



Hawks fly high  
in track  
competition

Sports, B1

BHHS crowns  
royalty  
at Prom

Inside, A6



# The People • Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

VOLUME 147, NO. 52

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

2 SECTIONS / 16 PAGES / \$

## RV search warrant leads to 9 arrests

Alexandra Whitbeck and  
Jonathan Vickery  
Staff



The Barnwell County Sheriff's Office made nine arrests, including that of Daniel Kevin Hutto (above), in relation to a search warrant and subsequent burglary at a Barnwell RV park.

A usually quiet RV park in Barnwell was visited by law enforcement three times last week.

On Saturday, April 6, Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) deputies served a search warrant on a camper located in the Normanville RV Park on Hwy. 278. This resulted in the arrest of Tiffany Ray, William Crosby, Charles Ray, Carl Still, Joshua Still, Alicia Hilton and Amanda Wood. All were charged with drug related charges, according to BCSO.

On Wednesday, April 10, the

owner of a neighboring RV in the same park found two people inside his RV. The RV owner, who does not live there full time, had gone to his property to meet a deputy to check his property in light of the arrests made at the neighboring camper.

The male and female suspects fled the RV before deputies arrived, but not before a brief interaction occurred with others at the park. Deputies found drugs and weapons belonging to the suspects. A perimeter was established and the sheriff's office's dog team was called in to help track the suspects. The female suspect, Adrianna Morse, 36, was located Wednesday evening in

a neighborhood, but the male suspect evaded capture. Morse was arrested in conjunction with a burglary, according to BCSO.

Deputies responded back to the same RV park on Thursday, April 11 after the male suspect, Daniel Kevin Hutto, 35, was spotted there. Once again, Hutto ran off. The dog team and numerous law enforcement officers responded to track the suspect along with assistance from other county officials. The S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) also sent their helicopter to assist.

At the time of the April 11 incident, Sheriff Steve Griffith asked "everybody to stay out of the 278 area (near the RV

park)," due to the amount of law enforcement who were working to track the suspect.

On April 13, BCSO announced an arrest warrant has been issued for first degree burglary for Hutto, who was last seen wearing a black shirt, blue jeans, and brown boots.

On April 15 around 4 p.m., law enforcement was alerted of Hutto's presence at an Aiken emergency room.

He was arrested and charged with Burglary 1st degree, Burglary 2nd degree violent and Assault and Battery. SLED Fugitive Team and the Aiken County Sheriff's Office assisted with apprehending Hutto.



Last week's storm brought down 25 trees across the county, including this one that fell on the home of Johnnie Mae Wilson.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

## Storm crushes Blackville home

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

A mother and daughter are picking up the pieces of their home after it was crushed by a falling tree in last week's storm.

Johnnie Mae Wilson and her daughter, Erica, were awakened around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 11 to branches and limbs crashing into their Blackville home.

Before the tree fell, she recalls praying for safety.

"I was praying, 'Please God don't let that tree on my end fall on the house. Please keep us safe,'" said Wilson.

Two bedrooms and a bathroom were damaged inside Wilson's home in addition to the roof and external damages done by the falling tree.

Wilson and her daughter are still shaken from the incident, but sustained few injuries. Both have been working to remove salvageable items from the home while they stay with relatives.

Wilson has owned the home on Izlar Street since 1991 and has been a Blackville resident

all her life.

"We are thankful for everybody that is reaching out to us," said Wilson.

Due to damages done to the bedrooms and bathroom, she is accepting donations to replace what was lost such as bedsheets, bathroom supplies, and other items. Donations can be made to Wilson's home at 566 Izlar Street, Blackville, S.C. 29817.

The storm raged on through the night on Wednesday, April 10 and into the following day.

Including the one that fell on

See STORM, 3A

## City & county unite for potential kayak project

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The City of Barnwell and Barnwell County are moving forward in a joint effort to bring a new recreational opportunity to Lake Edgar Brown.

Rent!Fun is a Michigan-based company focused on bringing self-service recreational activities and opportunities to municipalities and organizations across the country.

With an \$18,000 one-time investment split evenly between the city and county, Rent!Fun would install a storage cage with four, 10-foot kayaks, paddles, and life vests at Kilkenny Park

on Jackson Street for use on Lake Edgar Brown.

"We think it would provide a nice opportunity for residents of the city, and the county as well, to be able to come out and enjoy recreational opportunities," said the City of Barnwell Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Roberts.

While this project is in the initial stages and no formal contract has been drawn, the Barnwell City Council unanimously approved moving forward at their April 1 meeting.

"Our lake is a valuable asset to our community offering endless opportunities for recreation and relaxation," said Hilary Hindman, Barnwell County Recre-

See KAYAK, 3A



Kilkenny Park in Barnwell is the prospective location for this joint project.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

## Officers promoted, honored at city council meeting

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Seven members of the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) were presented with plaques and promotions at the City of Barnwell's April 1 council meeting.

Chief Michael Butts first recognized Robert Miller Sr. and Reginald Mixon, welcoming them both out of retirement and back to the department.

"These two gentlemen have stepped up and helped me out," said the chief.

Mixon has accepted a chaplain position with the department. Chaplains provide emotional, moral, and spiritual support to officers and staff at police departments.

Miller served over 40 years with BPD and was asked to return as interim chief in 2023 before Chief Butts was hired. Miller will be returning to the badge as assistant chaplain.

Lieutenant Dennis Boots was recognized for five years of service to the city, and was honored with a plaque, a five-year pin, and coordinating hash marks. Lt. Boots was on duty during the

council meeting, however, his wife Sheila, accepted the plaque and credentials on his behalf.

Heather Still is the department's support specialist. She was recognized for her five years of service with a plaque.

"She is the one who keeps the department flowing, I wish I could take 10 of her," said Chief Butts of Still.

Patrol Officer First Class (PFC) Robert McGiniss was promoted to Corporal surrounded by family. Corporal McGiniss has been with the department since October 2023.

Although on duty during the

meeting, Sergeant David Greene was promoted to First Sergeant. His wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Karlee, accepted his plaque and credentials on his behalf.

PFC Molly Curley was promoted to Lance Corporal. She was supported by her wife during the council recognition. Curley was sworn into the department in October 2023.

**Boards and commissions**

The council also discussed changing the number of seats required on the planning commission. The commission currently calls for seven members, and city administrator Lynn McEwen

suggested the council consider dropping it to five members. Five members currently serve on the commission, all of which are certified to do so.

Seats on the board of zoning appeals also came into the conversation. The board is set to have five members - all seats but one are filled. McEwen asked council members to think about who they could ask to serve.

Serving on the planning commission or the board of zoning appeals is a volunteer position. The city often has a hard time

See CITY OF BARNWELL, 2A

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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### OBITUARIES, 7A

Ruth Iola Zissette Williams - Allendale  
Norma Jean Still Easterling - Barnwell



\$1.00 Retail  
For home delivery pricing, 4B



# CITY OF BARNWELL: Board, commission vacancies considered by City Council

FROM PAGE 1A

filling seats for both.

Ultimately, the council decided to wait until the special election on April 2 concluded and they could make a decision with a complete council. This special election was held to fill the vacant District 1 seat previously held by Mayor Ron Still. Ricky Dixon, the only candidate to file, won the seat.

### Approvals

The council approved the first reading of an amendment to Ordinance 2024-3 to include a downtown development committee to the list of standing committees in the city. These committees are council members appointed by the mayor.

### Recreation

The parks and recreation department recently welcomed a new hire to their maintenance crew, Jimmy Ray. Ray was welcomed by the council, administration, and parks and recreation director, Kevin Roberts.

"We are thrilled to have him," said Roberts.

Roberts told the council youth basketball had a successful season with 175 kids involved. Now, the department is gearing up for baseball season with numerous repairs being made at the Lemon Park complex for opening day on April 8.

Field lights and corresponding transformers were replaced, new shrubs were

installed along the Brown Street parking lot fence, and Roberts is working on price quotes for laser grading to align the field and bases. These renovations are all funded by the department's existing budget.

The recreation department is also working with maintenance crews to replace the privacy fence at College Park and clean up the hedges.

The Splash Pad at Fuller Park opens the week of April 15. It will remain open throughout the summer months from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

### Community needs assessment

Pamela McKnight, HEALing Partners Project Coordinator, presented one of their many initiatives to the council – the Community Needs Assessment.

This is a questionnaire relating to recreational and health opportunities in the county, or lack thereof. It can be found on <https://myhealingpartners.org/> and filled out virtually or by pencil and submitted.

Completing the 50 questions gives HEALing Partners a systematic way to look at health-related concerns in the region and gives them ideas on how to address it.

McKnight also announced the upcoming Happy Active Play (HAP) Festival on April 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Lemon Park. The festival will include field day events for all ages.



Chief Michael Butts presents Robert Miller Sr. (right) with his credentials and a badge for his latest return to BPD as assistant chaplain.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Reginald Nixon (left) and Robert Miller Sr. (right) will return to BPD to serve as the chaplain and assistant chaplain respectively. Nixon and Miller are pictured with Chief Michael Butts.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Recreation director Kevin Roberts welcomes new maintenance crew member Jimmy Ray to the team.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



