



Lady Warhorses are back-to-back region champions
Sports, B1

Director of Allendale-Barnwell Disability & Special Needs Board wins state award,
News, A2



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2 SECTIONS / 18 PAGES / \$1

Bond denied for manslaughter suspects

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Michelle Mansfield spoke to Judge Kristi Curtis through tears while the man charged with the death of her daughter awaited a decision on reducing his bond. On March 11, 2024, Joshua Ryan Olive, 41, of Ridgeway, S.C., appeared in the Barnwell County Courthouse regarding his motion to reduce bond and motion for a speedy trial. Olive was charged with

involuntary manslaughter in February 2023 for selling the drugs that ultimately killed 20-year-old Sydney Joyner of Barnwell in December 2022.

"This is basically one of a number of cases we have in Barnwell County right now, before the legislature began dealing with some of these fentanyl issues, we've gotten warrants for drug dealers who give people fentanyl and it ends up killing them," said deputy solicitor David Miller.

Involuntary manslaughter is the doing of an illegal act

that leads to an unintended consequence of death.

Around the time of Olive's arrest in early 2023, legislation was introduced at the state and federal level increasing the maximum sentences for individuals convicted of distributing fentanyl resulting in death.

Senate Bill 380 introduced in February 2023, makes the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death a first degree murder, a felony charge subject to death or life in prison. This bill currently resides in the Committee on the

Judiciary.

Many of these bills are a direct response to the high rate of overdoses due to fentanyl across the country.

"We've done this as a means of addressing the fentanyl issue, and that is ultimately what killed Ms. Joyner," said Miller.

Olive was initially granted a \$75,000 bond at the magistrate level. A motion to reduce this amount was denied by Judge Courtney Clyburn-Pope in May 2023.

When the same motion was brought before Judge Curtis less

than a year later, she denied it too.

"I think we're all at the point now where we're just tired of seeing mothers coming to court who have lost their children, so I am going to respectfully deny the motion," said Judge Curtis.

Olive's at-the-time girlfriend, Rachael Ashley Rountree, 32, was also arrested in relation to Joyner's death and charged with voluntary manslaughter. According to the deputy solicitor, Olive and Rountree were selling

See DENIED, 3A



The cast of "Death & Taxes" includes (back row, from left) Jacob Sanders, Randee White, Dan Anderson, Jeff Miller, Brenda Chorn, and Donna Creech, along with (front row, from left) Rebekah Sanders, Caroline Randall, and Virginia Nettles.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

'Death & Taxes' brings comedic mystery to stage

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."

However, Circle Theatre of Barnwell's production of "Death & Taxes" is certain to make audiences laugh. The comedic murder mystery will conclude the community theatre's 2023-24 during the first two weekends of May.

"In searching for a play to direct, the goal is to choose one that will be interesting and entertaining for both the cast and crew, but ultimately for the audience.

FEATURING

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

Mysteries and comedies are both well received in Barnwell, so when the opportunity presented itself to bring a play to the stage that was a mixture of both, it just made sense," said Michael Pisacreta who is co-directing the play with Marion Young.

The play is set at a small-town council meeting after an IRS agent was found murdered.

"This play is interactive, so the audience gets to participate, which is different from most

See PLAY, 10A

Jasper County kidnapping case started in Barnwell

Michael DeWitt Jr.
Hampton County Guardian
www.blufftontoday.com



Just over a week after being called in by the Jasper County Sheriff's Office on April 8 to assist with the case of a woman found beaten and tied at the Corner Lake Boat Landing, state police are announcing a trio of arrests.

On April 3, a white female victim was found tied, injured and unresponsive at the Corner Lake public landing. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division says it has since determined the woman was kidnapped in Barnwell County and has made three arrests.

Kidnapping warrants have been obtained by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Adrienne Burgen Ginn, 31, Kaila Terria Bostick, 34, and Jamaal Terrell Riley, 30.

The warrants were requested on April 3, the day the woman was found, says SLED, but it took several days to bring the suspects into custody.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol apprehended Ginn on April 6 in Hampton County for driving under suspension — a second offense. SLED said Bostick and

Riley were arrested by the U.S. Marshals Great Lakes Fugitive Task Force in Indiana on Thursday, April 11, and will be extradited to South Carolina.

The woman, who was transported to a regional hospital and later identified, is now recovering, adds SLED.

SLED's investigation is active and ongoing.

After *The People-Sentinel* and *Hampton County Guardian* requested public documents from the BCSO in connection to this case, the BCSO released an incident report on Tuesday, April 23 that was mostly redacted.

Anyone with information regarding the incident should contact SLED at tips@sled.sc.gov or (843) 554-1111.

DARE returns to JDA after nearly 30 years

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

On Tuesday, April 16, the fifth grade class of the Jefferson Davis Academy (JDA) in Blackville graduated from Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), an anti-drug education program.

The DARE program is 10 weeks long and involves education on drugs, alcohol and violence. At the April 16 ceremony, 15 students graduated from the program. It was the first time in nearly 30 years that JDA had hosted the DARE program.

"They learned so many things," said Lisa Carrigg, Barnwell County Sheriff's Office deputy who led the program. "How to identify certain drugs, effects on your health, how

to identify stress, how to deal with stress, how to make decisions. Some of these things are never taught at home."

The students met once a week with Carrigg and learned about the differences between drugs and their effect on human health. At the graduation, the 15 students were presented with certificates, with parents and other loved ones in attendance. Carrigg and Barnwell County Sheriff Steven Griffith shook hands with the graduates.

"They were receptive and had a good time," said Carrigg of the students who graduated from the program. "They had a good time coming out of their shells and just being able to have a discussion."

The students who graduated were Vincent Martinez, Asher

See DARE, 9A



Back row, left to right: Vincent Martinez, Asher Perella, Ashlee All, Aubrey Croft, Deputy Lisa Carrigg, Sheriff Steven Griffith, Hensley Collins, MJ Proctor, Eme Crouch and Deklin Grubbs; Front row, left to right: Holicyn Stoudmire, Olivia Smith, Savannah Carrigg, Paisley Gleaton, Colten Breland, Breanna Carroll and Bryson Myers.

Contributed / Jefferson Davis Academy



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- Miles Loadholt - Barnwell
- Philip "Phil" Sandifer - Blackville
- Janie Ruth Cushman Scott - Barnwell

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Parker recognized as 'strong advocate' for people with disabilities

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeople-sentinel.com

The director of the Allendale/Barnwell Disabilities & Special Needs Board (ABDSNB) was recognized with the highest award for his field in the state.

At the South Carolina Human Service Providers Association's annual conference held March 4-6 in North Charleston, Brent Parker received the Debbie Burton "Making a Difference" Award. The award is bestowed to an association member who provides outstanding leadership in developing and providing services for people with disabilities and special needs.

"Brent is most deserving of this recognition as a leader in the field, and a strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities for many years. Brent is a natural leader with tangible qualities of vision, diplomacy, decisiveness, and responsibility. Of greater importance, he possesses many qualities of a true leader such as: caring, respect, empathy, humility, dedication, integrity, hard work, and resiliency," said Laura Collins with the Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs Board in her nomination letter.

Parker first served as executive director of the ABDSNB from 1987 to 2006. He then served in Greenville and Marlboro Counties before returning to ABDSNB in December 2014 where he's served ever since.

"Brent has never shied away from tough challenges; he simply tackles projects with confidence and determination. Brent has always taken an active role in promoting the best possible service delivery system for people with disabilities through tireless efforts as well as a good channel of communication with legislative

representatives," continued Collins in her letter. "Brent does not hesitate to contact members of the legislative delegation when there are problems in our service delivery system and pertinent votes are in play. Brent is always willing to lend a hand or pitch-in where needed. He is the go-to person for so many SCHSPA functions including providing the invocations, always with a deep thought-provoking story, dressing up in silly costumes and leading the opening conference acts, serving as photographer, and of course is always willing to be a friend and mentor to all."

At the conference, Parker volunteered to take photos. As the presenter was reading the criteria for the award, Parker was ready to take photos. However, a colleague said, "Brent, give me the camera." That's when he heard his name called as the award recipient.

"It's very shocking and humbling. Everybody in that audience could and should be up there receiving that award," said Parker of his colleagues from around the state.

The award, now in its 23rd year, is named in memory of Debbie Burton, a Greenwood woman who had Down's syndrome and advocated for those with special needs.

"She happened to have Down's syndrome but that never stopped her from living a full life," said Elizabeth Krauss with Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs.

When Debbie was born in 1952, doctors told her parents, Felton and Doris, that she would not live more than three years and she would never walk or talk. Debbie proved them wrong.

"For 48 years, Debbie lived life to the fullest. My parents accepted Debbie as a special gift from God as part of "His greater plan." Debbie was

"Brent is most deserving of this recognition as a leader in the field, and a strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities for many years. Brent is a natural leader."

