

Lady Warhorses are back-toback region champions

Sports, B1

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



# The People-Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

**VOLUME 148, NO. 1** 

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

2 SECTIONS / 18 PAGES / \$1

# Bond denied for manslaughter suspects

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Michelle Mansfield spoke to while the man charged with the decision on reducing his bond.

Ryan Olive, 41, of Ridgeway, S.C., appeared in the Barnwell his motion to reduce bond and motion for a speedy trial.

February 2023 for selling the consequence of death. drugs that ultimately killed 20-year-old Sydney Joyner of arrest in early 2023, legislation overdoses due to fentanyl across now where we're just tired of Barnwell in December 2022.

Judge Kristi Curtis through tears number of cases we have in Barnwell County right now, death of her daughter awaited a before the legislature began distributing fentanyl resulting dealing with some of these in death. On March 11, 2024, Joshua fentanyl issues, we've gotten County Courthouse regarding up killing them," said deputy in death a first degree murder, a solicitor David Miller.

Olive was charged with is the doing of an illegal act resides in the Committee on the brought before Judge Curtis less

was introduced at the state the country. "This is basically one of a and federal level increasing the maximum sentences for individuals convicted of

Senate Bill 380 introduced warrants for drug dealers who in February 2023, makes the give people fentanyl and it ends distribution of fentanyl resulting amount was denied by Judge felony charge subject to death or Involuntary manslaughter life in prison. This bill currently

Many of these bills are a direct too. Around the time of Olive's response to the high rate of

> "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 Courtney Clyburn-Pope in May

When the same motion was

"I think we're all at the point 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.

# 'Death & Taxes' brings comedic mystery to stage

Jonathan Vickery Publisher

ivickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

enjamin 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. play with Marion Young.

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

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 a good time," said Carrigg of the was the first time in nearly 30 years students who graduated from the 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 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

For home delivery pricing, 4B

WHAT'S INSIDE Sports......1-4B Kid Scoop ......7-8B  **OBITUARIES**, 7A

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

# Parker recognized as 'strong advocate' for people with disabilities

Jonathan Vickery Publisher

ivickery@thepeoplesentinel.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

"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

continued Collins in her letter. "Brent does not hesitate to contact members 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 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

"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 like she did and do talk. Debbie proved them wrong.

lived life to the fullest. My parents accepted Debbie as a special gift

"Brent is most deserving of this recognition as a leader in the field, of the legislative delegation 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

invocations, always with always included in every life like we do." 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 name called as the award 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

> The Burtons launched 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

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

"Let's make a difference everything we can with the resources we have to "For 48 years, Debbie make their lives better," said Parker of the clients his agency serves. "We want to be sure they're

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.

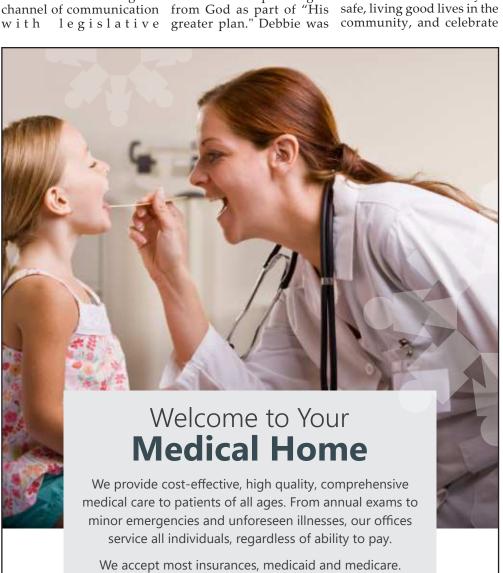
"We are with them from birth to death. We want to improve their quality of life and get supports in place so they can be safe, happy, and healthy," said Parker.

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

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.



With 3 on-site pharmacies, patients can easily have their

prescriptions filled directly after a visit with our clinicians.

**Low Country Health Care System** 803.632.2533 | \*Pharmacy: 803.632.1951

**Padgett Family Practice (Bamberg)** 

803.245.2433

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

**Aiken Specialty Services** 

803.306.1433

803.284.1045

**Family Medical Center of Blackville** 

**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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## 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 & Armorers 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

 Assigned as a Guest Instructor at the SC Criminal Justice Academy for Basic Classes required for Re-Approval as a Basic and Firearms Instructor

Ethics in Law Enforcement | Anti-Bias Training for Law Enforcement

⇒ Corrections Liability | Anti-Harassment in the Workplace

⇒ Community Policing Strategies | Mental Health in Jails

⇒ From Tension to Trust-Community Relationships

## Vote for EXPERIENCE on June 11! Re-Elect STEVEN "GRITS" GRIFFITH for Sheriff!

# Ricky Dixon takes seat on Barnwell City Council

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The once vacant The once , and the 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 twoyear term, and was elected to serve again in a four-tothree 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 Highsmith and Claytor.