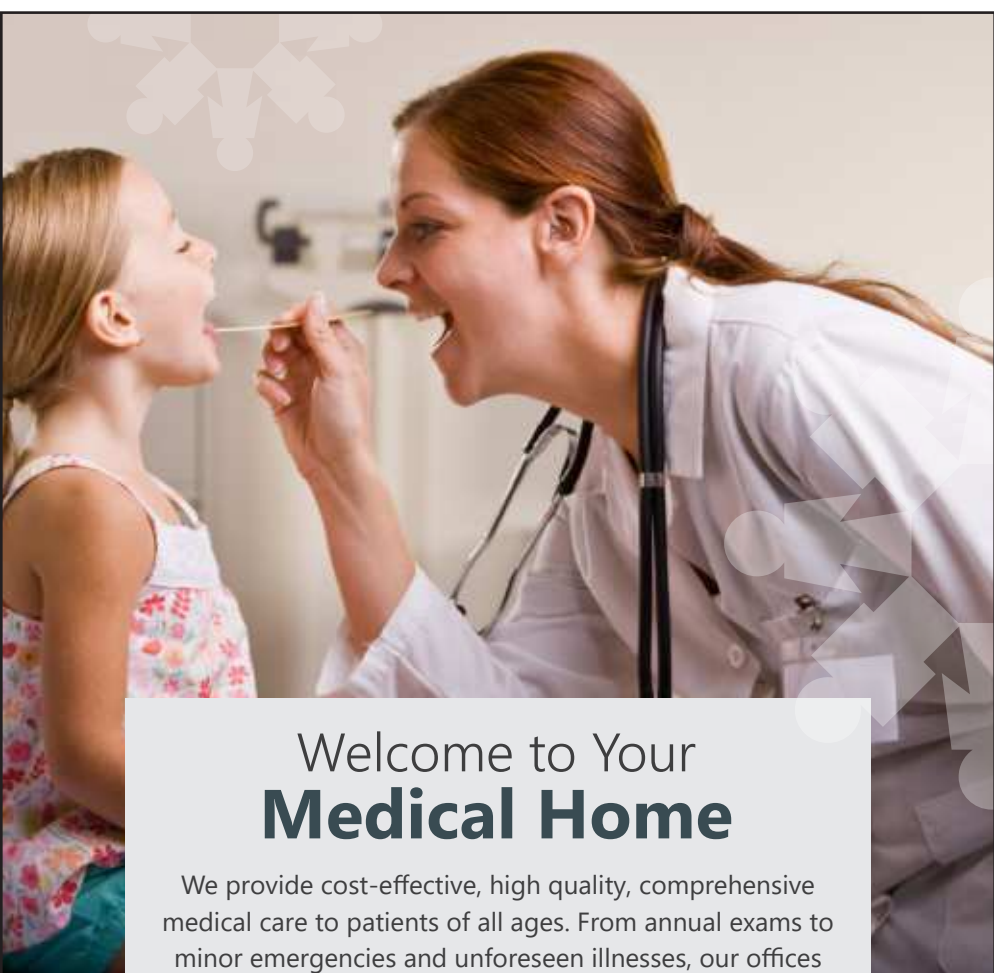
Patrol Officer First Class (PFC) Robert McGiniss (second from left) was promoted to Corporal surrounded by family.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Chief Michael Butts smiles alongside support specialist Heather Still (right) and Sheila Boots (left), the wife of Lt. Dennis Boots who was honored for five years of service.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



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803.245.2433

**Bamberg Specialty Services**  
803.956.6100 | \*Pharmacy: 803.956.6073

**Aiken Specialty Services**  
803.306.1433

**Family Medical Center of Blackville**  
803.284.1045

**Barnwell Family Specialty Services**  
**Women's Health Center**  
803.259.5762

**Barnwell Family Medicine**  
803.259.5762 | \*Pharmacy: 803.591.7891

**Barnwell Pediatrics**  
803.259.7337

**Williston Family Medicine**  
803.266.0060



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# Barnwell's Lake Edgar Brown parking lot, boat ramp closes due to lack of use

SCDNR  
Contributed



Lake Edgar Brown's parking lot and boat ramp at the end of Napier Road in Barnwell has permanently closed due to lack of use and its remote location, according to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). SCDNR's State Lakes program is erecting an earthen berm around the site and returning the parking lot to a natural state. Construction has already begun, and the berm was set to be completed by Saturday, March 9. Other boat ramps are

available on Lake Edgar Brown at the north and south parking lots off of Wellington Road—which is the crossroad at the center of the lake—as well as a boat ramp at the far north end of the lake, just off of Black Road. Lake Edgar Brown is a

100-acre lake providing largemouth bass, bluegill, shellcracker and catfish fishing. A portion of the lake is used for boating and water skiing. Lake Edgar Brown offers a boat ramp, fishing pier and is handicapped accessible. The lake is open 24 hours a day for fishing, and the lake is open a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset for all other allowable uses. SCDNR's State Lakes program offers fishing access to the public in areas of South Carolina where public fishing is often not easily available. A list and map of the 16 lakes is available at: SCDNR - State Lakes.

# STORM: High winds cause damage April 12



FROM PAGE 1A  
Wilson's home, Barnwell County Emergency Management Director Roger Riley estimates over 25 large trees came down in the storm. A 53 miles-per-hour (mph) gust of wind was recorded at the Barnwell County Airport amidst the storm, with high speeds starting at 44 mph across the county. Riley explained the storm was mainly on the western side of the county near Snelling, with a handful of incidents on the eastern side near Blackville. No major or significant power outages were reported. A few areas in Barnwell County did not have power entering Thursday morning, but it was restored soon after.

The Blackville home of Johnnie Mae Wilson and her daughter, Erica, was struck by a falling tree on the morning of April 12. The tree caused significant damage to the home.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

# Community health clinic/baby shower held

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Numerous agencies with a focus on health and community support joined forces to hold a Health Clinic and Community Baby Shower on September 9 at the Blackville-Hilda High School gymnasium. Barnwell County First Steps combined their annual community baby shower aimed at supporting new parents with a health clinic offering a variety of services. Car seat checks were offered by First Steps alongside the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) mobile unit through the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Healthy Me - Healthy SC was present at the event. The goal of this joint initiative by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Clemson

University is to improve healthcare access in rural and underserved populations across the state by building on Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service. Aside from a plethora of information, participants were able to get certain medical care as well as items that aid in forming a healthy lifestyle. Foodshare Bamberg provided boxes of fresh food for the

event as they frequently do throughout the region. Some of the other organizations present were Low Country Health Care, Southeastern Housing and Community Development, My Pharmacy and Optical, Save the Children, and many more. For more information about any of the services offered by Barnwell County First Steps, call their office at (803) 450-1493.



Many services were available at the Community Baby Shower, including supplies and information by Barnwell County First Steps.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

# KAYAK: Kilkenny Park considered for site

FROM PAGE 1A

ation Director. "Through this partnership, Barnwell County Recreation aims to enhance residents' quality of life by providing increased access to activities that promote health, well-being, and enjoyment of our natural surroundings." A kayak rental would cost \$20 for two hours. Individuals ages 13 and over would be required to download the Rent!Fun app, connect a payment method, and scan the code on the storage cage. The door to the cage then opens and the individual can access the kayak, paddle, and vest. Once the two-hour limit is over, the individual must take a picture of the equipment and upload it to the app to ensure it has

been returned without major damage. The \$20 rental fee will be split between Rent!Fun (\$10), the city (\$5), and the county (\$5). "While there is not a large monetary return expected for the project, it would increase the use of Kilkenny Park and Lake Edgar Brown as well as increase tourism into the city and county of Barnwell," said Roberts in a memo to council. "Patrons and visitors alike could enjoy this opportunity of kayaking without having to make a major investment." The county has assumed responsibility for installing a concrete pad for the kayak storage cage and a concrete ramp to access the lake. This partnership with

Rent!Fun would not require annual service fees or a staff member's oversight, according to Roberts, and the company will handle routine maintenance and repairs on the equipment. Rent!Fun also handles all of the liability - meaning the county or the city would not be at risk from an insurance standpoint in the event of an emergency or incident. Lake Edgar Brown is owned by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Hindman has been in conversations with the state agency about the project, and received their blessing to move forward. Both Roberts and Hindman are looking for grants to fund the initial investment.

# HAPPY ACTIVE PLAY

## 2024

# FREE EVENT

# FAMILY FUN FEST

"Revitalize Your Lifestyle: Happy Active Play Family Fun Fest Awaits!"

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Group Play

## APRIL 20

## 1PM - 4PM

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# RIB Cook-Off

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH @ 1PM

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Events

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

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

**4th Mondays**  
**Barnwell County Republican Party Meeting**  
 2269 Ashleigh Rd., Blackville. 6:30pm social time. 7-8pm 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

**Every Thursday**  
**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. 6-7pm

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

**Mon., Thurs., Sat.**  
**Virtual Class Dancing For Joy**  
 Exercise should be fun! Dancing for Joy is a fun way to dance and move to the beat and gain coordination, muscle tone and cardio fitness. Classes are free. We ask that you support your local food bank or pay it forward in any way you wish. Classes are virtual. To participate, email Elizabeth at egalaida@yahoo.com or text 301-473-3418 to get the Zoom information. Zoom links and codes are emailed out prior to every class.  
**Mondays 3:45-4:50pm**  
**Thursdays 9:15-10:30am**  
**Saturdays 10:15-11:30am**

**Thurs., April 18**  
**Voice of the Veteran "Let's Talk"**  
 34 Pechman St., Barnwell. Topic: "Update on PACT ACT and Toxic Exposure". Guest speaker Mr. Marlon Hinda from Columbia VARO. Come with questions. 6pm

**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

**Earth Day "Palmetto Pride" Community Clean Up**  
 Meet at Barnwell City Hall for supplies and locations within the City Limits. Supplies will be provided. 8am-12n

**Town of Hilda's Big Spring Clean (Earth Day litter pickup)**  
 Supplies provided. Meet at Town Hall. 9:30am

**Dishar Uniq Creations Pop-up Handmade Jewelry Sale**  
 60 Farrell Street, Williston. Necklaces, earrings, rings, and bracelets all made from gemstones and other materials. Call (803) 761-2355 with any questions. 10am-3pm

**Sun., April 21**  
**Literacy & Arts in the Park**  
 Read, draw, dance, learn, grow. Free food & giveaways. Maloney Field, 1035 Hampton Ave., Blackville. 4-7pm

**Mon., April 22**  
**Special Called Meeting for Allendale County Council**  
 rescheduled (previously Apr. 16). Council Chambers at the Courthouse. 5:30pm

**April 23 & 24**  
**Rosemary Baptist Spring Revival**  
 Rosemary Baptist Church 151 Emerald Lane, Barnwell. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Sam Davis, CEO of Joyful Sound Ministries in Blythewood 7pm

**Wed., April 24**  
**"JOY" Fellowship**  
 Blackville First Baptist invites adults to come fellowship with us on the last Wednesday of this month! Light lunch provided. Blackville First Baptist Church. Check out Blackville First Baptist's Facebook page for more info! 11:30am-1pm

**Thurs., April 25**  
**Generations Unlimited Board Meeting**  
 Conference room, T. E. Richardson Building, Barnwell 5:30pm

**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. 10am-2pm

**Got Drugs? National Take Back Day**  
 Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal. CVS parking lot, 9912 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell. 10am-2pm

**Sun., April 28**  
**130th Church Anniversary - Tabernacle Baptist Church**  
 3076 Dexter Street Blackville, South Carolina. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Benjamin D. Snoddy of Pinewood, SC, past president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina and retired pastor of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC. Please come out and help us celebrate this occasion. 12noon

**Annual Rainbow Tea**  
 Hosted by the Women's Missionary Ministry of St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church of 7110 Bay Street Elko, SC. Co-Pastor Tracey O'Neal of Trinity Outreach Ministries International of Aiken, SC will be the guest speaker. There is no cost to attend. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call (803) 266-4282. 3pm