- Laura Collins, in nominating Brent Parker for the Debbie Burton "Making a Difference" Award

always included in every activity of our family. One of five children, Debbie wanted to do everything we did, an early sign of the determination she would always demonstrate," said Debbie's brother, Jimmy.

In the 1950s, options were limited for children like Debbie. Parents either kept them at home or placed them in an institution. There were no special education classes at the time; however, Debbie's parents began rallying for change.

"Debbie was one of the first self-advocates for people with disabilities and special needs. Shaking hands with politicians, praying in the legislative chambers and making people aware of the needs of the state's most vulnerable population," said Jimmy Burton.

The Burtons launched the Burton Center in 1971 to provide essential services to individuals with disabilities and special needs while also supporting their families. They started with just five children and a teacher, but have grown to serve 1,300 people in Greenwood, Abbeville, Edgefield, McCormick, Lexington, and Saluda counties.

The award is meaningful to Parker because he knew both Debbie and her father Felton.

"Let's make a difference like she did and do everything we can with the resources we have to make their lives better," said Parker of the clients his agency serves. "We want to be sure they're safe, living good lives in the community, and celebrate

life like we do."

The ABDSNB currently serves approximately 275 people of all ages. Services include a day program, job training, senior adult program that helps motor skills, early intervention program focused on developmental needs of children, socialization training, behavioral support, case management to coordinate services for adults and adolescents, 15 residential homes that house clients, and supervised living programs where clients live in their own apartments but receive some assistance.

"We are with them from birth to death. We want to improve their quality of life and get supports in place so they can be safe, happy, and healthy," said Parker.

He credits his dedicated staff "who wants to make a difference" in the lives of clients. He also said the board and community play a big role.

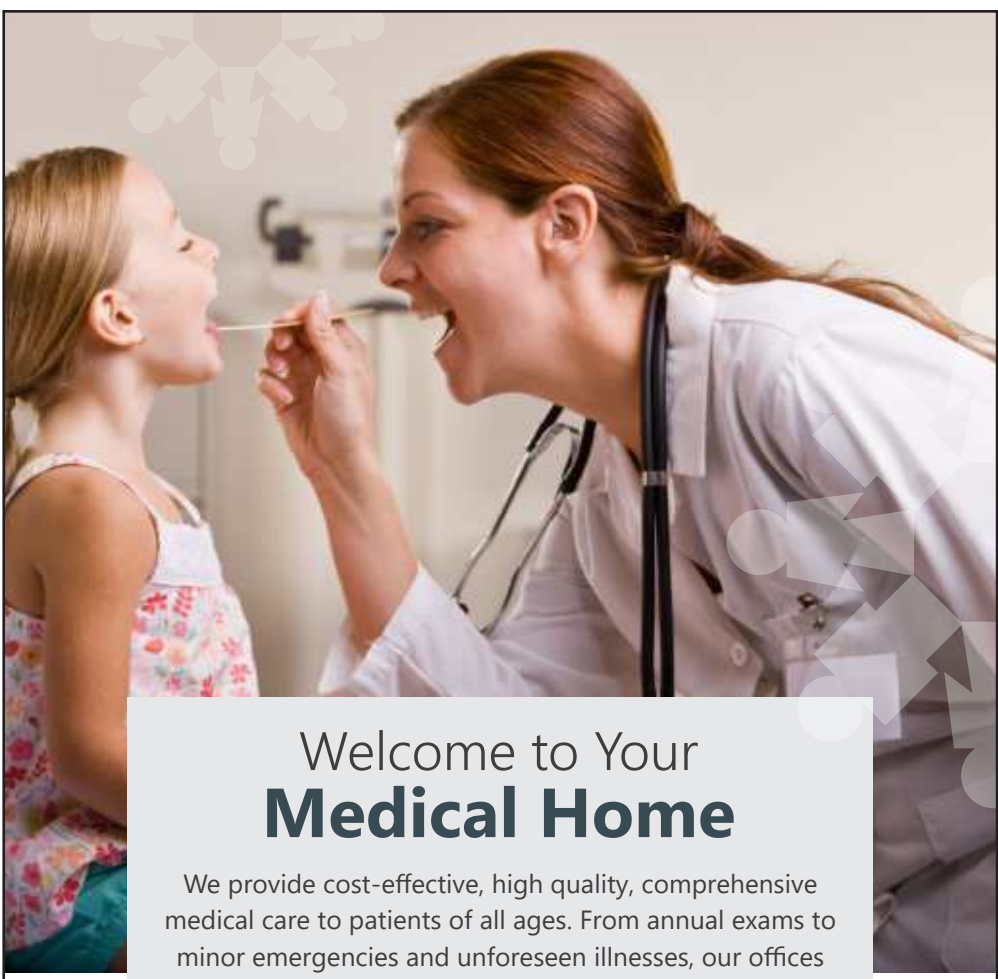
Anyone interested in finding out whether they



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Brent Parker, executive director of the Allendale Barnwell Disabilities & Special Needs Board, received the Debbie Burton Making a Difference award in March from the S.C. Human Service Providers Association.

for services, or anyone can contact the agency at or a loved one qualify interested in volunteering, (803) 259-7472.



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Law Enforcement Training and Instructor History

- Attended Criminal Justice Courses at Orangeburg Technical College
 - Graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy
 - Graduated from the United States Air Force Security Specialist Academy
- Trident Technical College Kinesics Technique of Interview and Interrogation Phase I and II
 - South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Certified Basic Instructor
 - South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Certified Investigator
- South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Level I (Revolvers/Shotguns) Instructor
- South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Level II (Semi-auto pistols) Instructor
 - Crime to Court Video Training Courses | The Line Up Courses
- Annual Domestic Violence Courses | Annual Legal Update Courses
 - Police Crisis Intervention Course | Civil Process Schools
- Fingerprint Core Classes | Governor's Criminal Justice Conference
 - Report Writing Core Classes
- Criminal Apprehension & Interdiction – York Technical College
- Bloodborne Pathogen Train the Trainer | Reserve Deputy Instructor
- USMC Military Police Combat Support Course | USMC Rifle Expert/USMC Pistol Expert
 - Glock Instructors Workshop & Armors Course
 - Cap-Stun Instructors Course/Taser Instructor Course
 - Action Target Academy Certified Patrol Rifle Instructor
 - National Rifle Association Certified Patrol Rifle Instructor
 - Instructed State Constables for Orangeburg Technical College
- Instructed Concealed Weapons Permit Classes for Orangeburg Technical College
 - Certified Concealed Weapons Instructor Since 1996
- Meth and Drug Endangered Children Class | Civilian Response to Active Shooter
 - Author and Instructor of the Barnwell Sheriff's Office Use of Force Policy
- Author and Instructor of the Barnwell Sheriff's Office SCCJA Approved Firearms Lesson Plan
- Author and Instructor of the Barnwell Sheriff's Office SCCJA Approved Patrol Rifle Lesson Plan
- Threat Management Training Program, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, GA.
 - International Association of Court Officers and Service Inc., Training Courses
 - Public Agency Training Council Drug/Narcotic Interdiction and Investigation
- Public Agency Training Council Raid & High Risk Warrant Planning & Execution School
 - Public Agency Training Council Policies and Procedures Course
 - HSS International Entry Team Combatives Class
- Caliber Press Street Survival/Tactical Edge (Officer Survival) Conferences
 - Emergency Vehicle Operations Classes
 - FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Criminal Justice Information System Security Awareness Course
- Mental Illness, An Officers Response Course | Domestic Terrorism Course
 - Police Community Relations Course
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Ricky Dixon takes seat on Barnwell City Council

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com



Ricky Dixon was sworn in at the City of Barnwell's special called April 15 meeting to serve in the District 1 seat. Dixon won the election to fill the vacant position on April 2, with a 14.05 percent voter turnout.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

The once vacant District 1 seat on the City of Barnwell's council has been officially filled. Ricky Dixon was sworn in at the April 15 special called meeting after winning the election with all 59 of the total votes.

Dixon took the oath of office surrounded by his wife and daughters.

The now complete council voted to elect a mayor pro tempore, or pro tem. The mayor pro tem presides over meetings and serves on the mayor's behalf when they are unavailable. Councilmember Peggy Kinlaw previously served in this capacity for the two-year term, and was elected to serve again in a four-to-three vote.

Mayor Ron Still appointed members of council to the city's eight departmental committees.

On the committee overseeing the fire department are council members Kinlaw and Louis Claytor. Appointed to the police committee are council members Dixon and Kinlaw.

On the finance and

salary committee is councilmember Alicia Davis and Kinlaw, and on the sanitation and streets committee is council members Jana Myers and Davis. Water and sewer committee will have Myers and Claytor, and the building and planning committee will have councilmember Wanda Highsmith and Claytor.