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

committee is council development committee. members Jana Myers and committee will have

salary committee is recreation and tourism training as non-attorneys • councilmember Alicia committee, and Myers and would have to in order to Davis and Kinlaw, and on Dixon will serve on the the sanitation and streets newly created downtown

The council also Davis. Water and sewer approved the addition of committee will have two new members to the Myers and Claytor, and board of zoning appeals: the building and planning local attorneys Linda Knapp and Cam Halford. this non-paid position Dixon and Highsmith because they do not have On the finance and will serve on the parks, to go through the same

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 councilmember Wanda Attorneys are desired for approved the projects that will be presented to the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Commission:

Service Pay-off: \$900,000

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement: \$350,000 Law Enforcement

\$50,000 Street Sweeper:

\$300,000 Parks and Downtown

Revitalization: \$350,000

Apparatus Purchase: granted.

- 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

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 Fire Station Debt downtown, improving facades, replacing damaged signage, public Law Enforcement art installations, pocket parks, and building surface upgrades.

The council would Building Upgrades: 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 Fire Department before any funding is

## DENIED: 2 manslaughter suspects denied bond by judge

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

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

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 traffic offender, larceny, danger to the community due to her proclivity to a handful of drug-related 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 fentanyl, possession of arrest, where she sold them fentanyl with intent to fentanyl.

FROM PAGE 1A

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 receiving stolen goods, and 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.

NCUA

#### ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE WEEK

### 'Ezra' is housebroken, walks well on a leash

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

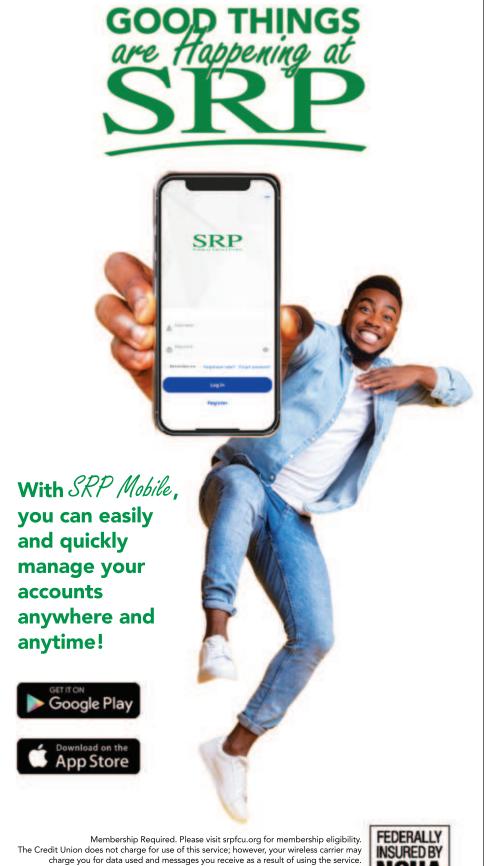
"Ezra is a sweet and friendly 5-year-old. He loves to play and is energetic. He is also housebroken and walks good on a leash. Ezra gets along with some dogs but may not get along with a bigger dog. He is also food and toy aggressive. He just needs to be fed by himself and he don't like to share his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





You should contact your carrier for complete pricing details.



www.bbfordsales.com | M-F 8:30AM-6PM | Sat. 9AM-2PM

The People-Sentinel

# <u>Birth</u>

Wednesday, April 24, 2024



Palmer Ashtyn Holland was born on April 2, 2024.

# Palmer Ashtyn Holland

awson and Carly Holland of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of utheir 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.



Porter David Paavel was born on January 31, 2024.

## **Porter David Paavel**

lex and Kathryn Paavel are proud to announce the birth of their son, A 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.





NOTICE

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!



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#### **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 – Shortterm Rental Property.

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **Events**

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

**Ongoing** 

**Ist 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 loy 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

Wed., April 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

"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 accepted. info! II:30am-Ipm

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

5:30pm

Allendale Barnwell Counties Disabilities and Special **Needs Board of Directors** Meeting Via telephone conference.

I2pm

<u> April 25 & 26</u> The Rainbow Fish, an **Undersea Adventure** Blackville-Hilda High School Auditorium. \$5 general admission.