**May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12**  
**Circle Theatre Death and Taxes**  
 Purchase tickets for \$20 online or at The People-Sentinel office at 22 Burr St., Barnwell. barnwellct.weebly.com  
**May 3, 4, 10, 11: 7pm**  
**May 5, 12: 3pm**

**Sat., May 4**  
**Spathetti Dinner Fundraiser and Silent Auction**  
 Trinity Baptist Fellowship Hall, 4721 Galilee Rd., Barnwell. Pasta with meat sauce, corn on the cob, garlic bread & dessert. \$10 per person carry out or dine in. Can also pick up 5:30-6:30 @ Bamberg Piggly Wiggly Parking Lot, Williston IGA Parking Lot, Blackville Old JR Food Mart (across from Subway). To purchase tickets contact Chasity @ 803-707-1690 or Angela @ 803-387-8277. All proceeds will benefit Daniel Gunnells. 4:30-7:30pm

**DIG STEM Festival**  
 A free outdoor event for children, teens, and families. STEM hands-on activities, exhibits, interactive demonstrations, and showcases. 13030 Main St., Williston www.digdp.org/digstem 11am-5pm

**'Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs' Fishing Rodeo**  
 S.C. Department of Natural Resources annual fishing rodeo. Must be 13 years or older to fish. A lifetime fishing license awarded & door prizes. Williston Town Park. 9-11am

**Tues., May 7**  
**Cancer Screenings**  
 Clemson Rural Health's mobile units will provide breast and cervical cancer screenings for qualifying women ages 21-64 regardless of insurance status. Walk-ups welcome! Voorhees University, 1897 Voorhees Rd., Denmark. Learn more: clemsonruralhealth.org. 803-516-9992. 9am-3:20pm

**Thurs., May 9**  
**Barnwell County Job and Resource Fair**  
 Williston First Baptist Church, 13030 Main St., Williston (gym) SC Works. 10am-1pm

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

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

### Barnwell Library Events

**ADULTS**  
**Adult Craft Night**  
**Thurs., April 25**  
 Drop in and make Door Hangers with us. \*Rescheduled from March\* Space is limited register at the front desk. If you were on the list for March you are already registered. If you can't make it please let Amanda know so she can take you off list. 5-6:30pm

**Adult Book Club**  
**Tues., Apr. 30**  
 We will be discussing: *The Thursday Murder Club* by: Richard Osman 3pm

**CHILDREN/FAMILY**  
**MyPlate-KidsCookingDemo**  
**Wed., April 10**  
 Learn how to make a healthy snack. Space is limited register at the front desk. 3:30-4:30pm

**Flapping Butterfly Craft**  
**Thurs., April 11**  
 Create and decorate your own butterfly using paper and a plastic straw. 4-5pm

**Crafter-Noon for Kids Bird Feeders**  
**Thurs., April 18**  
 Build and decorate your own bird feeder. 4-5pm

**STEM for Kids Wiggly Earth Worm Puppet**  
**Mon., April 22**  
 Make a wiggly Earth Worm using fishing line and beads. Then attach it to popsicle sticks to make your own puppet. 4-5pm

**MyPlate-KidsCookingDemo**  
**Wed., April 24**  
 Learn how to make a healthy snack. Space is limited register at the front desk. 3:30-4:30pm

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

**Sat., May 11**  
**1st 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, Lunch

**Fri., May 17**  
**The Allendale-Barnwell Relay for Life event**  
 Tiger Stadium in Allendale. Anyone interested in participating or forming a team may contact Artheen Fitts at 803-584-3368. 6pm

**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.scedmlms.org/TRS/courseDesc.do  
**Fri. 5:30-9:30pm**  
**Sat. 8am-4:30pm**  
**Sun. 8am-4:30pm**

**Sun., May 19**  
**Concert / Blackville First Baptist**  
 invites the community to a music concert by LouAnn Lee! Reception to follow. www.louannlee.com. Check out Blackville First Baptist's Facebook page for more info! 6pm

**Read Rattle & Roll**  
**Thurs., April 25**  
 11am  
 Enjoy themed songs and stories followed by free developmental screenings. To discover a child's strengths and identify areas where extra support may be needed, parents and caregivers will engage with their children through fun and interactive play focused on learning behavior and development. \*Sponsored by Help Me Grow S.C..

**APRIL JUST READ**  
*The Marvelous Monroe Girls* by: Shirley Jump, 4 Stars  
 Amanda, BCPL Manager

### Allendale County Library Events

**Wed., Apr. 10**  
**Five and Under Storytime**  
 Children ages 0-5 are welcome to hear stories, talk, sing, draw/write, and play your way to early literacy excellence at our interactive Storytime! 9:30am

**Wed., Apr. 17**  
**Seniors' Fun Day**  
 Calling all Seniors! Join us for an hour of Bingo fun and other fun activities. 3pm

**Wed., Apr. 24**  
**Crafternoon After School Fun**  
 Come join us for crafting at the library! Grades 2nd-5th. 3pm

### Blackville Library Events

**Tues., April 23**  
**Tues., May 21**  
 Story Time 10:30am

### Williston Library Events

**Thurs., Apr. 25**  
**After Hours Book Club**  
*The Light We Lost* by Jill Santopolo 6pm

**Tues., May 21**  
**Cancer Screenings**  
 Clemson Rural Health's mobile units will provide breast and cervical cancer screenings for qualifying women ages 21-64 regardless of insurance status. Walk-ups welcome! Barnwell County Health Dept., 11016 Ellenton St., Barnwell. Learn more: clemsonruralhealth.org. 803-516-9992 9am-3pm

**Sat., May 25**  
**Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church Male Chorus Anniversary**  
 Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 10620 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell. 3pm

## Local Directory

### Allendale Library

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

### Barnwell Library

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

### Blackville Library

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

### Williston Library

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

## MUSEUMS

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

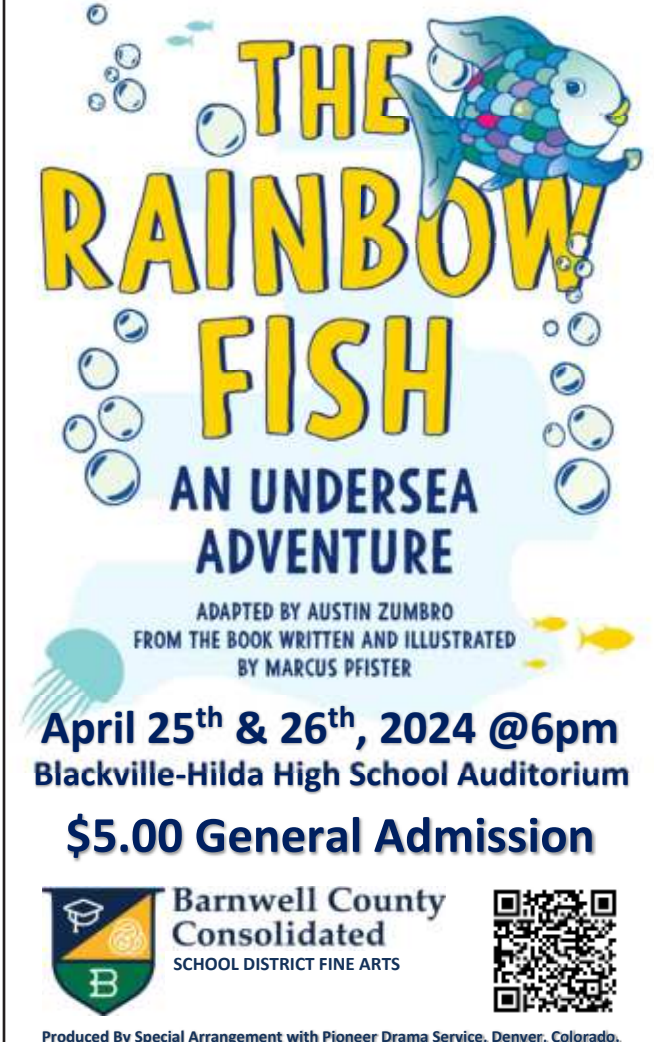
**BLACKVILLE MUSEUM**  
 655 Main Street, Blackville. Open by appointment only until further notice. Please call (803) 284-3267 to schedule a visit.

### BARNWELL SENIOR CENTER

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

### BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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



**THE RAINBOW FISH AN UNDERSEA ADVENTURE**  
 ADAPTED BY AUSTIN ZUMBR0 FROM THE BOOK WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MARCUS PFISTER  
**April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @6pm**  
**Blackville-Hilda High School Auditorium**  
**\$5.00 General Admission**  
 Barnwell County Consolidated SCHOOL DISTRICT FINE ARTS  
 Produced By Special Arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Denver, Colorado.

## Crossword Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 6B

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

## Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 6B

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



## BHS TSA reaped awards at state level

Contributed

Beginning March 26, 2024, the Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology generously hosted the many members of the Technology Student Association (TSA) for the South Carolina state competition. Schools from all over the state were in attendance eager to participate and show off their skills and projects they had been working on all year. In particular, the Barnwell High School TSA chapter made sure to collect its fair share of awards over the two-day stretch.

The duo of Hunter Pigman and Dustin Jones came in 2nd place for Technology Problem Solving's tower building exercise. Jon'nay Dobson won 2nd place in Geospatial Technology. Chapter president Shauna OBoyle, ser-

geant at arms Jon Alamia, treasurer Hayden Johnson, and secretary Vaishali Allibada won 2nd place in VEX Robotics. Reporter Joel Horn won 1st place in Dragster Design while Hayden Johnson achieved 2nd place. Joel and Kinsey Lewis snagged 1st place in Music Production. Kinsey himself won 2nd place in CADD Engineering. Joel, Hayden, and Kinsey would work with Josiah Johnson and together win the 1st place trophy for Manufacturing Prototype with their TSA pin box.

A massive thank you to all advisors who were at the conference, and an extra special thank you to Coach Stephen Andrews, his wife Karen Andrews, Jason Browning, bus driver Mr. Creech, and chap-erone Allyson Carson for coming and helping us prepare our events to be their very best.



Left to right, front row: Antwone Williams, Amaika Adi, Shauna OBoyle. Middle row: Kinsey Lewis, Hunter Pigman, Hayden Johnson, Jay Vyas, Jon Alamia, Vaishali Allibada, Kamryn Cave. Back row: Josiah Johnson, Joel Horn, Dustin Jones, Stephen Andrews, Timoni Howell

Photo Contributed

## Record 47 students honored at Denmark Tech Scholar Luncheon

Contributed

Recently dozens of students, faculty, staff and administrators gathered in the Samuel Love Faust Multicultural Center on the campus of Denmark Technical College for the annual Scholar Luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of the recipients.