Dixon and Highsmith will serve on the parks,

recreation and tourism committee, and Myers and Dixon will serve on the newly created downtown development committee.

The council also approved the addition of two new members to the board of zoning appeals: local attorneys Linda Knapp and Cam Halford. Attorneys are desired for this non-paid position because they do not have to go through the same

training as non-attorneys would have to in order to serve.

Councilmember Davis expressed concern about the lack of diversity on the board, and is planning to present additional names to council to fill any future vacancies.

The council also officially approved the projects that will be presented to the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Commission:

- Fire Station Debt Service Pay-off: \$900,000
- Law Enforcement Vehicle and Equipment Replacement: \$350,000
- Law Enforcement Building Upgrades: \$50,000
- Street Sweeper: \$300,000
- Parks and Downtown Revitalization: \$350,000
- Fire Department Apparatus Purchase: \$700,000

- Blight Removal Continuation: \$200,000
- Water Meter Upgrade: \$600,000
- Water Department Building Project: \$568,294

The City of Barnwell is expected to receive a total of \$4,018,294.07 if the CPST is passed on the November ballot.

Councilmember Myers recently met with state District 91 Representative Lonnie Hosey to discuss a proposal requesting state funding to revitalize downtown. She explained Hosey was "more than willing to help," and detailed parts of the proposal.

Key components include upgrading sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting to improve walkability in downtown, improving facades, replacing damaged signage, public art installations, pocket parks, and building surface upgrades.

The council would request an estimate of \$3 million upon submitting this proposal. This proposal will be required to go through the legislative process at the state level before any funding is granted.

DENIED: 2 manslaughter suspects denied bond by judge

FROM PAGE 1A

drugs out of the same location.

Rountree was granted a \$40,000 surety bond for this charge which was posted on April 29, 2023. In November 2023, Rountree was charged with criminal conspiracy and unlawful carrying of a pistol; bonds for both were granted and posted.

More recently on March 14, 2024 she was charged with 7 counts of distribution of meth, 7 counts of distribution of meth within proximity of a park, possession of fentanyl, possession of fentanyl with intent to

distribute near a park, possession of controlled substance, and possession of stolen vehicle. Rountree was denied bond for these charges on April 22.

Miller told the court during Rountree's bond hearing that the solicitor's office felt she was a direct danger to the community due to her proclivity to continue selling fentanyl. He explained numerous informants for the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office have conducted controlled buys from Rountree, while out on bond and prior to her arrest, where she sold them fentanyl.

According to Miller, Olive has a slew of arrests in Kershaw County, Richland County, and Aiken County including several magistrate charges dating back to 2021, financial transaction fraud charges, unlawful carrying of a weapon in 2018, habitual traffic offender, larceny, receiving stolen goods, and a handful of drug-related charges in addition to parole violations.

Olive also has six pending charges in Kershaw County from 2019 and 2020.

Both Olive and Rountree are currently incarcerated at the Barnwell County Detention Center.

ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE WEEK

'Ezra' is housebroken, walks well on a leash



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

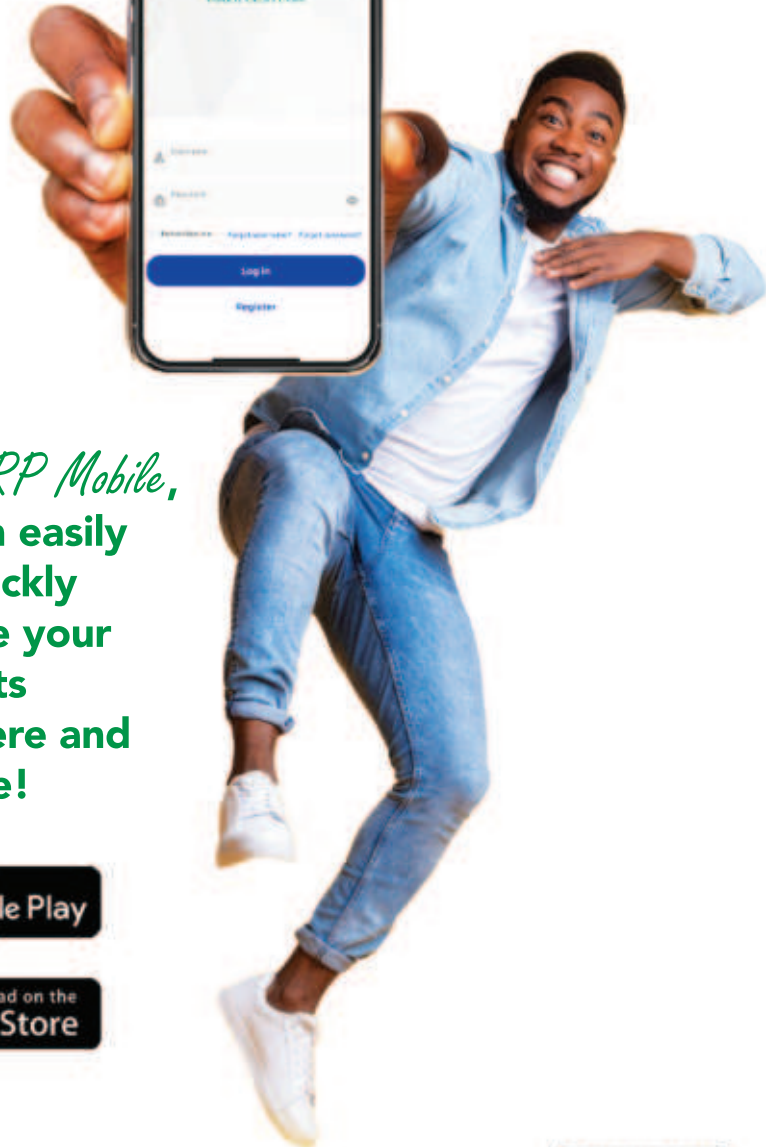
"Ezra is a sweet and friendly 5-year-old. He loves to play and is energetic. He is also housebroken and walks good on a leash. Ezra gets along with some dogs but may not get along with a bigger dog. He is also food and toy aggressive. He just needs to be fed by himself and he don't like to share his toys. He loves to cuddle and would make a great addition to a loving family," 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.

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BIRTH



Palmer Ashtyn Holland was born on April 2, 2024.

Palmer Ashtyn Holland

Lawson and Carly Holland of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Palmer Ashtyn Holland. She was born April 2, 2024 at 1:23 p.m. at Prisma Health Richland. She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 17 3/4 inches. Grandparents are Kent and Cindy Williams of Blackville, Phillip and Heather Williams of Branchville, and Ray and Alison Stevens of Barnwell. Great-grandparents are Sport and Elaine Holland of Barnwell, Phillip and Cindy Williams of Blackville, Jaby (Bill) Sandel and the late Miriam Sandel of Orangeburg, the late H.T. (Tommy) and Abbie Jean Flowers Sr. of Blackville, and the late Henry S. Williams Sr. of Blackville.

BIRTH



Porter David Paavel was born on January 31, 2024.

Porter David Paavel

Alex and Kathryn Paavel are proud to announce the birth of their son, Porter David Paavel. He was born January 31, 2024 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Riverview, FL. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 20 inches long. He has one sister, Gracelyn Kate. Paternal grandparents are Vello and Sandy Paavel of Columbia, S.C. Maternal grandparents are Dana Byrd and the late Dirk Byrd of Williston, S.C. He has a special aunt, Denise (Jimmy) Elkins of Williston, S.C. Maternal great-grandparents are the late Myron and Katie Bolen of Williston, S.C.



First Steps recognizes child care leaders

During an early childhood summit held in Barnwell on April 9, Barnwell County First Steps gave awards to regional child care workers and leaders. Tricia Gordon, executive director of Barnwell County First Steps, gave out Children's Champion Awards to (clockwise from top left) Kate Roach, Donna Selvey, Melinda Wilson, and Lil Stoltzfus, 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.

Photos By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America



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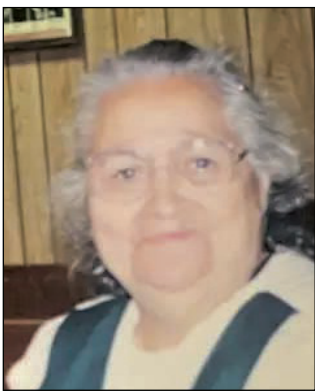
If anyone has their original will kept in the will safe at the **Law Office of Miles Loadholt** (25 Hugh Street, Barnwell), please call **803-224-8813** to make arrangements to have your original will picked up. Thank you!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Barnwell, South Carolina, will hold a public hearing at 6 pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at City Hall on the following appeal:

Appeal No. 2024-1 by Adam and Jennifer Altman for a special exception pursuant to Section 4-103 of the City of Barnwell Zoning Ordinance to allow property at 169 Jefferson Street to be used for a Tourist Home – Short-term Rental Property.

Documents relating to the appeals are available for public inspection in the office of the Zoning Official at City Hall.