<u> Sat., April 27</u> 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. I0am-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. I2noon

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

Allendale-Barnwell Relay for Life Teams Cancer Survivors' Luncheon

Recreation/Office on Aging Building, 3919 Allendale-Fairfax Highway, Allendale. For more information, contact Artheen Fitts to the memory of the at 803-584-3368. 2pm

May 2, 3, 4, 6 **Bamberg County Chorale Performance** 

The Bamberg County Chorale will perform South (Way South) of Broadway, a collection of musical highlights from "The Sound of Music," "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera." Performances: Thursday, May 2 at Barnwell United Methodist Church (236 Main Street. Barnwell), Friday, May 3 at Trinity UMC in Bamberg, Saturday, May 4 at Bethel Park UMC in Denmark, and Monday, May 6 at St. Paul's UMC in Orangeburg. No admission. Donations will be

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

**Barnwell County** 

Sheriff's Office

GRITS PROGRAM

(Great Reading Influences Total Sucess)

presents

June 4, 11, 18 & 25

9:00am - 10:00am

Come out for story time and an activity?

McDonalds, Barnwell

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 I lam-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

Fri., May 10 The Rivers Bridge **Confederate Memorial Association 148th Annual** Commemoration of **Confederate Memorial Day** Memorial Grounds on the Battle of Rivers Bridge State Historic Site, near Ehrhardt, SC. I 0am program begins with mid-19th Century music, followed at I lam by commemorative activities and oratory dedicated

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 24 Learn how to make a healthy

snack. Space is limited register at the front desk. 3:30-4:30pm

**STORY TIME** Read Rattle & Roll Thurs., April 25 Ham

Enjoy themed songs and stories followed by free developmental screenings. To discover a child's strengths and identify areas where extra support may be

Confederate soldiers who fought

and died at the battle of Rivers Bridge in February 1865. BBQ dinner on the grounds will be available for purchase, along with complimentary lemonade. For additional information, contact Jerry Morris, President of the Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial Association at yenome4@gmail.com.

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

Sat., May II

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

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. 24 **Crafternoon After School** Come join us for crafting at the

library! Grades 2nd-5th. 3pm

Blackville-**Library Events** 

Tues., May, 21 Story Time 10:30am

Williston **Library Events** Thurs., Apr. 25

**After Hours Book Club** The Light We Lost by Jill Santopolo

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

**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

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 **Sat., June 8 Hampton County's 82nd** 

**Watermelon Festival** 

**Pageant** Hampton Co. Recreational Center. Deadline to enter is May 25, for applications or more details call Melissa Goliver 803-

Local **Directory** 

Allendale Library

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

**Barnwell Library** 

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

Blackville Library

10am-2pm

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

Williston Library

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

**MUSEUMS** 

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

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

**BARNWELL** SENIOR CENTER

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

**BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER** 

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

300-8299 or visit the festival website hcmelonfest.org.



#### Crossword Puzzle Solution Puzzle on Page 6B

Ε 0 0 R E N Ε Α ES Α S С ON N 0 ΙE lΑ W S MIAIS Α Ν Ε В S R Ε S Μ Ν S R Ε N Ν S G U R F D 0 Н AIT R S S A R 0 R G 0 S Н 0 Ν Ε ss Ε ON GU L Ε Т Α Т

G

S С 0

D D S

#### **Sudoku Puzzle Solution** Puzzle on Page 7A

**Barnwell County** 

Ministerial Coalition hosts

**National Day** 

of Prayer

**Community Prayer** 

May 2, 12:00 pm

Barnwell City Water Fountain

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

## **Barnwell County Arrest Reports**

Arrest reports listed below are public record and have been provided by local law enforcement agencies. All persons named are presumed innocent until their cases are determined in a court of law.

Treasurer Latrice Brabham, 31, of 34 Race Street, Bamberg, S.C. was arrested on April 3, 2024 by the Williston Police Department (WPD) for Driving Under Suspension, Vandalism, and Abandoning Vehicle. Brabham was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Roger Edward Broughton, 59, of 82 Wilton Drive, Williston, S.C. was arrested on April 6, 2024 by WPD for Trespass of Real Property and Shoplifting. Broughton was booked and released to

Williston, S.C. was arrested on April 6, 2024 by WPD for Disorderly Conduct and Threatening a Public Employee. Broughton was booked and released to BCDC.

Javion Tyrese Dukes, 18, of 150 Glendale Road, Williston, S.C. was arrested on March 31, 2024 by WPD for Criminal Sexual Conduct and Assault and Battery Third Degree. Dukes was booked and released to BCDC.

Angela Marie Fowke, 41, of 27 Cedar Run Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 17, 2024 by BCSO for Distribution of Meth and Prisoner in Possession/ Furnish Contraband. Fowke was booked and released to

**Christopher Andrew Ful**mer, 29, of 11922 Highway 64 Lot 8 Barnwell, S.C. was Roger Edward Brough- arrested on April 19, 2024 by

a Driver's License. Fulmer was booked and released to

Ashley Marie Guillebeau, 30, of 676 Cedar Branch Road, Windsor, S.C. was arrested on April 16, 2024 by BCSO for Petit Larceny. Guillebeau was booked and released to BCDC.