"These students represent the best and the brightest at DTC. Many of our students come from challenging backgrounds and our rural setting can create barriers to accessing an equitable education. Supporting these scholars' educational pursuits in a tangible and meaningful way is transformative," said Willie L. Todd Jr., president and CEO of Denmark Technical College.

The 47 students, together, have an impressive cumulative GPA of 3.67. They represent diverse backgrounds and academ-



Dr. Todd offers scholars words of encouragement.

Contributed

ic interests including nursing, computer technology, cybersecurity, cosmetology, college transfer and more.

"There is no other college quite like Denmark Tech. The opportunities I have available to me here, the individualized attention and the family environment have helped to set me on a path towards lifelong success. The fact that I have the chance to



Denmark Tech Scholars gather to celebrate their accomplishments.

Contributed

help fund my education through the wealth of scholarships available to me is icing on the cake," said sophomore computer technology student Russell Joseph.

"The cost of attending Denmark Technical College is already a fraction of the cost of tuition at most four-year universities. When you factor in the added value of these scholarships, it can be a

game changer. Many of these students can come out with a degree in hand and ready to enter the workforce debt-free," added Todd.

The 2023-2024 Denmark Technical scholars include: Presidential Scholar - Jolia Brown.

Deans' Scholars - Alissa Brophy, Khaled Fayed, Kelsea Jones and Jekara Knight.

Phi Theta Kappa Schol-

ars - Modupe Adebayo, Thelma Albany, Makayla Baxley, Jolia Brown, Jaliae Donaldson, Mohamed Fayed, Brian Gibson, Dustin Grubbs, Shavonda Hair, Darren Jean-Francois, Savonya Jefferson, Ashlea Jenkins, Danisha Johnson, Russell Joseph, Leah Keitt, Shayla Kinard, Alexander Livingston, Chamar Martin, Jonta Parson, Narja Pooser, Jyonna Sherrod, Tamika Singletary, Akiyah Sumter, Malachi Watson, Jatisya Wells, Isiah Williams, Taylor Wise and Sarah Wunder.

Strada Scholars - Gage Dunn, Darren Jean-Francois, Russell Joseph, Jonta Parson and Jake Wight.

Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program Scholars - Gage Dunn, Mohamed Fayed, Chloe Felty, Rashad Hart, Joshua Horn, Rontray White, Jake Wight, Isiah Williams, Taylor Wise and Sarah Wunder.

Honors College Schol-

ars - Modupe Adebayo, Thelma Albany, Makayla Baxley, Alissa Brophy, Jolia Brown, Jaliae Donaldson, Gage Dunn, Malaysia Epps, Khaled Fayed, Mohamed Fayed, Chloe Felty, Randall Gadson, Brian Gibson, Dustin Grubbs, Shavonda Hair, Rashad Hart, Joshua Horn, Darren Jean-Francois, Savonya Jefferson, Ashlea Jenkins, Danisha Johnson, Kelsea Jones, Russell Joseph, Leah Keitt, Shayla Kinard, Jekara Knight, Kaela Lee, Alexander Livingston, Chamar Martin, Jonta Parson, Darell Perry Jr., Narja Pooser, Kenisha Rice Jyonna Sherrod, Tamika Singletary, Shelby Stanley, Akiyah Sumter, Summerlyn Thompson, Taeya Turner, Qualek Washington, Malachi Watson, Jatisya Wells, Rontray White, Jake Wight, Isiah Williams, Taylor Wise and Sarah Wunder.

## COLLEGE NOTES: Locals earn academic excellence in colleges, universities

### OCtech announces Honor Students for 2023 fall semester

ORANGEBURG – The following individuals have been named honor students for the fall 2023 academic term at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College:

President's List (full-time)  
Bamberg: Michael Defrenn, Donna McAlhany, Christopher Peterson  
Barnwell: **Phoebe Black, Patricia Mims, Jarvis Moore, Britney Taylor**  
Blackville: **Marquez Lawrence**  
Denmark: **Tysheema Murray**

Olar: **Brice Richardson**  
Williston: **Ashley Inabinet, Kole Lawson**  
President's List (part-time)  
Bamberg: Taylor Collins, Crystal Fail, Abigail Williams  
Fairfax: **Kari Branch, Bailey Kuntz**  
Olar: **Michelle Walling**  
Williston: **Maxwell Hawkins**  
Dean's List (full-time)  
Bamberg: Chandler Chavis, Nathan Etheridge, Kayla Gunnells, Lesley Kinsey, Kenneth McMillan, Joshua Wallen  
Denmark: **Anna Haskins, Michael Johnson, Sherman Lee**  
Dean's List (part-time)  
Williston: **Archie Moore**  
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech-

nical College is a comprehensive two-year college in Orangeburg, S.C., that provides relevant training and education to students while fostering economic development in the region. OCtech offers more than 80 programs of study, as well as transfer opportunities to many four-year colleges and universities in South Carolina. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information about OCtech, call 803.535.1234 or visit otech.edu.

### ABAC honors top academic students

TIFTON – Five hundred and forty-seven students qualified for academic honors during the 2023-24 academic year at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Students receiving Distinguished Honor status have completed 45 or more academic semester hours at ABAC with an overall grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Superior Honor students have completed 45 academic semester hours at ABAC with an overall grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74. Honor status goes to students who have completed 45 or more academic semester hours at ABAC with an overall grade point average of 3.25 to 3.49. Students recognized with their majors and hometowns are as follows:

Barnwell: **Jordyn Twitty**, Agriculture, Honors  
Ehrhardt: **Sydney Rentz**, Agriculture, Distinguished  
Williston: **James Wall**, Agribusiness, Distinguished

### Lander University recognizes academic excellence: Students honored on Dean's & President's Lists for fall 2023

GREENWOOD – Lander University proudly announces the roster of undergraduates who have been named to the Dean's and President's Lists for the fall semester of 2023.

Dean's List: **Kaitlin Anderson** of Barnwell  
In order to secure a position on the Dean's List, students must exhibit outstanding academic ability, maintaining a grade-point average (GPA) ranging from 3.5 to 3.9, while enrolled as full-time undergraduates.

President's List: **Madelynn Hutson** of Barnwell

In order to secure a coveted spot on the President's List, students must demonstrate exceptional dedication to their studies and maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA), while enrolled as full-time undergraduates.

The University extends sincere congratulations to these outstanding individuals, recognizing their exemplary academic achievements through-

out the first semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

### Lander celebrates freshmen success: Honor Roll highlights outstanding achievers for fall 2023

GREENWOOD – **Kristin Cave** of Barnwell is among students at Lander University who have been named to the Freshman Honor Roll for their exceptional academic performance in the fall semester of 2023.

The Freshman Honor Roll recognizes students who have earned fewer than 30 credit hours and maintained a grade point average (GPA) between 3.00 and 3.49 during their first year of study at Lander.

The University extends congratulations to these outstanding individuals for their dedication and scholarly achievements.

### Maya Peeples inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – **Maya Peeples** of Barnwell was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Peeples was initiated at Francis Marion University.

Peeples is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and

alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is "To recognize and advance excellence in all fields of higher education and society." For more information, visit [www.PhiKappaPhi.org](http://www.PhiKappaPhi.org).

### Ethan Strock selected to UA Early College Fall 2023 Director's List

TUSCALOOSA, AL – **Ethan Strock** of Williston, who attends Horse Creek Academy, is among a total of 539 students enrolled in UA Early College during the fall semester 2023 at The University of Alabama who were named to the director's list with an academic record of 3.6 or higher.

The director's list recognizes students enrolled in classes through the UA Early College program. UA Early College allows high school students to get a head start on their college courses. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled in UA Early College can choose from more than 80 different online and on-campus courses and earn up to 30 hours of college credit.

For more details visit [news.ua.edu](http://news.ua.edu).

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# BHHS transforms into Moonlit Garden

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

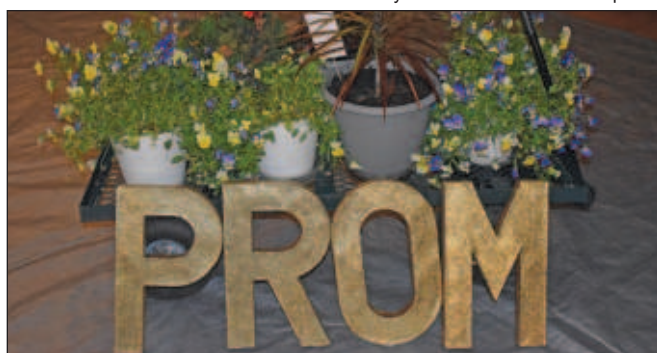
What was once the Blackville-Hilda High School auditorium transformed into a moonlit garden for prom with flowers and a water feature displayed to fit the theme.

Under countless fairy lights, Tyler Profit was crowned king and Mahyla Nickens was crowned queen. Jaden Berry was crowned prince and Anastasia Beaver was crowned princess.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Tyler Profit was named king and Mahyla Nickens was named queen.



Prince Jaden Berry and Princess Anastasia Beaver were crowned as royalty.







## Ruth Iola Zissett Williams

a very loving and caring person who loved her family dearly. She was a retired seamstress and devoted Christian.

She is survived by daughters, Jackie Bowers, Bonnie (Dennis) Zorn, and Rose Stanley; grandchildren, Robbie (Marie) Peeples, Jack (Crystal) Peeples, Kelly C. (Randy) Wall, Jan (Tony) Lambert, Denise (Shane) Baxley, Franklin (Tricia) Stanley, and Alan Stanley; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; brother, Marion Ralph Zissett; sister, Margie Zissett Trull; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by sons-in-law, Willis Bowers and Rodney Stanley; great-granddaughters, Grace Lauren Delk and Taylor

Marie Towne; great-great-granddaughter, Olivia Ruth Towne.

Funeral service were held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, at Allendale First Baptist Church with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor David Schaffer officiated. Interment followed immediately at Swallow Savannah Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Swallow Savannah Cemetery Fund, c/o Suzanne Goodson, 493 Concord Church Road, Ulmer, S.C. 29849.

A special thank you to Allendale County Hospital staff and Pruitt Health Hospice.

Keith Smith Funeral Service was in charge of arrangements.

The People-Sentinel  
4/17/2024

ALLENDALE - Ruth Iola Zissett Williams, 90, widow of James Laurie Williams, passed away on April 11, 2024. She was born to the late Barney and Zelma Fail Zissett on February 19, 1934.