Janie Ruth Cushman Scott

Faith Christian Church in Blackville, SC She was very faithful and a devoted supporter of her church, where she served as the church pianist for years. She will be truly missed. Janie had been in Pruitt Health in Barnwell, SC for the past 5 years. She was the person who would try to do anything for you if she could and loved to help with anything. She will be missed by her church family so much, especially her friend Peggy Still, who was so faithful to visit her, take her to church, and eat out on Sundays.

Survivors include her

BARNWELL - Janie Ruth Cushman Scott, 79, passed away on April 10th, 2024. She was born in Aiken County, SC on December 6, 1944 to the late George H. Cushman and Purnell Nancy Widener Cushman. She was a very dedicated and long-time member of

son, Russell Wayne Wood of Gloverville, SC; sister, Belle Vaughan of Centre, AL; aunt, Ruby Mae Hill; as well as several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her sisters, Mary Cushman and Frances Lucille Cushman.

A graveside service was held on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 3 p.m. at the Mt. Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

The People-Sentinel
4/24/2024



Miles Loadholt

in 1965. In 1968, he earned a juris doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law and practiced law in Barnwell, South Carolina until his death. He has assisted his alma mater in numerous capacities, including service on two presidential search committees, as well as his service as the research institution representative to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. He served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1996 until his death and served as Chairman from 2008-2012. He was a member of the Gamecock Club for 57 years, with more than 25 years on the Executive Committee. Further, Miles and his family established scholarship funds to benefit students attending USC Salkehatchie and USC Aiken. Mr. Loadholt also received the Order of the Palmetto, the State's highest honor.

Further, Mr. Loadholt was a member of the First

Baptist Church in Barnwell, the Rotary Club, the Sigma Nu Alumni Association, and the Ellenton Agricultural Club. Miles also loved boating and spending time at his family's home in Bluffton.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Fairfax Cemetery. Dr. T. Bart Kelley officiated. The family met with guests for an hour after the service in the cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the University of South Carolina Educational Foundation, USC Gift Processing, 1027 Barnwell St., Columbia, S.C. 29208 (Reference Loadholt Scholarship) or the Fairfax Cemetery fund, P.O. Box 820 Fairfax, SC 29827.

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

The People-Sentinel
4/24/2024

BARNWELL - Miles Loadholt, 81, passed away Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Miles was born in Fairfax, SC on January 28, 1943. Miles was the son of John Miles Loadholt and Sadie Ray Jenny, as well as his step-mother, Dessie. He is survived by his wife, Anna Gray Loadholt; his daughter, ElizabethAnn Loadholt Carroll (Lee); his grandsons, Gressette Loadholt Felder and William Nelson Felder, as well as his granddaughter, Anna Baskin Felder. He was predeceased by his son, John Miles Loadholt.

Miles graduated from Allendale-Fairfax High School and earned a B.S. in marketing from the University of South Carolina



Francis "Wayne" Bodiford

ship Baptist Church, Barnwell, SC with the Rev. Jim Parnell officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to service.

Wayne was a faithful member of Friendship Baptist Church, where he taught training union and was loved by many. He loved landscaping, wood-working, reading and automotive work. He was always friendly and very giving and had a big heart. He was loving brother and friend and will be missed by many.

Wayne will be lovingly remembered by his sister, Rhonda Little of Gaston,

SC and brother, Calvin "Nicky" (Terri) Bodiford of Cassatt, SC; several nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents, Calvin and Onnie Love Bodiford; and his sister, Bonnie King.

The family would like to thank PruittHealth of Columbia, Aiken Oncology, family members and friends for all the love and support that was shown to him during his illness.

The family has entrusted Dyches Funeral Home and Crematory with the arrangements.

The People-Sentinel
4/24/2024

BARNWELL - It is with great sadness that the family of Francis "Wayne" Bodiford, 73, announces his passing after a courageous battle he fought with cancer and now he is rejoicing with his Savior in heaven.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Friend-

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5A

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



Philip "Phil" Sandifer

ried to the late Jacqueline "Jackie" Marie Hutto Sandifer for 53 years. Phil was known as his father's favorite son, some of his family called him "7-11", he was the seventh son and eleventh child and his brother Rhett gave him the nickname Jocephus. He was affectionately known by his grandchildren as Pappy. He was a member of Ghents Branch Baptist Church, previously served in the U.S. National Guard and was a farmer who was the owner and operator of Phil Sandifer and Sons Farms. Phil was a leader and pioneer in the agriculture industry; he was always willing to try new and innovative ways to increase production on his farm. He won multiple state and county awards. In 1996, he won the Southeast Region High Cotton Award and also later won the Grower Award from Farm-Wey Produce. He loved watching his bird dogs work the quail and also enjoyed many squirrel hunts with his dogs. He loved cooking and spending time with his family at Point Field, his beloved river house. Phil was a great story-teller and everyone loved listening to his stories; he also loved visiting with friends and family and was always one who enjoyed a good time.

Survivors include his

sons, Chris (Nikki) Sandifer and Scotty (Kitty) Sandifer, all of Blackville, SC; sisters, June Sandifer Atterholt, Linda Sandifer Collins, Patty Sandifer (Kendall) McCormack; a brother, Jack (Jeanette) Sandifer; sister-in-law, Faye Sandifer; grandchildren, Savanna (Seth) Thompson, Brandon (Ashley) Sandifer, Karaline Ineeda Sandifer (Trevor Still), Paisley Carrigg Gleaton, Denver (Jordan) Sandifer, Dalton Walker Sandifer, Dillon Phillip (Bethany) Sandifer and Duston Paul Sandifer; great-grandchildren, Mary Gray Sandifer, Rylee June Thompson, Phillip Reed Sandifer, Cooper Scott Sandifer, Harper Lyn Sandifer, and Mason Denver Sandifer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Betty Sandifer Wetzel and Kathryn (Kitty) Sandifer McCormick; brothers, Reverend W.A. "Billy" Sandifer, Otis L. Sandifer Jr., Hammond Sandifer, Frank Sandifer, and Rhett Sandifer.

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

The People-Sentinel
4/24/2024

BLACKVILLE - Funeral services for Philip Larry "Phil" Sandifer, 76, of Blackville, SC were held at 11 o'clock a.m., Monday, April 22, 2024 at Point Field, Holman's Bridge with the Dr. Andy Sandifer, Dr. Thomas Terry and Reverend Dale Hutto officiating; burial followed in the Snake Branch Sandifer Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service on Monday at Point Field. Honored to serve as pallbearers were Travis Still, John Jennings, Chris Trout, Michael Hightower, Denver Sandifer, and Keith Bais. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

Phil passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2024 doing what he loved and that was fishing in the pond.

Born in Bamberg County, SC, he was a son of the late Otis LeRoy Sandifer and Frankie Ineeda Grubbs Sandifer and was mar-

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Rotary Club awards 4 students for 'service above self'

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

During their March 14 meeting, the Rotary Club of Barnwell County honored four students for displaying service above self.

The club bestows "Service Above Self" awards each month to one student from each of the county's three public high schools and Jefferson Davis Academy for exemplifying the club's motto.

"We are so appreciative of all that you all do. It is so wonderful when we see our students across the county making a difference in the lives of others, not only locally but beyond that," said Rotarian Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

Heven Dowling

Heven Dowling is a senior at Blackville-Hilda High School.

She's involved in Beta Club, National Honor Society, student council, cheerleading, volleyball,

and track.

After graduating from high school, she plans to join the U.S. military and go to college for barbering. She later hopes to further her career in the medical field.

Gylian Googe

Gylian Googe is a senior at Jefferson Davis Academy.

She's a member of Beta Club, yearbook staff and student council. She plays volleyball, basketball, and softball, plus competes with the JDA Shotgun Raiders. She's won several MVP awards for athletics and has also been student captain. She's also been the water girl for football since ninth grade.

"I'm so proud we won state this year," she said.

Gylian is also a mentor for the 4K class. She also won Miss JDA and Miss Junior and was homecoming queen this year.

She earned her nurse aid certificate from Denmark Technical College but decided nursing wasn't the right career path for her. Instead,



Nakiya Mercado, Heven Dowling, Kah'miyah Williams and Gylian Googe are the March students of the month for the Rotary Club of Barnwell County. Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

she plans to attend either Aiken Technical College or Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College to become a radiology technician.

Nakiya Mercado

Nakiya Mercado is a senior at Williston-Elko High School.

She is very active at

WEHS in Beta Club, as student government president, National Technical Honor Society and many other extracurricular activities. She also plays basketball, tennis, track, cheer, and drumline.

The dual enrollment student is also taking classes

through Denmark Technical College where she will earn an associate of science degree in May.

Through classes at the Barnwell County Career Center, she's earned her CNA certification and is working on becoming a patient care technician.

"Academics are my top priority," said Nakiya who has a 4.3 GPA.