Nathan Kenneth Holman, Jr., 37, of 558 Twin Court View, Grainteville, S.C. was arrested on April 4, 2024 by WPD for Driving Under Suspension. Holman was booked and released to BCDC

Shawn William Hughes, 48, of 1327 Myers Road, Orangeburg, S.C. was arrested on April 17, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Child Support. Hughes was booked and released to BCDC.

Daniel Kevin Hutto, 35, of 660 Whittle Pond Road, Williston, S.C. was arrested

for (2) counts of Burglary and Assault & Battery. Hutto was booked and released to BCDC.

Rebecca Helen Maximiek-Everitt, 46, of 5889 Lartigue Street, Blackville, S.C. was arrested on April 18, 2024 by BCSO for Possession of Fentanyl. Maximiek-Everitt was booked and released to BCDC.

Steve Edward Morris, 57, of 505 Snapper Road, Williston, S.C. was arrested on April 16, 2024 by BCSO for (3) counts of Petit Larceny, Possession of Stolen Property, Malicious Injury to Personal Property, and Assault & Battery. Morris was booked and released to BCDC.

Eddie Alvin Myers Jr., 39, of 5045 Seven Pines Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 18, 2024 by BCSO for Possession of Fenton, 59, of 82 Wilton Drive, BCSO for Driving Without on April 15, 2024 by BCSO tanyl. Myers was booked and Thigpen was booked and re-

released to BCDC.

Tomeka Williams Saxton, 45, of 175 McDonald Drive, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 20, 2024 by BCSO for Disorderly Conduct. Saxton was booked and released to BCDC. Maurice Zyaire Rivers,

25, of 116 Canna Street, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 18, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Appear. Rivers was booked and released to Coy Roberts, 25, of 307 Litchfield Apartments, Barn-

(2) counts of Petit Larceny. Roberts was booked and released to BCDC. John Thomas Thigpen, 55, of 2187 Red Oak Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 18, 2024 by BCSO for Possession of Fentanyl.

well, S.C. was arrested on

April 16, 2024 by BCSO for

leased to BCDC. William Arnette Tripp, 55, of 46 McCrae Avenue Denmark, S.C. was arrested on April 17, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender Violation. Tripp was booked and released to

Eddie Azie White, 40, of 84 Simpkins Lane, Williston, S.C. was arrested on April 3, 2024 by WPD for Driving Under Suspension, Habitual Offender Status. White was booked and released to BCDC.

Jasmine Antionette Williams, 26, of 46 Mary Street, Williston, S.C. was arrested on March 7, 2024 by WPD for Public Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, and Indecent Exposure. Williams was booked and released to Aiken Regional Medical

# Kuester pleads guilty for Aiken and Barnwell charges

Office (BCSO) conducted

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Karen Kuester, 61, of Barnwell, pleaded guilty to two indictments - one in Aiken County and one in Barnwell County. Kuester was charged

with possession of methamphetamine in both counties, and waived venue for the Aiken County charge in order to appear in the Barnwell County Courthouse on September 11, 2023. On March 3, 2023, an Aiken County law enforce-

ment officer observed a vehicle swerving "leaving a known drug house," said the solicitor. The officer conducted a traffic stop which Kuester was driving. A vehicle search resulted in 1.44 grams of methamphetamine being found.

a traffic safety checkpoint at Poplar Road and Patterson Mill Road in Barnwell. Kuester was in the passen-

and alerted for narcotics. The deputy found seven grams of methamphetamine in the vehicle which Kuester then claimed. The solicitor recommended time served for the Aiken County charge (one day) and probation at the

court's discretion for the

Barnwell County charge.

the Barnwell County De-

tention Center (BCDC). Kuester's record ranges from 1984 to 2023.

"How many do you want me to give you?" asked Presiding Judge Clifton Newman.

"Whatever the court feels is necessary," responded On April 10, 2023, the Kuester. "I just want to Barnwell County Sheriff's change my life around

your honor."

Judge Newman accepted the state's recommendation for the Aiken County charge and gave Kuester ger seat of the vehicle when four years suspended to a K9 unit circled the vehicle probation for two years with time served for the Barnwell County charge. Probation conditions include random drug testing, substance abuse counseling, and payment of the public defender fee.

On March 17, Kuester was arrested while on probation alongside two others by BCSO for traf-Kuester spent 10 days at ficking meth, trafficking fentanyl, and (2) counts of prisoner in possession/furnish contraband. Kuester was booked and released to BCDC following these

> She appeared in the Barnwell County Courthouse on April 22, 2024 and was granted a \$40,000 bond to be split evenly amongst the charges.