When her parents passed away at an early age, she and her siblings were raised by her late uncle and aunt, Floyd and Kathleen Main, along with their children who have since passed away, James Main, Billy Main, and Barbara Ann Long. She was



## Norma Jean Still Easterling

SC, J. Timothy Easterling of Savannah, MO, Jimmy O. Easterling (Melissa) of Barnwell, SC, Cynthia J. Easterling-Grys (Rodger) of Duluth, GA, and step-daughter Kandy Easterling (Gary) of North Port, FL; brother, Winford Dyches (Miriam) of Eden, NC; grandchildren Daryll Barnes of Woodstock, GA, Matthew Barnes of Orangeburg, SC, Ryan Easterling (Michelle) of Bellevue, NE, Brett Easterling of Savannah, MO, Drew Easterling (Tanya) of Willis, TX, Neal Easterling (Sarah) of Milwaukee, WI, Timothy Easterling (Amber) of Louisville, KY, Kodee Monteith (Mitchell) of Rock Hill, SC; 12 great-grandchildren, as

well as 2 great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, as well as her brother, Carl O. Still.

A visitation was held Friday, April 12, 2024 at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Barnwell, with funeral services following at 2 p.m. Graveside was held in the Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Jeremy Creech officiated. Donations may be made in her honor to First Baptist Church Soup Kitchen.

Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell assisted the family with arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at molefh.com.

The People-Sentinel  
4/17/2024

BARNWELL - Norma Jean Still Easterling, 92, of Barnwell, SC passed into God's hands April 6, 2024 in Lexington, SC.

She was born on January 29, 1932 to the late Katie Winifred Black Still and Aaron Broadus Calhoun Still.

She is survived by her children, J. Lynn Barnes (Jerry) of Orangeburg,



BARNWELL COUNTY SC

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Barnwell County is now accepting applications for County Administrator:

Barnwell County is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to join our team as the County Administrator. This pivotal role involves managing the county's operations through strategic direction and coordination of activities in alignment with the goals, objectives, and policies set by the County Council.

The County Administrator will provide leadership and supervision across several departments including the Animal Shelter, Assessor's Office, Buildings and Grounds, Building Inspections, Business Office, Emergency Management, Finance, Fire Coordination, Human Resources, Solid Waste/Landfill, Planning and Zoning, and Public Works. This role is crucial in shaping and guiding the operational structure, delegating authority to department heads, and ensuring efficient service delivery to the community.

Additionally, the Administrator will play an instrumental role in assisting the County Council in formulating strategic goals, operational plans, and policy frameworks, while also overseeing the development and administration of the county budget. The ideal candidate will represent the County Council within the community and coordinate with other government agencies, promoting a collaborative and forward-thinking environment.

Join us in shaping the future of Barnwell County, leveraging your leadership skills to foster excellence and innovation in public service.

#### Qualifications:

The ideal candidate for the County Administrator position will possess a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, or a related field, complemented by five to eight years of progressively responsible professional experience in senior-level administrative, managerial, or supervisory roles. This experience should include proficiency in budget preparation and management, personnel administration, and the development, implementation, and management of programs. We welcome any satisfactory combination of education, experience, and training that meets or exceeds these qualifications. Experience in the public sector is preferred.

#### Special Requirements:

The ideal candidate for the County Administrator role should exhibit a high proficiency in English grammar, spelling, and punctuation, coupled with exceptional communication skills across all levels of the organization and with external groups. A deep understanding of business communication methods and techniques is essential. Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of local government administration principles, including organizational forms, operating methods, and procedures, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the County's functions, departmental roles, and interagency relationships. Familiarity with risk management, insurance issues, and government procurement is required.

Candidates must demonstrate a keen understanding of organizational culture, employee engagement, and the dynamics necessary to implement structures that foster a positive image of the County across all departments. Proficiency in using computers to prepare reports, maintain records, and compile data is crucial.

The position demands advanced interpersonal skills to develop and maintain effective relationships with the Barnwell County Council, various committees, boards, commissions, citizens, department heads, and external agencies. A solid grasp of supervisory and employee management principles, along with skills in assigning, prioritizing, monitoring, and reviewing work assignments, mentoring and training, crisis management, and anticipating personnel issues is essential.

Leadership qualities such as vision, initiative, and the ability to drive results towards organizational excellence are pivotal. The candidate must be capable of developing and executing strategic plans, managing change, and articulating leadership priorities. Additional requirements include problem-solving skills, the ability to interpret complex policies and regulations, persuasive communication to resolve issues and gain cooperation, analytical thinking, decision-making integrity, and effective meeting facilitation. Applicants must also be adept at organizing and maintaining documents, maintaining confidentiality, and using County resources efficiently.

#### Misc. Information:

The work environment for the County Administrator is primarily office-based. Duties typically involve tasks such as reaching with hands and arms, sitting, standing, speaking, hearing, and using hands for fine manipulation like typing or handling documents. Occasionally, the position may require lifting or moving items up to 35 pounds, such as a box of paper.

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#### Salary

Based on experience

#### Posted

Opening April 15, 2024  
Closing April 29, 2024

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Requires Bachelor's degree in human resource management, business administration, public administration or related field or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Three to five years of current human resource administration experience.

Check on-line at [barnwellcountysc.us](http://barnwellcountysc.us) for additional information.  
Email [payrollclerk@barnwellsc.com](mailto:payrollclerk@barnwellsc.com) for an application.

Benefits: SC State Retirement | 2 weeks vacation | 13 paid holidays | 12 sick days | 401K | Health, Life, Vision & Dental Insurance

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You may apply in person at 57 Wall Street - Room 114, Barnwell SC, or at the Barnwell County Department of Employment & Workforce located at 248 Wall Street, Barnwell.

EEO/ADA

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# DEATH AND TAXES

by Pat Cook

Directed by Michael Pisacreta  
Marion Young

Produced by Beth Miller

### FEATURING

Dan Anderson, Brenda Chorn, Donna Creech, Jeff Miller, Virginia Nettles, Caroline Randall, Jacob Sanders, Rebekah Sanders, & Randee White

### Performances

May 3, 4, 10, & 11  
at 7:00 PM

May 5 & 12  
at 3:00 PM

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325 Academy Street, Barnwell, SC 29812



# Williston approves initial reading of 10-year comprehensive plan

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Town of Williston approved the first reading of a comprehensive 10-year plan at their April 8 council meeting.

Eric Carrier from the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) presented the plan to the council. According to Carrier, these local government plans are required in order to create or update zoning ordinances and apply for grant funding.

State law determines the ten elements required to be included in municipal plans: population, economic development, natural resources, cultural and historic resources, community facilities, housing, land use, transportation, priority investment, and resilience.

The council approved the first reading of this plan by title only. It will be up for a second reading at the May 13 meeting, followed by a third reading in June. Once fully approved, the entire document will be available on the town's website.

Council members were encouraged by administration to look through the plan thoroughly as it will

not be adopted again for another decade.

The town also recognized *The People-Sentinel* journalist and Williston resident Alexandra Whitbeck for being named the 2023 S.C. Press Association Weekly Journalist of the Year. Whitbeck was presented with a plaque and kind words from the council and administration.

**Administrator's Report:**

- Administrator Michael Beasley informed council the contractual process with the county's new EMS provider AmeriPro EMS is underway. The new provider moved into the town's facility on April 1.

- The current budget is roughly 75 percent used, leaving the town "right on target," according to Beasley. Councilmembers are asked to attend one of three upcoming budget workshops to look over the budget more in depth. According to Beasley, in the process of creating the next fiscal year's budget, council's goal is to create a budget where fees for citizens will not be reflective of increasing fees for the town.

- 121 children signed up to participate in the town's recreational baseball/softball program. "We've gone from not having a softball



Alexandra Whitbeck, a Williston resident and reporter for *The People-Sentinel*, was recognized by the mayor and council for receiving the 2023 SPCA Weekly Journalist of the Year award. Michael Beasley / Contributed

team for years to now we have so many girls sign up we have two teams," said Councilwoman Alyson Collins.

- Fences will soon be going up at Academy Street Park. Playground equipment will be finalized soon and installed at the town park. These projects are funded by a previous Parks, Recreation And Development grant for \$66,000 secured by the

town.

- One of the five purchased fire hydrants have been installed. Plans are being made to purchase more at the end of the budget cycle to have spares in case of damage or emergency.

- Residents informed the council of issues on Holmes Lane at a prior meeting which Beasley has since addressed. Issues include diseased trees,

road repairs, and lack of lighting. Beasley stated he has had conversations with county and state officials regarding the trees and road, and with Dominion Energy to install streetlights.

- The town received a notice to proceed on their filtration system project funded by the S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) and Community Development Block

Grants (CDBG).

**Other updates:**

- The council approved the Eta Gamma Sigma Chapter meeting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 20.

- The town was contacted by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to hold their annual 'Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs' fishing rodeo in Williston Town Park on May 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Must be 13 years or older to fish.

## First Steps holds regional child care summit

Elijah de Castro  
Report for America  
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

On Tuesday, April 9, the local nonprofit First Steps of Barnwell County held an early childhood summit to discuss ongoing issues within the child care industry and give awards to regional child care workers and leaders.

Across the United States, high child care prices and the shortage of child care facilities and workers has had strong impacts on rural communities. Child care educators, who are some of the lowest paid jobs in the workforce, are experiencing burnout and fatigue. In Barnwell and Allendale, the shortage of childcare workers and facilities has created long wait lines for parents. However, a recently opened child care center in Williston aims to help fill this void locally, as previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*.

Campbell, director of First Steps Dorchester County, spoke about the importance of understanding what child care education means to children, and how the child care experience is different for every child.

"We have to treat individuals as individuals," Campbell said. "Our children deserve our respect. We need to be sure that we learn and know what they [can] bring to the table and it needs to be looked at as an asset and not a deficit."

Campbell also commented on the importance of child care as a means for establishing foundational building blocks in children. Campbell believes that younger generations' frequent use of technology should not come in lieu of basic educational skills like learning to tie shoes, frying an egg, etc.

"We've also got to help them realize that even though technology makes our life easier, even though you may have a more excellent way of doing things,

there's still a foundation that needs to happen," Campbell said.

Tricia Gordon, executive director of Barnwell County First Steps, spoke about the necessity of getting every child into child care, regardless of their background. Child care research shows that low income children who receive early childhood education are more likely to graduate college.

"A lot of the students that receive First Step services become successful adults and more importantly, break the cycle of poverty," Gordon said.

