaches Matt Lynch, Maurice Crowder and Christian Photo Contributed "JB is a perfect example

Salkehatchie sophomore Justin Baxter was recognized at his last home men's basketball game this season against Denmark Tech. For the season, he averaged 12 points and 8.1 rebounds per game.

of what the JUCO route can lead to... growth and success! He started as a practice player, turned walk-on, turned starter, to currently leading Region 10 in FG% (64%) and is third in rebounding. He's been a critical part of our success, and his teammates absolutely love him. I am grateful to have him on my bench and I am so excited to see what the future holds," Coach Matt Lynch said.



The JDA Raiders were all smiles after collecting back-to-back wins over Wardlaw Academy and Williston-Elko. Photo By: Kathy Googe