# Blackville man pleads guilty to assault

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Ronnie Martin Williams, 35, of Blackville pleaded guilty to assault and battery second degree after a March 15 incident involving his mother and grandmother.

"I would like to tell the victim I apologize to her for what happened and I plead guilty to my charges," said Williams at the September 11, 2023 court date.

With this charge, Williams

violated his probation for a 2019 burglary charge where he was sentenced to eight years suspended to five years probation upon serving three years. "The state recommends three years to run concurrent-

ly with his probation revocation," said assistant solicitor Leigh Staggs. Judge Clifton Newman accepted the state's recommendation and Williams was subsequently sentenced to three years for the 2023 assault and battery of his mother to run concurrent with the remaining time for the probation violation. He served 170 days which will be deducted from his total sentence and was fined \$683.75, according to the civil judgment document.

"I did push my mother down," said Williams, who claims he did so when coming out of a seizure. "I didn't understand what I was doing at the time but she said I assaulted her."

When law enforcement arrived at the victim's home, Williams grandmother was lying on the ground seemingly in need of medical attention and his mother was photographed with a bloody lip and bump on her forehead, according to the solicitor. EMS was called.

grabbed me from behind and body slammed me to my floor," said the victim during her impact statement. "I left my house with a knot on my head, front and back, a busted lip." According to the solici-

"He hit me on the lip...

tor, Williams' grandmother's statement explained she entered the living room to see her daughter on the floor. Williams told Judge Newman he had been suffering from seizures since his early 20s, and experienced one the

agreed to her son experiencing seizures, but denied him having one the day of the incident during her statement.

"On March 15 my whole

life changed," said the victim.

day of the assault. The victim

"I love my child, but I can't do this no more."

Judge Newman questioned if Williams would be cognizant enough during a seizure to know what he did. Wil-

ing out of his seizure when the incident occurred. The victim requested a permanent restraining order be placed on Williams, which

liams explained he was com-

was granted. "She doesn't have to worry about me messing with her anymore, coming on her property anymore, and that just lets me know that from birth my real mother never loved me," said Williams in court.

Williams' record begins in 2002 with an assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature charge, according to the solicitor. Other charges range from 2010 to 2021 in both South Carolina and Virginia.

Subscribe today to The People-Sentinel call 803-259-3501.

# Park serves time for stolen vehicle

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

sion of a stolen vehicle.

"I was knowingly in possession and behind the wheel of a vehicle that did not belong to me or the other occupants," said Park during court on September 11, who said he knew the

vehicle was stolen. According to the solicitor, Park was stopped by law enforcement on Patterson Mill Road after an officer noticed Alabama trailer tags on a 2001 Green Ford F250. Upon running the vehicle identification number

(VIN), the officer found the the Barnwell County Devehicle was reported stolen tention Center. in Aiken County.

hicle with a value or more meaning the 119 days Park Austin Park, 27, of Barn- than \$2,000 but less than spent behind bars would well pleaded guilty to a \$10,000 carries a prison be a suitable sentence. May 2023 charge of posses- sentence of up to five years, Park has a record relataccording to presiding Judge Clifton Newman.

> done, but that's no excuse. counts of a stolen vehicle I just throw myself on the charge. He was sentenced mercy of the court," said to 60 days having already Park to the judge. Park explained he did

did know the vehicle was stolen before operating it.

Park was granted a \$5,000 surety bond for this charge a day after his arrest on May 18. The bond was not spent the next 119 days at September 11 court date.

The state recommended Possession of a stolen ve- a sentence of time served,

ing to vehicles. On April 23, 2022, Park was arrested "I'm sorry for what I've in Aiken County for two served 56.

In early 2022 in Barnwell not steal the vehicle, but County, Park was charged with unlawful carry of a pistol and driving under suspension. Both charges have been disposed of with a sentence of 38 days.

The victims were notiposted. Subsequently, Park fied but did not attend the

#### COUNTY, BARNWELL COUNTY, CALHOUN COUNTY & ORANGEBURG COUNTY **Community Development Block Grant**

**Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Application** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., Aiken County – in conjunction with Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties – will hold a public hearing concerning an application to be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Commerce Grants Administration on or about May 6, 2024, for a Com-

munity Development Block Grant (CDBG). As the lead applicant, Aiken County is requesting \$50,000 to carry out the following activities: The grant will be used to provide CDBG planning, capacity building, project development and technical assistance to local governments in the Lower Savannah Region - Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties.

This hearing will be held in the Lower Savannah Council of Governments conference room at 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken, SC 29801.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties' Citizen Participation Plans, developed in anticipation of participation in the state of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of these Counties in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds.