Gordon also emphasized the importance of appreciating child care workers, who are often understaffed and overworked. Many childcare workers lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I don't think we pay enough attention to the people that are working with our children day after day that are in the centers or in the classrooms that are

working in our partnering agencies, because it really does take a village to do this work," Gordon said.

Gordon then gave out Children's Champion

Awards to Melinda Wilson, Kate Roach, Lil Stoltzfus and Donna Selvey, all of whom have played a role in advancing regional child care. "We're recognizing four

special people this evening that have worked in this county in different ways that have all impacted early childhood [education] in this area," Gordon said.

ADOPTABLE CAT OF THE WEEK

### Clarissa is lovable and ready to be loved

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

"Clarissa is around 7-years-old and she has been with us since birth. She is very friendly and lovable. She gets along with other cats and loves to cuddle. She is also playful and litter box trained. Clarissa is up to date on her vaccines and been spayed," said Missy Platts with the Friends for Life Center.

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

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

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



**Generations Unlimited is taking sealed bids for sale of six vehicles until May 13, 2024.**

A pre-conference will be held April 24 at 1 pm at Generations Unlimited, 10915 Ellenton Street, Barnwell SC 29812; not mandatory but encouraged. Vehicles available for inspection by appointment ONLY. Contact Tim Zissett at 803-541-1249 to schedule or for more detailed information.

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# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

**Nicholas Webb**  
Barnwell High School



**Grade:** 10th  
**Sports:** Soccer  
**Favorites...**

- **Pro Teams:** Argentina, Memphis Grizzlies
- **Athletes:** Lionel Messi, Ja Morant
- **Food:** Philly cheesesteak
- **Snack:** Little Bites muffins
- **Movie/TV show:** Evil Dead
- **Free time activity:** Make music
- **Musicians:** OsamaSon, Ken Carson, SZA, Playboi Carti, Lil Uzi Vert

**Goal for this season:** "To continue to make progress with the team."

**Kenneth Tyler**  
Barnwell High School



**Grade:** 10th  
**Sports:** Football, Basketball, and Track  
**Favorites...**

- **Pro Teams:** Golden State Warriors, Seattle Seahawks
- **Athletes:** Jamar Chase, Stephen Curry
- **Food:** Hot wings
- **Snack:** Cheez-its
- **Free time activity:** Playing Call of Duty
- **Musician:** YNW Melly

**Goal for this season:** "To do the best I can in every event."

# Sports

**Warhorses shut out Wolverines**  
See page 2B



Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The People-Sentinel

1B

## Hawks continue to fly high at Chapin meet



The Blackville-Hilda Hawks Track and Field Team was well represented on the winners' podium. There were many more who were top 3 finishers in individual heats at the Chapin meet.

Photo By: Kailyn Gibson

**Jeff Miller**  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team travelled to Chapin, South Carolina on Wednesday, April 10 for another multi-team meet. Several new teams were there for the Hawks to compete against, but the results still found several Blackville-Hilda athletes reaching the medal podiums, winning individual heats, and even breaking long standing Blackville-Hilda school records.

Blackville-Hilda head coach Rushani Burke was asked about the meet and his team's performance. He said, "Despite the lengthy journey to Chapin, I'm delighted to share that the meet was exceptionally well-organized and executed seamlessly. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our team for their outstanding performance. Despite facing tough competition from 5A high schools with larger populations, our athletes displayed unwavering confidence and determination, showcasing their true grit and resilience."

Burke continued, "The highlight of the meet for me was Jamarion Kirkland, who clinched 1st place in the long jump among 28 competitors, and Brandon Priester, who made an impressive debut with a 1st place finish in the high jump. Additionally, Jabarious Johnson and Issiah Creggs, competing in the throws for the first time, excelled and secured 1st and 2nd place respectively in their flights."

"I'm incredibly proud of our athletes and want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of my assistant coaches, Coach Faith Vice, Coach Tonya Coleman, and Coach Cedrick Collins, who tirelessly inspire and motivate our athletes to push their limits every day. A special commendation is also due to our athletic director, Paris Mason, for supporting me as head coach. Paris not only backs my ideas but also ensures that our team participates in the finest track and field meets available, which is essential for our athletes to perform at their optimum best," said Burke.

The Hawks will travel to Blythewood to compete in an-

other multi-team meet at Westwood High School on Wednesday, April 17 and then compete at the Gary Phillips Invitational in

Batesburg on Saturday, April 20. Come out and support this very strong and growing program. Good luck Hawks!

### Overall meet top three finishers include:

- Boys 4x100 meter relay: 1st Place overall - Jamarion Priester, Jaquel Holman, Samari Williams, and Namir Anderson
- Girls 4x100 meter relay: 2nd Place overall - Breyanna Williams, Tamara James, Sariah Vinson, and Eva Sapp
- Jamarion Kirkland: 1st Place overall in Long Jump
- Jamarion Priester: 1st Place overall in both 110 m Hurdles and 400 m Hurdles, (setting new school records)
- Brandon Priester: 1st Place overall in High Jump, breaking the BHHS record
- Jaquel Holman: 2nd Place overall in 100 m and 200 m
- Eva Sapp: 1st in 100 m and 400 m heats, 3rd overall 200 m heat

### Individual heat/flight top three finishers include:

- Anastasia Beaver: 2nd in 100 m and 400 m heats
- Tamara James: 2nd in 100 m heat
- Samari Williams: 2nd in 200 m heat
- Breyanna Williams: 2nd in 400 m heat
- Haylei Sapp: 3rd in 400 m Hurdles and 800 m heats (middle school student in the 7th grade)
- Amonya Smalls: 3rd in 400 m Hurdles heat, 2nd in 200 m heat
- Eric Mulbah: 2nd in 800 m heat
- Robert McCreary: 3rd in 800 m heat
- Jabarious Johnson: 1st in flight - Shot put- (Competing for the first time in the shot put)
- Isiah Creggs: 2nd in flight- Shot put- (Competing for the first time in the shot put)



## Three Warhorses named to 2023 High School Football America All-America Team



Cam Austin, Slaton Ragsdale, and Kahzeer Wesley were named to the 2023 HSFA All-America Team for SC High School Football.



Photos By: Jeff Miller

**Jeff Miller**  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse football team had a better than expected football season in coach Brian Smith's first year leading the Horses. The Warhorses advanced to the final eight teams in the 2A playoffs. Several players earned All-Region or All-State awards. Now, the Warhorses can add three more awards to the trophy case, with Cam Austin, Kahzeer Wesley, and Slaton Ragsdale each earning Academic All-America Team honors for South Carolina high school football.

The 2023 High School Football America Academic All-America

Team has been announced. This is the fourth year of honoring student-athletes across the country with the help of scoutSMART. scoutSMART uses its proprietary system that gives high school football student-athletes a scoutSMART FIT Score that analyzes a player's stats, on-field skills and academics. Then, scoutSMART provides the information to college football coaches, at all-levels, around the nation. In addition to input from scoutSMART, all of the honorees attained a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.7 or higher while being a varsity contributor last season.

Slaton Ragsdale is a Senior who plans to attend the College of Charleston next year and major in Finance. He is unde-

ecided about his specific future career plans. When asked about the importance of getting good grades, Slaton said, "I strive to do my best in school to honor my mother who always valued my education."

Slaton had some advice for younger athletes, saying, "Don't take anything for granted, bad or good. They're all bittersweet memories when it's over."

Cam Austin is a Junior and will return to play quarterback for the Warhorses next year. He is undecided as to where he will attend college, but said, "I plan to attend a school where I can continue my football/baseball career and hopefully major in

See ALL-AMERICA TEAM, 3B

### VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### BASEBALL

- Wednesday, April 17**
- Barnwell @ Colleton County 6:00
  - Holly Hill Academy @ JDA 7:00
- Thursday, April 18**
- Wagener-Salley @ Williston-Elko 7:00
- Friday, April 19**
- Hampton County @ Barnwell 6:00
- Tuesday, April 23**
- Horse Creek Academy @ Barnwell 6:00
  - JDA @ Williston-Elko 6:00

#### SOFTBALL

- Wednesday, April 17**
- Barnwell @ Bamberg-Ehrhardt 6:30
- Thursday, April 18**
- Wagener-Salley @ Williston-Elko 6:00
  - Ridge Spring-Monetta @ Barnwell 6:30
- Friday, April 19**
- Barnwell @ Hampton County (doubleheader 5:00)
  - Williston-Elko @ North 5:00
- Monday, April 22**
- Barnwell @ Aiken 6:30
  - JDA @ Williston-Elko 6:30
- Tuesday, April 23**
- Williston-Elko @ Barnwell 6:30

#### GOLF

- Thursday, April 18**
- Barnwell @ Silver Bluff 4:00
  - Williston-Elko @ Batesburg 4:30
- Tuesday, April 23**
- Barnwell Region Tournament @ Sweetwater Country Club 9:00am

#### BOYS SOCCER

- Friday, April 19**
- Barnwell @ Hampton County 7:30
  - Blackville-Hilda @ Bamberg-Ehrhardt 6:00
- Monday, April 22**
- Edisto @ Barnwell 7:30
- Branchville @ Blackville-Hilda 6:00**
- Tuesday, April 23**
- Ridgeland-Hardeeville @ Barnwell 7:30

#### GIRLS SOCCER

- Friday, April 19**
- Barnwell @ Hampton County 6:00
- Monday, April 22**
- Edisto @ Barnwell 6:00
- Branchville @ Blackville-Hilda 6:00**
- Tuesday, April 23**
- Ridgeland-Hardeeville @ Barnwell 6:00

#### TRACK

- Wednesday, April 17**
- Blackville-Hilda @ Westwood 5:00
- Thursday, April 18**
- Barnwell @ Allendale 5:00
- Saturday, April 20**
- Blackville-Hilda @ Batesburg-Leesville (Gary Phillips Invitational) 9:00am





# Warhorses shut out Wolverines

**Jeff Miller**  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell boys soccer team welcomed the Wolverines from Woodland for a Region 6-AA soccer showdown on Friday, April 12. The Warhorses were looking to get revenge for a close loss to the Wolverines earlier in the week. Maybe the Barnwell home crowd made the difference, or maybe the Warhorses played a much better game, but either way, Barnwell came away with the 2-0 victory.

The first half went back and forth with neither team scoring for the first 30 minutes. With about ten minutes to go in the half, Jay Vyas found the back of the Wolverines net off an assist from Kaleb Wilson to give the Horses a 1-0 lead. The Horses would take that 1-0 lead into the half.