However, she also enjoys serving her community through Secret Santa, food drives, and other projects.

She plans to attend Land-er University to become a neonatal travel nurse.

Kah'miyah Williams

Kah'miyah Williams is a senior at Barnwell High School.

In addition to being president of the National Honor Society, she's a member of Beta Club, National Society of High School Scholars, and National Technical Honor Society.

Kah'miyah takes health science classes at the Barnwell County Career Center which has allowed her to earn OSHA, CPR, and CNA certifications. She's working to obtain PCTA certification.

The honor grad is number six in her class and has a 4.7 GPA. She plans to attend Clemson to study biological sciences.

Williston-Elko High School's Kaitlyn Redd Named SC Teaching Fellow

Contributed

Kaitlyn Redd, a senior at Williston-Elko High School has been awarded the prestigious South Carolina Teaching Fellowship.

"I am so excited for the opportunities that lie ahead, and I am blessed to become a part of this program!" said Redd.

Kaitlyn will join the freshman cohort at the University of South Carolina-Aiken this fall where she will be offered numerous professional development opportunities and be involved with communities and businesses through various service projects and partnerships with local schools.

The state's Teaching Fellows Program, operated by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement



Kaitlyn Redd

Contributed

(CERRA), was established in 1999 by the SC General Assembly. The mission of the program is to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and help them develop leadership qualities. Each year, the program provides Fellowships for up to 230 high school seniors who have

exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their school and community, and a desire to teach in South Carolina.

Applicants for the program undergo a rigorous selection process that includes an online application, an interview and presentation in front of a team of three educators, and a scored response.

Following the rigorous selection process, applicants who are awarded a Fellowship receive up to \$24,000 in yearly scholarships (up to \$6000 a year for four years) to attend a Teaching Fellows Institution in South Carolina. Each Fellow agrees to teach in South Carolina one year for every year he or she receives the Fellowship.

For more information about the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, visit teachingfellowsc.com.

Macedonia Elementary-Middle School students harvest from school garden



It's harvest time in the Macedonia Elementary-Middle School garden. The 21st Century students recently enjoyed picking crops from seeds they planted in the garden.

Contributed

WEHS student Laila Chavous wins SCEA art competition

Congratulations to Laila Chavous for winning 2nd place in the SCEA Art Competition High School Division. She competed against students from other school districts in South Carolina. Laila says that when her dad would see her draw he would tell her she was doing a good job but add shading to this area. He too is an artist. She says she loves to draw cartoon art style the most. She is so excited and was surprised that she placed 2nd. What an awesome achievement! For more information about the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, visit teachingfellowsc.com.



Laila Chavous, 2nd place SCEA Art Competition winner with Williston-Elko High School Principal Tony Flowers.

Contributed

COLLEGE NOTES: Locals earn academic excellence in colleges, universities

Coastal Carolina University announces Dean's, President's Lists

CONWAY – Two local students were recognized by Coastal Carolina University for academic success in the fall 2023 semester.

More than 3,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester, including **Shanierica McKnight** of Fairfax. Students who make the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester.

Meanwhile, more than 1,300 students were named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the fall 2023 semester, including **Caroline Greene** of Barnwell. Students who made the President's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point

average during the semester. Visit coastal.edu for more information.

Albany Platts named to Dean's List at Anderson University

ANDERSON – **Albany Platts** of Barnwell was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina, for the fall semester, 2023.

To be named to the Dean's List, students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

Anderson University congratulates its Dean's List students for their exemplary achievement.

Aidan Anderson named to MTSU's fall 2023 dean's list

MURFREESBORO, TN – **Aidan Anderson** of Barnwell was named to Middle

Tennessee State University's dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Anderson is majoring in Aerospace.

To qualify for this distinction, an undergraduate student must maintain a current semester grade-point average of 3.5 or above and earn at least 12 semester hours.

MTSU congratulates the more than 6,220 students who made the fall list.

Locals named to Presbyterian College's Dean's & President's Lists for fall 2023

CLINTON – Two Barnwell County natives were recognized by Presbyterian College for academic success for the fall 2023 semester.

McKenzie Jackson of Barnwell was among nearly 300 students named to the Presbyterian College Dean's List for fall 2023.

This prestigious honor recognizes students who have achieved between a 3.3 and a 3.9-grade point average for a semester and is a testament to students' dedication to academic excellence.

Hannah Wooten of Williston was among nearly 90 students named to the Presbyterian College President's List for fall 2023.

To qualify, students must earn a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

For more information about Presbyterian College, go to www.presby.edu.

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.

Jefferson Davis Academy students have service day

April 10 was a busy day for service work at Jefferson Davis Academy. The National Honor Society students worked on cleaning the roadway for their newly-adopted highway and the agricultural class worked on spreading the wood chips (donated by Collum's Lumber in Allendale) on the Lower School playground.

Contributed



DARE: JDA 5th graders 'dare' to be drug free

FROM PAGE 1A



Perella, Ashlee All, Aubrey Croft, Hensley Collins, MJ Proctor, Eme Crouch, Deklin Grubbs, Holicyn Stoudmire, Olivia Smith, Savannah Carrigg, Paisley Gleaton, Colten Breland, Breanna Carroll and Bryson Myers.

"Hopefully they'll take these lessons and it'll follow them for the rest of their lives," said Griffith. "Hopefully it will guide them and think about their actions before they take them."

Photos By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America



Corder's Creative Corner: My first book is almost here



David B. Corder
Literary Columnist

Chest will be a fast-paced, sword and sorcery adventure that fans of *The Witcher*, *The Legend of Drizzt*, and *Dungeons and Dragons* will enjoy.

The novelette takes place in my fantasy world of Glomora and follows Veran Bloodstalker. To tell you more about my book, I decided to include a draft of the book's blurb in the article:

A vampire hunter seeking redemption.
A noble murdered.
Friends reunited.
A great adventure begins.

Veran Bloodstalker has journeyed across the face of

Glomora for years. Wielding the sword ShadowWeep, a blade infused with the spirits of an angel and a demon, he has eradicated creatures of darkness, keeping innocents safe from the things that lurk in the shadows. However, he is constantly plagued by his past, haunted by memories of the monster he once was as he continually seeks his redemption.

On his way to the Moon Court of the dark elves, Veran comes across Tav Blackmane, a dying, Zeralian noble who claims that he and his caravan were attacked by a phantom. Veran also learns that Blackmane's chest has

been stolen. Skeptical of the validity of Blackmane's claim, Veran ventures into Tharsus woods to discover the truth behind the suspicious attack.

However, as Veran delves into the mystery surrounding Blackmane's demise, he soon learns that the attack is not everything that it appears to be. Blackmane's chest holds an evil that Veran initially never would have guessed, one connected to his dark past. If it falls into the wrong hands it can mean great calamity for all of Glomora. Can Veran stop the evil? Or will he succumb to his own darkness?

This will be the first installment in a series of novelettes featuring Veran, the wizard Teyla Bluewing, the dark elf ranger Mirius Morda, and the dwarf bounty hunter Ruald Firegem. I am super excited to have this book released. After over a year and a half of writing, editing, and jumping between projects, I'm so pleased to be able to share this book with my readers.

If you want to stay up-to-date on the book's progress, read bonus short stories, and get book news before anyone else, please subscribe to my newsletter at substack.com/@davidbcorder. It really does support me!

9th annual STEM festival coming to rural Williston

Dreams Imagination & Gift Development Program (D.I.G.) will host its ninth annual DIG STEM festival Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Williston.

The family friendly event will provide engagement activities between the youth, families, and STEM professionals. The festival's purpose is to increase awareness in rural communities about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field.

Families are encouraged to attend the fun-filled event and participate in STEM educational and entertainment activities including: Flying Drones, Robotics, Flight Simulators, Virtual reality games and much more. The outdoor celebration will feature local exhibitors, food vendors and live music.

Since 2013, D.I.G. has been committed to providing educational and inspirational opportunities for youth in rural communities, with an emphasis on STEM education.

"There are thousands of kids in Greenville, Columbia, Charleston and surrounding areas that will experience STEM festivals and return to school with a better understanding of the field because of these types of festivals being offered in their area," said Steven Brown, president of D.I.G. "We feel that demographics should not be the deciding factor of what type of exposure our youth receive when it pertains to education. The DIG STEM festival will provide that opportunity of exposure to our youth."

Event sponsors of the D.I.G. STEM festival include: SRP Federal Credit Union, Platinum: Barnwell County, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, BEFESA, Barnwell County. Gold: The Town of Williston, CPI, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce; Silver: SRS, breezeline, BSRA; Bronze: SRMC, CNTA, Energy Solutions, Swiss Krono.

For more information about this exciting event and to learn how to become an event sponsor or exhibitor visit www.digdp.org/event/digstem.

It's been a long time coming, but I'm finally happy to say that my first book is nearly here.