The Citizen Participation Plans are available for review at each County's administrative building during normal business hours. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or their County's Citizen Participation Plan may contact Sydney Goff, RIA Grants Coordinator, Lower Savannah Council of Governments, P.O. Box 850, Aiken, SC, 29802, phone number 803-508-7069 or their respective County's administration.

As the lead applicant, Aiken County does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Brian Sanders, County Administrator, Aiken County, 1930 University Parkway, Aiken, SC, phone number (803)-642-2012, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988). Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of handicapped or disabled persons wishing to participate in the meeting upon request. Persons needing special assistance or auxiliary aids should contact Aiken County at (803) 533-6100 seventy-two (72) hours before the public hearing.

#### NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF BARNWELL

The General Election for federal, state, county, and other local offices will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Any person wishing to vote in this election must register no later than Sunday, May 12, 2024. Voter registration by mail forms will be accepted if postmarked by Monday, May 13,2024.

The early voting period for this election begins on Tuesday, May 28 and ends on Friday, June 7. The following early voting centers will be open during the early voting period from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed Saturdays & Sundays).

Barnwell County will open three Early Vote Centers:

Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office, 367 Fuldner Rd, Barnwell, SC The Blackville Community Center, 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville, SC

Williston Town Hall, 13112 Main St. Williston, SC

Voters will be asked to provide one of the following Photo IDs when voting in person.

ID Card issued by S.C Department of Motor Vehicles

S.C Voter Registration Card with Photo

Voters should remember to bring one of these IDs with them to the polling place. Voters without Photo ID can get one free of charge from their county voter registration office or the Department of Motor Vehicles. For more information on Photo ID, visit seVOTES.gov or contact your county board of voter registration and elections. At 7:00 a.m. on the day of the primaries and the day of any necessary runoffs, the county board of voter registration and elections will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections Office, 367 Fuldner Rd. Barnwell, SC, 29812, 803-541-1060.

At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024, the county board of canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in the primaries. At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2024, the county board of canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in any necessary runoffs. These hearings will be held at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections Office, 367 Fuldner Rd.

The following precincts and polling places will be open during the primaries and runoffs from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Polling places are subject to change under certain conditions. Voters can check their assigned polling place at scVOTES.gov before going to the polls on election day.

Polling Places

Barnwell #1 Barnwell #2 Barnwell #3 Barnwell #4 Blackville #1 Blackville #2 Friendship

National Guard Armory National Guard Armory National Guard Armory National Guard Armory Blackville Community Center Blackville Community Center Blackville Community
Elko Fire Department
Friendship Fire Station
Kline Town Hall
Blackville Community
Hilda Town Hall
Snelling Town Hall
Williston Town Hall
Williston Town Hall Williston Town Hall Williston Town Hall

10233 Marlboro Ave. 10233 Marlboro Ave. 10233 Marlboro Ave. 10233 Marlboro Ave.

19464 Solomon Blatt Ave. 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave. 10077 US Highway 78 3391 Green Branch Rd. 1247 Kings Ave. 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave.

13112 Main St. 13112 Main St.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The People-Sentinel



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

on Sundays. Survivors include her

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 fam-

ily so much, especially her

friend Peggy Still, who was

so faithful to visit her, take

her to church, and eat out

Faith Christian Church son, Russell Wayne Wood in Blackville, SC She was of Gloverville, SC; sister, very faithful and a devoted Belle Vaughan of Centre, AL; aunt, Ruby Mae Hill; as supporter of her church, where she served as the well as several nieces and church pianist for years. nephews. She is preceded She will be truly missed. in death by her sisters,

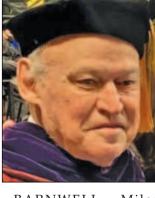
Janie Ruth Cushman Scott

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

Mary Cushman and Fran-

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 School and earned a B.S. in marketing from the University of South Carolina was a member of the First



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 Allendale-Fairfax High Palmetto, the State's highest honor.

Further, Mr. Loadholt

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

difer and Scotty (Kitty)

Sandifer, all of Blackville,

SC; sisters, June Sandifer

Atterholt, Linda Sandi-

fer Collins, Patty Sandifer

(Kendall) McCormack; a

brother, Jack (Jeanette) San-

difer; sister-in-law, Faye

Sandifer; grandchildren,



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-

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## Francis "Wayne" Bodiford

well, 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, woodworking, 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,

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5A

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With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165. NSCB 0082999. 0083445.

6

STEP 1-855-576-5653

9

Call today and receive a

ship Baptist Church, Barn- 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

> > SPECIAL OFFER

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with the Dr. Andy 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 contrilas, TX 75284-0692.