The second half saw the

teams fight back and forth again, until Rashaun Buckmon beat two Woodland defenders near midfield and raced towards the goal. When the Wolverine goalkeeper moved forward to stop Rashaun, Buckmon calmly dropped a shot over the goalkeeper's head for the second Barnwell goal. The Barnwell defense did the rest, keeping Woodland off the scoreboard.

Barnwell head coach William Barnes said, "Jay Vyas did a great job of crashing the goal to follow up the ball from Kaleb Wilson. Rashaun Buckmon did a great job playing through the two defenders and scored our second goal by playing the ball over the charging goalkeeper."

"Defensively, Kahzeer Wesley has moved to a new position. He is now playing sweeper, which is the last defender, essentially, and he's been playing really well there. He has gotten better with his ball skills



**Rashaun Buckmon makes an athletic play against a Woodland defender.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood

and is just so much faster than a lot of the players we face. It's asking a lot for him, being a first-year player, to play that position with the role that comes with it, but he has excelled at it so far," said Barnes.

"Kris Bennett played a tough game on the defen-

sive side, also having to play through some hard contact plays. I thought Dustin Jones came off bench and helped us a lot in the middle and with his throw-ins. Kaleb did well crashing from his left wing and striker positions. He's going to score a goal soon



**Kahzeer Wesley has been playing great defense for the Warhorses.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood



**Kaleb Wilson had an assist on the first Barnwell goal.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood

if he continues to play like that," said the coach.

The Warhorses continue to improve as the season progresses. There are several players who have been out but are returning, and several newer players who are just starting to understand the game a little better.

Come out and support the Horses as they battle

through this last part of the season. Barnwell will travel to Hampton County on Friday, April 19. They will then host the Edisto Cougars on Monday, April 22, and Ridgeland-Hardeeville on Tuesday, April 23. All three matches will be Region 6-AA hard fought battles, so get behind your Horses and cheer them on to victory!

## Barnwell baseball wins 3 more

**Jeff Miller**  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse baseball team played three games last week against Woodland, Williston-Elko, and Woodland again. The Warhorses from Barnwell proved to be the better of the "W" teams last week collecting three W's (wins) along the way.

On Tuesday, April 9, Barnwell hosted the Woodland Wolverines in battle of Region 6-AA unbeaten teams. In what looked to be a great matchup, Barnwell easily came away with a 10-0 victory. Cam Austin took the hill for the Horses and pitched six scoreless innings. Allowing just a single hit and a single walk, while striking out eleven Wolverines. Offensively, it was a true team effort with ten different Barnwell batters reaching base by a hit or a walk.

Barnwell hosted their county rivals when Williston-Elko came to town on

Wednesday, April 10. This was a more competitive game, but the Warhorses came away with a 4-0 win. Bradley Richardson got the win for the Horses, pitching four-plus innings of scoreless baseball. Cam Austin led the offensive charge, going 2/2 from the plate with a triple and a run scored. Trey Boleman went 1/2 on the night and drove in a run for Barnwell.

The Warhorses traveled to Woodland to face the Wolverines for the second time in a week on Friday, April 12. This was not nearly as easy a game for the Horses as the first game was. Barnwell fell behind 5-0 before mounting a big late inning comeback to win 15-9. Case Davis got the win, throwing 5 innings, striking out 5 batters and only walking 2. The offense was led by Jaevin Santos who was 3/4 from the plate with a double and scored 3 runs. Trey Boleman went 3/5, hit a double, and drove in 4 runs. Case Davis helped his own cause by going 2/3, hit a double,



**Trey Boleman went 3/5 with a double and 4 RBI's in Barnwell's 15-9 win over Woodland last Friday, April 12.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood

scored 2 runs, and drove in a run. Cam Austin was 1/3 with a homerun, scored a run, and drove in 2 runs.

With the two wins over Woodland, who had previously been unbeaten in region play, the Warhorses are in the driver seat to win the region. Barnwell head coach Cody McCullum was asked about the wins and the region standings and said, "Our goal this week was to go 3-0 and we



**Kaleb McCormack is a workhorse behind the plate, but also makes an impact on offense, driving in 2 runs in Barnwell's 10-0 win over Woodland on Tuesday, April 9.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood

accomplished that. Woodland and Williston are both good teams and we have a lot of respect for both of them. Tuesday night we sort of had everything go our way. Cameron was lights out on the mound and that really gave us all the confidence we needed to score runs. Friday night we could not have gotten off to a worse start and we struggled for most of the game. We gave up five runs

in the 1st inning and were trailing 5-0 going in to the 5th inning. I always stress to the team how important it is to play all twenty-one outs and they responded with fifteen runs in the final three innings. We still have some work to do this week versus Hampton to call ourselves region champions but we have certainly put ourselves in the best position to accomplish that goal."



**Cam Austin is good with the glove, and even better with the bat. Austin was 2/2 with a triple and a run scored against Williston-Elko then went 1/3 with a Homerun and drove in 2 runs against Woodland the next game.**  
Photo By: Kelley Wood

Barnwell will face Hampton County twice this week. Win either of those two games and the Horses will be Region 6-AA champions. Come out and support the Warhorses as they close out the regular season and prepare for the post-season. Good luck Warhorses!



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# Barnwell sweeps Woodland to remain undefeated in Region 6-AA

Jeff Miller  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com



Barnwell sits alone atop Region 6-AA after sweeping Woodland.

Photo By: Rose Arnold

The Barnwell Warhorses entered last week as one of two undefeated teams in Region 6-AA. The other team was Woodland. That would end for one or both teams as they faced each other not once, but twice last week. The Warhorses won both games to remain atop the region, but it wasn't easy.

On Tuesday, April 9, the Woodland Wolverines visited Barnwell to finally knock one of the two teams out of the unbeaten ranks in region play. Fortunately for the hometown fans, the loss fell to the Wolverines as Barnwell earned a 4-1 win.

Jaidyn Devore took to the circle for the Warhorses and pitched a terrific game, going seven innings, collecting 10 Wolverine strikeouts, and only allowing a single run. Devore only had two walks on the night and shut down the strong Wolverine offense.

Offensively for the Warhorses, Devore was also a standout, going 2 for 3 from the plate. She had a RBI, a double, and scored a run for Barnwell. Her teammate, Brooklyn Gordon, had an equally impressive

night, finishing with the exact same stat line. Gordon was 2 for 3 with a RBI, a double and scored a run for the Horses.

On Friday, April 12, Barnwell traveled to Woodland for the rematch. Woodland was looking to even the region records, but Barnwell fought off the tough Wolverine team to squeak

out a 7-6 win and remain as the only unbeaten team in region play.

Jaidyn Devore pitched for the Lady Warhorses again, but this time the Wolverines' offense was ready, scoring six runs on the night. Devore struck out nine Wolverines on her way to the win. Several of those strikeouts were at key

times in the game.

Offensively, the Horses were once again led by Jaidyn Devore who went a perfect 4 for 4 from the plate. She added a double, scored a run, and drove in two runs. Laney Grubbs was 2 for 5 on the night and scored two runs. Molly Wilson was 2 for 4 from the dish and drove in a run.

The collective team effort was enough to get the 7-6 win over a good Woodland squad.

Barnwell head coach Mike Beasley was asked about the Woodland series and the region standings and said "I'm very proud of our team's success this week against regional foe Woodland. We had two

very competitive games this week and the ladies responded in both games to secure the victories."

"The victories put us in the driver's seat to repeat as Region 6-AA Champions. We have eight games to complete in the next couple weeks to round out the regular season. The district playoffs will begin on May 1 and it will be nice to play at home. Our ladies have worked hard and through some adversity and I'm very proud to their coach," said Beasley.

Barnwell will visit Bamberg-Ehrhardt on Wednesday, April 17, host Ridge Spring-Monetta on Thursday, April 18, and travel to Hampton County for a doubleheader on Friday, April 19. The Lady Warhorses will travel to Aiken on Monday, April 22 and host Williston-Elko on Tuesday, April 23.

The Williston-Elko game will feature a familiar face to Warhorse softball fans when Carol Massengale returns to Warhorse softball to present the award named for her to a deserving Lady Warhorse player.

Come out and support the Lady Warhorses as they look to clinch the Region 6-AA title and get ready for post-season play!

# Blue Devils softball sweeps Trojans in doubleheader

Jeff Miller  
Sports Writer  
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

Coming back from Spring Break can sometimes be tough on sports teams. Often it takes a few games to get back into the rhythm of play teams develop. This was not the case for the Williston-Elko Blue Devils' softball team. They returned from the break and destroyed the Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Trojans in a doubleheader played at HKT.

On Tuesday, April 9, the Blue Devils traveled to Neeses, South Carolina for a Region 8-A doubleheader against Hunter-Kinard-Tyler. Not only did the Lady Blue Devils sweep the Trojans, they won by a combined score of 35-2. Williston-Elko was not hurt a bit by that Spring Break hiatus.

In game one, Sophomore pitcher Iyana Robinson struck out 6 Trojan hitters and allowed just a single hit on way to earning the win and shutout in the 21-0 victory. The second

game was almost as good, with Lady Devil pitchers, Tatum Miller (Senior) and Hailey O'Neal (Sophomore) combined for 9 strikeouts against the Trojans in their 14-2 win.

Offensively, the Lady Blue Devils were led by Tra'Niya Josey with 6 RBI's, KK Redd with 4 hits, Kyndal Kennedy, who went 4-4 with 5 RBI's, and Gracyn Williams who stole 3 bases and scored 4 runs. Lots of Blue Devils were involved in scoring the 35 runs over the 2 games.

Williston-Elko head

coach Jamie Wootten was asked about the games and said, "We were just glad to get back on the field after Spring Break and a few weather related cancellations. These next two weeks will feature some rivalry games and region games with playoff implications. Our girls are playing well and looking for a strong finish to the 2024 season."

The Lady Devils will host Wagener-Salley on Thursday, April 18 and then travel to face North on the next night, Friday, April 19. Both games are Region 8-A contests and have playoff implications.

Come out and support your Blue Devils as they try to

keep the win streak rolling. Good luck ladies!



KK Redd had a big game at the plate for the Devils with 4 hits.

Photo By: Ally Adams



Williston-Elko head coach Jamie Wootten has a conference with his players. The Lady Blue Devils beat HKT 21-0 and 14-2 in the doubleheader played last week.

Photo By: Ally Adams

## ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FROM PAGE 1B

either Finance or Economics." Cam went on to offer, "My advice to younger athletes would be to just put your best effort in everything you do!"

What does the future hold for Cam? He said, "As for the future, I strive to play in the NFL or MLB one day, but apart from that I would like to establish a successful career in the financial field enjoying what I do!"