My novelette, *Tales of the Bloodstalker: Blackmane's Chest* is being released in May of 2024. Final edits are taking place, and I am in the middle of designing the cover for ebook and paperback. *Blackmane's*

THE 2024 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN!

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- ▶ **THEME:** America the Beautiful
- ▶ **DEADLINE:** May 13th, 2024



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The Barnwell County Consolidated School District is currently accepting comments and/or requests for the naming of our Pickleball Court, located on the campus of Blackville-Hilda High School. Naming requests must come from a school or community group. Individuals are not permitted to submit requests. As it stands, we have received one request. The American Legion Post #253 has requested to name the court in memory of Mr. Andre Jamison, a Blackville-Hilda Alumnus, and an accomplished Pickleball player in the CSRA.

Criteria for the Naming of Facilities(Policy FF):

- Should have special significance and/or has made an outstanding contribution to the school or school system
- Has been deceased for at least three years
- The nominating group must agree to provide appropriate recognition such as a plaque, portrait, or marker for the school.

The deadline for comments and/or requests can be made to Mr. David Corder, Superintendent, at David.corder@bccsd.net by May 3, 2024.

Please recycle this newspaper!

PLAY: Tickets on sale for comedic murder mystery at Circle Theatre

FROM PAGE 1A

plays. It will be fun for the audience to be involved and try to figure out whodunit, all while laughing with and at these small-town, country characters," said Donna Creech, who plays high school drama teacher Evelyn Martindale.

The cast for this production includes many Circle Theatre veterans along with several newcomers.

"It has been amazing to watch every member work so hard to understand their character and to slowly begin to embody them during each rehearsal. It still amazes me how quickly some begin to memorize their lines, especially when they have so many to remember! It is also encouraging to see how all the veterans of the stage have embraced the newcomers and helped them to understand the theatre jargon and to make them feel comfortable up there every night," said Pisacreta.

Creech, who has worked with most of the cast previously, said rehearsals are full of laughter and fun.

"Not only is everyone good at their roles, but we have a great time interacting with each other. The fun we've had as a cast is what I've enjoyed most during this production," said Jacob Sanders, who plays Eddie, a stereotypical pushy newspaper editor.

While Jacob is no stranger to the Circle Theatre stage, his wife Rebekah is making her stage debut as Lydia Kleft, the mayor's secretary.

"I've always enjoyed a good murder mystery, especially with humorous elements thrown in. I feel like this play is a pretty good blend. I've really enjoyed rehearsing with the cast. Even though we have all heard the same jokes three times a week, for several weeks, they can throw something in that keeps it from getting boring," said Rebekah.

Jacob and Rebekah have enjoyed the experience of working together onstage.

"Working together in the same play has really been fun. We can run lines

together without being worried about spoilers. It's an interesting way to spend time together during the week. And thanks to our very supportive parents, we have not had to worry about what to do with our two-year-old," said Rebekah.

Auditioning for the play was a "pretty impulsive decision" for Rebekah; however, she knew this was the perfect time. "We're expecting our second child in August, and I can't imagine trying to do this with two young children at home," she said.

Another Circle Theatre newcomer is Brenda Chorn, who plays Mattie Johansen.

"Everyone involved in this production has been kind, considerate and very helpful and just a joy to be around! Mattie Johansen is a fun character that is married to a somewhat irritating man who uses sarcasm as his way of communicating. She is pulled into this town council meeting and able to get a few digs in at Carl when the opportunity

arises," said Chorn, who has been in many school and church productions growing up.

Since moving to Barnwell three years ago, Chorn has read newspaper articles about productions.

"I would always say to my husband, 'I would love to do that someday', 'That would be so much fun' or 'I should have went and checked it out,'" she said.

After seeing a Facebook post about auditions for "Death & Taxes", Chorn made a spur of the moment decision to go. She didn't tell anyone, even her husband, until afterwards.

"It is, hands down, one of the funniest shows we have put on the stage in a long time - or at least right up there with all of the amazingly funny shows we have produced lately. The cast is amazing at just drawing you in and keeping you listening for the next quip or sly comment that'll just have you rolling," said Pisacreta.

Opening weekend is

Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on May 5 at 3 p.m. Performances continue Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on May 12 at 3 p.m. Circle Theatre is located at 325 Academy Street, Barnwell.

The cast and crew encourage the community to buy tickets and enjoy an evening of comedy while trying to solve the mystery.

"I think it's important for the community to have the opportunity to see plays locally because it opens them up to the arts and they may realize that they too want to get involved. It is just good entertainment that is right in their backyard. Barnwell is very fortunate to have the Circle Theatre and the citizens keeping it alive and going," said Chorn.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at *The People-Sentinel's* office (22 Burr Street, Barnwell) or online at <http://barnwellcircletheatre.com> and selecting "Ticket Information".


Circle Theatre of Barnwell

DEATH AND TAXES

by Pat Cook

IF YOU GO

What: "Death & Taxes" Play
 When: May 3 & 4 and May 10 & 11 at 7 p.m.; May 5 & 12 at 3 p.m.
 Where: Circle Theatre (325 Academy St., Barnwell)
 Tickets: \$20
 (purchase at *The People-Sentinel's* office at 22 Burr St., Barnwell, or online at barnwellcircletheatre.com)



Season ticket holders can call (803) 471-8929 and leave a message to reserve a seat.

Allendale County Council discusses community center proposal, bridge expansion and raises sheriff's salary

Elijah de Castro
 Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

At its April 18 meeting, the Allendale County Council discussed a proposed idea for a redevelopment of the old Allendale High School as a community center, a bridge expansion project on Highway 301 and raised the salary of sheriff James Freeman.

Community center proposal

The council heard a proposal from Rory Dowling, a development advisor, on a potential renovation of the old Allendale High School, located along Allendale-Fairfax Highway, as a community center.

"I would love to be breaking ground with this project within twelve months, it might be a little

ambitious, but I think it's achievable," Dowling said. "We'd love to also have a community engagement session to further educate the community on what is going on with this project."

The high school, now an abandoned building on the South Carolina Historic properties record, was the high school for Black students in Allendale during Jim Crow discrimination. Dowling said the project could break ground by next April, and architectural and budget plans can be ready by July.

The project, Dowling said, would be a collaboration with Clemson University and would be funded in part by historic preservation tax credits from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. In total, Dowling said, the project would cost \$25 million.

The council expressed



At its April meeting, the Allendale County Council heard a proposal regarding renovating the old Allendale High School into a community center.

hesitation to Dowling's proposal, citing the project's high price tag and the building's current ownership by the Allendale County School District.

"It's not ours," said council member Theresa Taylor. "We're spending money on a property that's [owned by the school] and we haven't even discussed it with the school."

U.S. 301 bridge expansion
 Allendale County and the South Carolina Department

of Transportation (SCDOT) are currently in the early stages of a replacement project of the U.S. 301 bridge over the Savannah River. The proposed project would expand the bridge and replace the bridge's existing structure.

According to the SCDOT, there are multiple paths forward for the project and it would require approval from the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Historic

Preservation Office and the National Marine Fisheries; Underneath the bridge is a critical habitat for sturgeon, as well as several wetlands.

At the council meeting, council member Robinson said the project has been delayed by at least a year.

"It looks like that's been pushed back another year," Robinson said. "I didn't get a good explanation as to why. If you ever travel that bridge into Georgia, you can understand that there's a need

to have that bridge widened."

Sheriff salary increase

Following the executive session, the council voted to increase Allendale County Sheriff James Freeman's salary. The council said that this was done at the request of the personnel committee, which is made up of council members James White and Bill Robinson.

Connelly said the raise was based on the revised pay scale put forth by the county's previous administrator, Bert O'Rear, and had not been implemented until now. Freeman's salary increase will take effect in July.

Under the Freedom of Information Act all compensation for employees making over \$50,000 must be made public. However, that information has not been released as of press time.

Annual Child Abuse Awareness Walk



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THURSDAYS
2PM - 6PM

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2nd & 4th
SATURDAYS
9AM - 1PM

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BARNWELLFARMERSMARKET.ORG

Contact us with any questions at barnwellfarmersmarket@gmail.com



GOT DRUGS?

National Take Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

CVS Parking Lot
9912 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell, SC
Saturday, April 27, 2024 | 10AM-2PM

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Xavier Lewis

Williston-Elko High School



Grade: 12th
Sports: Basketball and tennis
Favorites...

• Pro Teams: Philadelphia Eagles and Los Angeles Lakers

• Athlete: Lebron James

• Food: Pizza, wings, and shrimp alfredo

• Movie/TV show: Menace II Society and Raising Kanan

• Snacks: Doritos

• Free time activity: "I like to play tennis or listen to music."

• Musicians: NBA Youngboy

Goal for this season:

"My goal is to just fulfill my duties as the #1 of the team."