Phil passed away on

Otis LeRoy Sandifer and Frankie Ineeda Grubbs Sandifer and was mar-

## Philip "Phil" Sandifer

ried to the late Jacque- sons, Chris (Nikki) Sanline "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 difer, Dr. Thomas Terry of Phil Sandifer and Sons and Reverend Dale Hutto Farms. Phil was a leader officiating; burial followed and pioneer in the agriculin the Snake Branch San- ture 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.

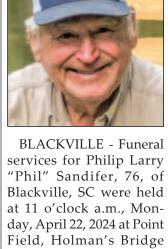
Survivors include his

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.

> The People-Sentinel 4/24/2024

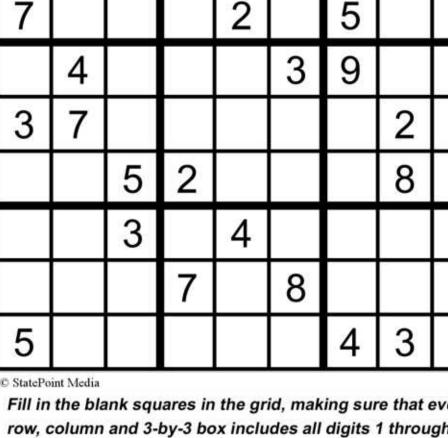


butions may be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dal-Thursday, April 18, 2024 doing what he loved and that was fishing in the pond. Born in Bamberg County, SC, he was a son of the late

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The People-Sentinel Wednesday, April 24, 2024

# Rotary Club awards 4 students for 'service above self'

Jonathan Vickery Publlisher

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.

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

radiology technician.

#### Nakiya Mercado

senior at Williston-Elko and drumline. High School.

she plans to attend either WEHS in Beta Club, as through Denmark Techni-Aiken Technical College or student government presi-Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech- dent, National Technical nical College to become a Honor Society and many other extracurricular activities. She also plays basket-Nakiya Mercado is a ball, tennis, track, cheer,

The dual enrollment stu-She is very active at dent is also taking classes

cal College where she will earn an associate of science

degree in May.

Through classes at the certification. 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 Lander University to become a

neonatal travel nurse. Kah'miyah Williams

Kah'miyah Williams is a senior at Barnwell High

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

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

Kaitlyn Redd

Contributed

Contributed

aitlyn Redd, 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 numerwith local schools.

lows Program, operated qualities. Each year, the

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

gram 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 scholarous professional develop- (CERRA), was established ships (up to \$6000 a year ment opportunities and in 1999 by the SC General for four years) to attend be involved with com- Assembly. The mission a Teaching Fellows Instimunities and businesses of the program is to re-tution in South Carolina. through various service cruit talented high school Each Fellow agrees to teach projects and partnerships seniors into the teach- in South Carolina one year ing profession and help for every year he or she re-The state's Teaching Felther develop leadership ceives the Fellowship.

For more information by the Center for Educa- program provides Fellow- about the South Carolina tor Recruitment, Reten-ships for up to 230 high Teaching Fellows Program, tion, and Advancement school seniors who have visit teachingfellowsc.com.

Tennessee State University's

dean's list for the fall 2023

semester. Anderson is major-

tion, an undergraduate stu-

dent must maintain a current

semester grade-point average

of 3.5 or above and earn at

MTSU congratulates the

more than 6,220 students

least 12 semester hours.

To qualify for this distinc-

ing in Aerospace.

## **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

ongratulations 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 fellowsc.com.



Carolina Teaching Fellows Laila Chavous, 2nd place SCEA Art Competition winner Program, visit teaching with Williston-Elko High School Principal Tony Flowers.

## **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 who made the fall list. Locals named to Presbyterian College's Dean's & President's

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

Lists for fall 2023

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 Wootten 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.

# 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 newlyadopted highway and the agricultural class worked on spreading the wood chips (donated by Collum's Lumber in Allendale) on the Lower School play-





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.

Generations Unlimited is taking sealed bids

for sale of six vehicles until May 13, 2024.



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

'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

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 Blackmane's Bloodstalker: 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.

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

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

Veran Bloodstalker has Blackmane's journeyed across the face of

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of South Carolina

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, dying, Zeralian noble who claims that he and his caravan were attacked by a phantom. Veran also learns that Blackmane's chest has

2024

CONGRESSIONAL

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

However, Veran as 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?

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-todate 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!

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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
- Has been deceased for at least three years
- appropriate recognition such as a plaque, portrait, or marker for the school.

The deadline for comments and/or requests can at David.corder@bccsd.net by May 3,2024.

be made to Mr. David Corder, Superintendent,

# school system

The nominating group must agree to provide

# Please recycle this newspaper!

# **STEM** festival coming to rural Williston

9th

annual

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.