Austin was asked about the importance of making good grades and he replied, "Maintaining high grades is extremely crucial to me as I want to set myself up

to be successful in not just sports, but in every aspect of life."

Another outstanding student athlete for the Warhorses is a Junior, **Kahzeer Wesley**. Kahzeer played wide receiver and defensive back for the Warhorses and was the recipient of the 2023 Offensive Coaches Award for football. Kahzeer has another year to go with the Horses and has not finalized his college and career goals, but continues to work hard to keep up his high grades and works hard preparing for the 2024 football season. Kahzeer did not have any

particular advice to give to younger players, but the coaches would say that younger players should use Kahzeer as an example of how to be successful on the field and in the classroom.

Barnwell head football coach Brian Smith is always excited to see young people excel in sports, in school, and in life. Smith said, "I am very happy for these young men to be named to the academic list. The main thing we do in education is graduate students and for them to excel on and off the field makes me very proud!"



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## Maggie Robinson, 101, looks back on a long life in Allendale

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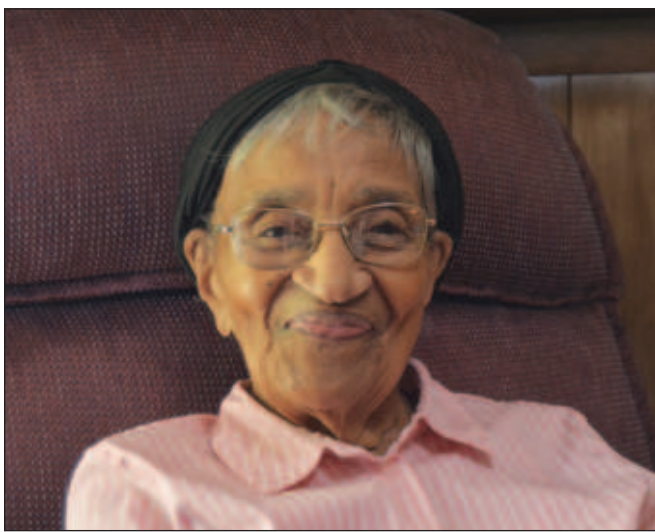
For over 90 years, Allendale's Maggie Lee Allen Robinson has lived on Mill Street, a quiet neighborhood road that travels from the south to the north of Allendale, interrupted only by the town's east-to-west train tracks. It was on this street where her brothers and husband left to serve in the Korean War and World War II, and where Maggie Robinson now looks back on a long life in Allendale.

On March 27, Maggie Lee Allen Robinson, was recognized by the Allendale County Council for "Outstanding service and commitment to her Family, Church, Community, County and State." After turning 101 on April 5, Maggie Robinson has wit-

nessed America change through the decades: The Great Depression. World War II. The Civil Rights movement and the fall of Jim Crowe. The Vietnam War. The Reagan 80's. The September 11th attacks. The election of the first Black president.

Maggie has also witnessed Allendale change through the years. When she was a child, fewer cars were on the road and cordial neighbors shared food grown from their gardens. When Allendale's section of Route 301 was rerouted to the east in the 1980's, Maggie's friends who worked in local motels that housed tired truckers and vacationers on their way to Florida had their hours cut.

There was a time when Maggie was the young one in the neighborhood. Since then, as the commu-



At age 101, Maggie Robinson is one of the eldest members of the Allendale community. She celebrated her birthday on April 5, and was recently recognized by the Allendale County Council.

Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

nity has changed, Maggie has become the eldest of the neighborhood, and her neighbors check in on her occasionally.

"She's the oldest one in the community," said Maggie's daughter

Vermelale Davis. "She still gets around and be out in the yard raking up the leaves. If anyone stops by, they have a conversation. If they don't see her, they go 'where's Ms. Maggie?'" To this day, Maggie

lives in the house she built while her father was serving in WWII.

"When he was in service, she pretty much built this house," said Bill Robinson, Maggie's son and current Allendale County Council member (who recused himself from voting on the ordinance to recognize his mother). "When he came back, she had a house built. This is where all six of [my siblings] grew up." Maggie had six children including Robinson and served many roles within the community, including a stint working at the school cafeteria.

She also had a close relationship with her mother, Ora Graham Allen (nicknamed Mumpsie by the family) who died in 1997 at 92. Maggie was close with Mumpsie, and remembers Mumpsie taking her to church as a child. Out

on the lawn, Maggie has a garden where her Mumpsie's old house used to be. Several years ago, her family replaced the house with the garden.

"They did a lot of canning back then during the summers," Davis said. "She used to can tomatoes and okras and stuff like that."

These days, Robinson lives alone and has habits she sticks to, like oatmeal for breakfast and chicken, cabbage and potatoes for dinner.

But on this sunny April afternoon, Maggie Robinson is looking out at the garden from her maroon recliner, thinking about her mother.

"I be thinking about all the time she's been gone," Maggie said. "God done called her home. We used to have a nice time. I think about momma now."

## Allendale reporter represents local community at environmental journalism conference

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Uncontrollable populations of deer and wild pigs, changing growing seasons and high levels of "forever chemicals" in local waterways are several of the environmental issues Barnwell, Allendale and nearby communities face. Yet these issues, which affect the daily lives of residents in rural communities, often go unreported and unresolved.

Between April 3-6, *The People-Sentinel's* Allendale County reporter Elijah de Castro, attended the Society of Environmental Journalists annual conference in Philadelphia. At the conference, de Castro met with other environmental journalists to discuss how media coverage can help communities confront environmental issues while avoiding despair amid the cascading effects of climate change.

"There's often a disconnect when it comes to environmental journalism," said Claire Carlson, a reporter at *The Daily Yonder*, a national news publication that covers rural America. Prioritizing members of local and rural communities, Carlson said, should be the priority of environmental journal-

ism. "The expert [sources] in that [community] are going to be the ones who have lived in that environment for a very long time. Even if they don't have the PhD or the credential that proves that."

As average global temperatures reach levels never before experienced in history, the intensity of natural disasters is increasing; In 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that 28 natural disasters caused a billion or more dollars of damage were recorded in America, the highest ever. According to polling by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 56% of Americans are either "concerned" or "alarmed" by climate change, an 18% increase since 2013.

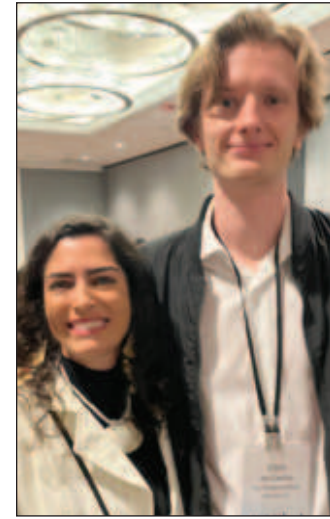
Yet, despite the urgent need to address environmental issues on global, national and local levels, the Media and Climate Change Observatory finds that global media coverage of climate change fell by 4% in 2023. Concurrently, American voters want to see more coverage of climate change during the 2024 elections, according to Covering Climate Now, a global news collaboration working to better climate change coverage within news media.

"Being able to connect



Allendale County reporter Elijah de Castro poses for a photo with Brazilian investigative journalist Eduardo Goulard, at the Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Philadelphia. De Castro represented rural communities like Barnwell and Allendale at the conference, and discussed how media can better represent and inform communities on environmental issues.

Photo By: Elijah de Castro



Elijah de Castro poses for a photo with Karla Mendes, an investigative reporter who covers local communities witnessing the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

Photo By: Elijah de Castro



A roundtable of investigative journalists discuss how environmental journalism can better represent the lived experiences of local and rural communities.

Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

the story to the audience is critical from a climate crisis standpoint," said Tevin Wooten, a Boston-based broadcast journalist

who reported on the city's transformation of its housing supply off of fossil fuels. Prioritizing the lived experience of local com-

local," said Karla Mendes, a Brazilian investigative journalist who reports on the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. "In many cases, local stories are also global. At the end of the day, it's all connected."

While the number of local American newspapers declines, disinformation campaigns funded by the fossil fuel industry have targeted communities as reported by investigative news outlet DeSmog. However, telling stories of how local communities are responding to climate change and other environmental issues can help turn the tide, said Yessenia Funes, an environmental journalist who spoke at the conference.

"It's really really important to dig into stories that are not just about community plight," Funes said. "Find folks who are actively working on the solutions. We need to ask our sources, 'What is powering you? What gives you hope? What environmental story do you want to read about your community?'"

*The People-Sentinel's* Elijah de Castro has begun a fellowship with the Solutions Journalism Network, which will help him tell stories about how rural communities like Allendale and Barnwell are responding to climate change.

## 'Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids' event champions 'small' businesses

Contributed by  
Petals & Stars



Jeremiah Logan, 7, is ready for customers at his Italian ice station at the Petals & Stars Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids pop-up market held in June 2023 at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park in Beaufort, SC. Photo Courtesy Amber's Eye Photography

The Petals & Stars nonprofit organization is hosting an Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids pop-up market from 12-3 p.m. April 20 on the grounds of the Allendale County Courthouse in Allendale, SC. This is the first kids' market the grassroots nonprofit has planned for Allendale, and it brings with it opportunities for children to unlock their creativity, build money-management skills, and be their own bosses for the day.

"As founder of Petals &

Stars and a former newspaper publisher, I'm excited about helping children see their ideas and dreams become a reality,"

Shirl Cave said. "This opportunity gives families with young children who want to develop a business a venue to test what that looks like."

Petals & Stars has planned nearly a dozen Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids events in Beaufort County, where the organization is based. Participants ages 16 and under have sold snow cones, popcorn, fresh fruits, baked goods, books, plants, lemonade, resin art, jewelry, honey, and various other items.

"It is fun seeing the businesses that pop up at our events," Cave said. "The beauty of it is that children are front and center, honing important skills with their parents helping them throughout the process."

The market will feature an opening ceremony by Allendale-Fairfax High School's award-winning JROTC students, live entertainment, special performances, business segment tips, and prizes. In addition, local first responders will have static displays for fun interactions.

The vendor fee is \$15 per booth for children 16 and younger. Parents must



Summerly Ferguson, 11, sells her homemade lollipops at the Petals & Stars Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids pop-up market held in June 2023 at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park in Beaufort, SC. Photo Courtesy Amber's Eye Photography

complete the required participation forms and remain with their children throughout the day.

The event is free. To reserve a space, email

HOPE@petalsandstars.org. For more information, visit our Facebook page, @petalsandstarsnonprofit.org.