Kaydrian Poplin

Barnwell High School



Grade: 12th
Sport: Soccer and cross country
Favorites...

• Pro Team: Liverpool

• Food: Spaghetti

• Movie/TV shows: Grown Ups

• Snack: Cheez-Its

• Free time activity: Soccer

• Musicians: Aerosmith

Goal for this season:

"Go to the playoffs."



VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Wednesday, April 24

• Barnwell @ Edisto 6:00

Thursday, April 25

• Barnwell @ Bamberg-Ehrhardt 6:00

Tuesday, April 30

• 2A Playoffs (TBA)

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, April 24

• Barnwell @ Silver Bluff 6:30

Friday, April 26

• Branchville @ Barnwell 6:30

Monday, April 29

• JDA @ Andrew Jackson Academy 6:30

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday, April 25

• Bamberg-Ehrhardt @ Barnwell 6:00

Monday, April 29

• 2A playoffs (TBA)

GIRLS SOCCER

Tuesday, April 30

• 2A playoffs (TBA)

TRACK

Wednesday, April 24

• Barnwell @ Edisto 5:00

Friday, April 26

• Blackville-Hilda @ Westwood 5:00

GOLF

Thursday, April 25

• Region match @ Williston-Elko 4:30

Sports

Allendale hosts area track meet
See page 2B



Wednesday, April 24, 2024

The People-Sentinel

1B

Back-to-Back Region Champions

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorse girls softball team defeated Hampton County in both games of a double header last Friday, April 19. With the two wins, Barnwell completed an undefeated Region 6-AA schedule and won their second straight Region Championship!

Barnwell took game one by a dominating 16-0 score. The offensive charge was led by Laney Grubbs who went 1/3 from the plate, scored 2 runs, drove in 3 runs, and hit a triple. Jaidyn Devore was 1/1 and scored 3 runs. Bre'Anna Buckmon went 1/3, scored 3 runs, and had an RBI. Brooklyn Gordon was a perfect 2/2 from the plate, scored 2 runs, had 2 RBIs, and hit a double. Layla Bishop was 1/1, scored a run, and drove in a run.

Barnwell's ace, Jaidyn Devore, pitched 2 innings, allowed no hits, got the shutout win, and struck out 6 batters. Devore did all of that in just 2 innings. The defense was ready behind her, but striking out 6 batters in just 2 innings, doesn't require much help.

The game two score wasn't much better for Hampton County. Barnwell earned a 12-0 win. The offense in game two was led by Laney Grubbs and Tiera Arnold who each hit homeruns



Laney Grubbs and Tiera Arnold both hit homeruns to help Barnwell beat Hampton County.

Photo By: Mike Beasley

to help the Lady Warhorses' cause. Laney was 1/3, drove in 2 runs, scored a run and had a homerun. Tiera went 2/3, scored 3 runs, drove in 3 runs, and had a homerun. Kah'miyah Williams was 2/3, scored a run, drove in 3 runs, and hit a triple. Abigail Corley was 1/1 from the plate, scored 2 runs, drove in a run, and hit a double.

Laney Grubbs took to the

circle for Barnwell and had an outstanding night. Laney pitched 3 innings of no-hit softball, striking out 7 batters on the way to the win. Between the two games, Jaidyn and Laney combined for 13 strikeouts in just 5 innings pitched. That is a dominant pitching performance from the two Horses hurlers.

Barnwell head coach Mike Beasley was asked about the wins



Warhorse ace Jaidyn Devore struck out 6 hitters in 2 innings and allowed 0 runs and 0 hits in a complete game win over Hampton County.

Photo By: Donna Miley

and winning Barnwell's second straight region title.

"The last two weeks have been really busy. We were able to complete our region schedule undefeated and claim back-to-back region championships. I commend our ladies on their continued focus and hard work. Our motto after spring break is 'together'. We start the game together and we finish the game together. I really enjoy coaching these ladies. We have a lot of fun and they compete. I'm so happy for their claim to another region championship. They deserve it. I would like to thank all who have and continue to support them. I ask you to continue to support our team, we need you and you are important to our success. The success just doesn't start at this level, we appreciate all the work and development that recreational, travel ball and family coaches dedicate to each young committed softball player to help make our program successful. We share the success with the community of stakeholders. Thank you from the Lady Warhorse softball team!" said Beasley.

Barnwell will finish the regular season with games against Silver Bluff and Branchville, before starting the playoffs. Barnwell will host the first round playoff game on May 1 with opponent to be determined. Good luck Lady Warhorse softball team!



The Lady Warhorse softball team has finished undefeated in Region 6-AA play.

Photo Contributed

Barnwell track is off and running

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The 2024 Barnwell Warhorse track and field team got a little bit of a late start this year, but are now in full swing. Barnwell head coach Thomas Davis recently returned from military duties overseas and the Barnwell track team has

competed in a couple of meets, the last being last Thursday, April 18, when the Horses traveled to Allendale for a multi-team meet.

Allendale-Fairfax High School hosted Barnwell, Edisto, Hampton County, Bamberg-Ehrhardt, and Pelion high schools in a large track meet. Barnwell took a large team that included athletes competing in the discus, shot put, long jump, and several running events, highlighted by the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash.

In the long jump, Barnwell's Kahzeer Wesley finished in third place. Wesley was just recently named to the High School Football America 2023 Academic All-America Team. Warhorse speedster Tavion Johnson finished first in the long jump, to give Barnwell two of the three top finishes in the event. Johnson also earned first place in 200-meter dash and finished third in the 100-meter dash. Johnson is undoubtedly the fastest Warhorse athlete competing for Barnwell.

Coach Davis is not at liberty to give specific locations of his deployment. Davis was the commander of the 414th 5K POL company out of Orangeburg. They were tasked to deliver fuel support throughout European regions.

Coach Davis was asked about his team's performance and said, "I was pleased with our athletes



Tavion Johnson won the 200-meter dash and the long jump and finished 3rd in the 100-meter dash at the Allendale meet.

Photo By: Jeff Miller

overall energy, effort, and attitudes the other night. Although we had a late start to the season, they have not been using it as an excuse. For the most part, they have been coming to practice and giving their all and improving each day. We have a lot of young athletes that are just eager to learn and compete each day."

Last year's Warhorse track and field team graduated a couple of State Champions, and several medalists from the 2023 State Track and Field Championships.

Shontavia Tyler was crowned State Champion in the girls discus and Tyler Smith was a two-time champion in the high jump. Will this current group have athletes that qualify for the State Championships?

Come out and support your Warhorse track and field team as they compete again, Wednesday, April 24 at Edisto.

Good luck Warhorses and welcome home coach Thomas Davis. We thank you for your service to our country!



BHS track coach Thomas Davis recently returned from active duty overseas, and has the Warhorse track and field team ready for battle.

Photo Contributed

Williston-Elko tennis defeats Woodland 4-3

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

the match was then all knotted at two wins for each team. Next up for the Devils was number five, King Brown. Brown put the Blue Devils up 3-2 after he won his match 6-2, 6-1. Williston's number two doubles team collected a win by forfeit and the match was decided in favor of Williston-Elko 4-3.

Williston-Elko head coach Bernard Walters was happy for the win and knows that Blue Devil tennis will see brighter days moving forward. Coach Walters was asked about the match and the season, and he said, "Our team has had a rough year and have played many close matches that could have or should have been won. We were close to winning the region with Woodland, but fell just short. In looking to the future, the youth will only get better. W-E have a bright future!"

It has been a tough year for the Williston-Elko boys tennis team and veteran tennis coach Bernard Walters. The Blue Devils have battled adversity, but never gave up and that perseverance paid off in the team's final match against their region rivals from Woodland High School. The Blue Devils battled to a 4-3 victory in the hard fought contest.

Williston-Elko's top two players fell just short and lost their matches, putting the Devils in an early hole. Williston's number one player, Hayden Duty, won his match by a score of 6-2, 1-6, 10-3 in a tiebreaker. When the Blue Devils' number four player, Justice Israel, defeated his Woodland counterpart 4-6, 6-2, 10-6 in another tie-breaker,



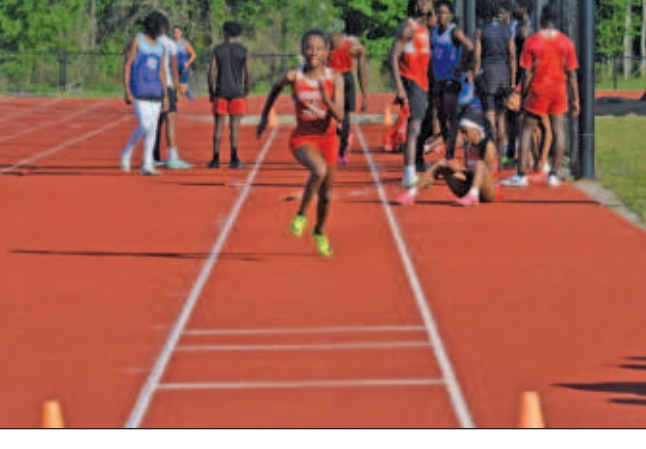
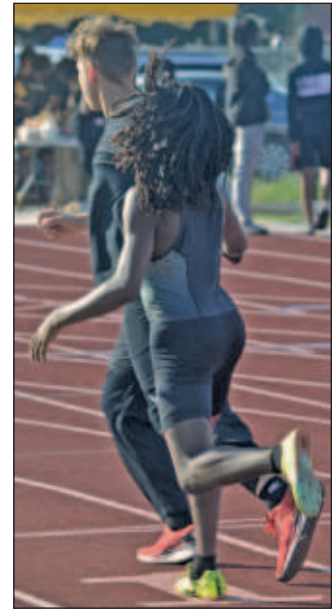
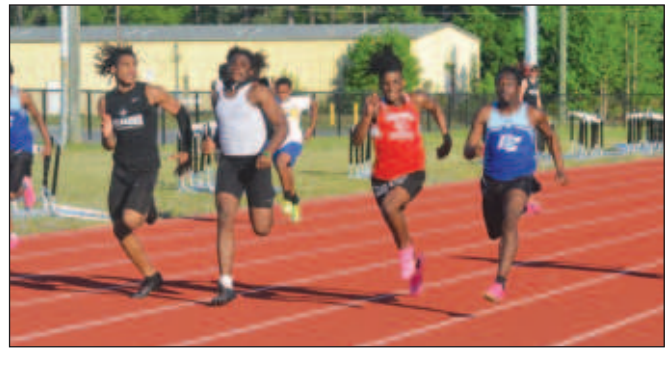
The Williston-Elko tennis team defeated Woodland 4-3 to close out their season.

Photo Contributed

Allendale hosts Barnwell, others in track meet

Allendale-Fairfax High School hosted Barnwell, Edisto, Hampton County, Bamberg-Ehrhardt, and Pelion high schools in a large track meet on Thursday, April 18. Here are some snapshots of Allendale-Fairfax and Barnwell athletes, coaches and fans.

Photos By: Jeff Miller / Sports Writer



Hawks continue to soar to the podium

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeople sentinel.com

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team participated in two track meets this past week. The Hawks traveled to Westwood High School in Blythewood for a midweek meet, and then traveled to Batesburg on Saturday for the Gary Phillips Invitational. The Hawks found success at both contests.

On Wednesday, April 17, Blackville-Hilda loaded up a full team to travel to Westwood High School to compete in a big multi-team meet. Due to some issues on the host team's end, some of the events were cancelled or cut short, leaving some athletes without the opportunity to compete. Those that did compete for the Hawks did well. The boys 4x100 meter relay team featuring Jamarie Priester, Jaqual Holman, Samari Williams, and Namair Anderson took first place overall at the meet and Blackville-Hilda team's personal record and school record from 42.82 to 42.62.

Blackville-Hilda's head coach Rushani Burke was asked about the meet and said, "Our venture to the Westwood track meet was a bittersweet experience for our team. Despite our anticipation and readiness to compete, unforeseen circumstances cast a shadow over the event. Delays in the commencement of the meet meant that many of our athletes were unable to showcase their talents. As the day progressed, it became apparent that time was not on the organizers side, leading to the unfortunate decision to cancel the remainder of the meet due to the lateness of the hour."

Coach Burke did go on to say that several athletes performed well, including Samari Williams in the boys 100-meter dash, lowering his personal best, along with Jamarie Priester, who broke his own school record, yet again, in the 110-meter hurdles, "...changing his time from 14:53 to 14:36. Jaqual Holman also performed admirably in the boys 100-meter dash, clinching third place overall out of 72 athletes who competed in the 100 meters. Our shot-put thrower, Timothy Beard, also achieved a new personal best, which I'm really pleased about because this is the area I have been pushing for our athletes to improve in. Overall,



Jamarie Priester broke the Gary Phillips Invitational record with a 14:48 in the 110-meter hurdles and earned a gold medal.

Photo By: Promise Henderson



Breyanna Williams broke the Gary Phillips Invitational record with her 1:07:86 in the 400-meter hurdles earning the top spot at the podiums.

Photo By: Promise Henderson



Darius Jenkins earned the bronze medal in his first-ever triple jump competition.

Photo By: Promise Henderson



Tamari Daniels earned the top podium position and the gold medal for the 100-meter dash.

Photo By: Promise Henderson

despite 70 percent of our athletes not getting to compete, we were still pleased about the stellar performance from those who got a chance."

On Saturday, April 20, the Hawks traveled to the Gary Phillips Invitational in Batesburg. Coach Burke said, "Our athletes

were able to weather the harsh conditions of the sun, staying hydrated and prepared to compete. For this meet, we only brought 50 percent of our team, but despite not bringing our full complement of 50 athletes, our athletes competed with pride the Hawk way."

In girls 100 meters, Taliah

Kinard, Sariyah Vinson, and Breyanna Williams all won their individual heats. In the boys 100 meters, Samari Williams won his heat, and Tamari Daniels was the overall winner out of 35 competitors. In the boys 4x800-meter relay, the Hawks claimed 2nd place overall and the silver medal on

the podium. In the triple jump, first-time triple jumper Darius Jenkins won his flight and was able to win the bronze medal overall.

"Overall, the top achievers at the Gary Phillips Invitational were Jamarie Priester, who broke the Gary Phillips Invitational 110-meter hurdles record of 15:35 and lowered the record to 14:48. Freshly coming back was Breyanna Williams, who also broke the Gary Phillips Invitational 400-meter hurdles record of 1:09:66 to an impressive 1:07:86, which is also a new personal record for Breyanna, breaking her own Blackville Hilda 400-meter hurdles record," said Coach Burke.

Burke continued, saying, "I'm thrilled with our team's performance and the maturity shown by our athletes."

The Gary Phillips Invitational marks their final preparation meet before the Regional Championships on May 2, 2024, at Calhoun County, starting at 9 a.m.

Good luck to the Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team as they prepare for the Regional Championship and then for those qualifying for the State Track and Field Championships.



The Hawks 4x800-meter relay team of Cooper Mulbah, Eric Mulbah, Bryce Collins, and Diandra Risi won the silver medal.

Photo By: Promise Henderson



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Barnwell baseball wins region

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Barnwell Warhorses are the 2024 Region 6-AA Champions for baseball.

After securing a win over their region rivals from Hampton County, the Warhorses have guaranteed themselves another region title, with one region game left to play. If the Horses can defeat Edisto on Wednesday, April 24, then they will also be undefeated in region play for the season.

On Friday, April 12, the Warhorses traveled to Hampton County to play a team that Barnwell head coach Cody McCullum knows very well. McCullum was the head coach at Wade Hampton High School last year and led the Red Devils to a Region 6-AA Championship there. A year later, coach McCullum now leads the Barnwell Warhorses and has



The Barnwell Warhorses are Region 6-AA Champions!

Photo Contributed

now won a Region Championship for Barnwell.

Coach McCullum is an important piece of the puzzle, but his team needed to win the games on the field, and that is just what they did. The Warhorses have gotten solid pitching and timely hitting, most all year long. Friday night the Barnwell offense was led by Trey Boleman, who went 2 for 3 from the plate,

drove in a run, and scored a run. Case Davis went 2 for 4, drove in 3 runs, and scored a run.

Case Davis was a big contributor to the offense, but his efforts from the mound were also impressive. Davis threw three innings but allowed just two hits, while striking out six Hampton County hitters.

Coach McCullum was asked about his team's performance against Hampton County and winning the region.

"I am really proud of the team for accomplish-

ing this goal. It was not as easy as the score may reflect. Hampton battled against us for most of the night and gave us their best shot. Obviously, I have a relationship with most of the kids on that team. Their starter kept us off balance early on and they made some nice plays defensively to keep us from breaking away. We finally were able to string some hits together as the game went on. Case Davis came through with a big two out, two RBI single in the third inning that sort of sparked things for us offensively.

Coach McCullum is looking forward to the rest of the season.

"Moving forward, we still have three more games to finish out the regular season. One being against

Edisto, which is a make-up game from a rain out earlier this season. We have clinched the region title but we have an opportunity to go undefeated in the region if we win that game so we will not be looking past it," said McCullum. "We have given ourselves the best chance to make a playoff run. We have been preaching since day one about 'Playing in May' and May is almost here."

Come out and support the Warhorses as they travel to Edisto, Wednesday, April 24. Cheer the Horses as they try to go undefeated in Region 6-AA play. First pitch is scheduled for 6:00. Good luck Warhorses!



Barnwell head coach Cody McCullum took his Warhorses to Hampton County to face his former team with the Region 6-AA title on the line.

Photo By: Shannon McCormack

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