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

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

"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 together without being arises," said Chorn, who Friday and Saturday, May 3 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

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

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,"

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

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

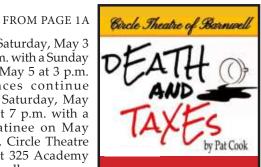
Opening weekend is Information".

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



#### 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

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.



At its April meeting, the Allendale County Council heard a proposal regarding renovating members James White and the old Allendale High School into a community center. Elijah de Castro / Report for America Bill Robinson.

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

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

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 The council expressed South Carolina Department Engineers, the State Historic 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

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.



**FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 5PM-7PM** AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK 11094 ELLENTON ST., BARNWELL, SC 29812

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Grade: 12th

Favorites...

shrimp alfredo

**Sports:** Basketball and tennis

• Pro Teams: Philadelphia

Eagles and Los Angeles Lakers

• Movie/TV show: Menace | |

• Free time activity: "I like to

• Musicians: NBA Youngboy

Kaydrian Poplin

Barnwell High School

play tennis or listen to music."

• Athlete: Lebron James

• Food: Pizza, wings, and

Society and Raising Kanan

Goal for this season:

Grade: 12th

Favorites...

Sport: Soccer and cross country

• Movie/TV shows: Grown Ups

Free time activity: Soccer

• **Musicians:** Aerosmith

• Pro Team: Liverpool

Food: Spaghetti

• Snack: Cheez-Its

'My goal is to just fulfill my

duties as the #1 of the team."

Snacks: Doritos

Sports

**Allendale hosts** 

See page 2B

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

# **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

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

Jeff Miller

Sports Writer

sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

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

overseas, and has the Warhorse

Photo Contributed

battle.

The 2024 Barnwell War-

horse track and field

team got a little bit of a

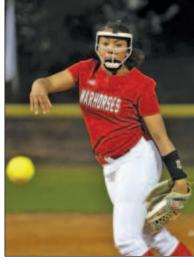


beat Hampton County. Photo By: Mike Beasley

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.

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 Laney Grubbs took to the 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 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-toback 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

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!

committed softball player to



#### Photo Contributed

## Goal for this season: "Go to the playoffs." The Lady Warhorse softball team has finished undefeated in Region 6-AA play. Barnwell track is off and running **VARSITY**

## HIGH SCHOOL

#### BASEBALL

**SPORTS** 

**SCHEDULE** 

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 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 BHS track coach Thomas Davis support throughout European recently returned from active duty regions.

field team graduated a couple of State Champions, and several Coach Davis was asked about track and field team ready for his team's performance and said, medalists from the 2023 State Track and Field Championships. "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

Shontavia Tyler was crowned overall energy, effort, and attitudes the other night. Although State Champion in the girls discus and Tyler Smith was a we had a late start to the season, they have not been using it as an two-time champion in the high jump. Will this current group excuse. For the most part, they have athletes that qualify for the have been coming to practice and giving their all and improving State Championships? each day. We have a lot of young

athletes that are just eager to

Last year's Warhorse track and

learn and compete each day."

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!

# Williston-Elko tennis defeats Woodland 4-3

Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

year for the Williscoach Bernard Walters. The Blue Devils have battled adversity, but never gave up and that perseverance paid off in the team's final School. The Blue Devils the hard fought contest.

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

the match was then all knotted at two wins for each team. Next up for the Devils was number five, Tt has been a tough King Brown. Brown put the Blue Devils up 3-2 after Lton-Elko boys tennis he won his match 6-2, 6-1. team and veteran tennis 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 match against their region coach Bernard Walters rivals from Woodland High was happy for the win and knows that Blue Devil tenbattled to a 4-3 victory in nis will see brighter days moving forward. Coach Walters was asked about the match and the season, and he said, "Our team the Devils in an early hole. has had a rough year and Williston's number three have played many close matches that could have or should have been won. We were close to winning the region with Woodland, but number four player, Justice fell just short. In looking to the future, the youth will only get better. W-E have a



Photo Contributed

# Allendale hosts Barnwell, others in track meet



llendale-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@thepeoplesentinel.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

On Wednesday, April 17, Blackville-Hilda loaded up a full team to travel to Westwood High School to compete in a big multiteam 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 Jamarien 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 Jamarien Priester, who broke his own school record, yet again, in the 110-meter hurdles, "...changing his time from 14:53 to 14:36. Jaquel 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 athletes to improve in. Overall, the silver medal.



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

not getting to compete, we were

still pleased about the stellar

On Saturday, April 20, the

Hawks traveled to the Gary Phil-

lips Invitational in Batesburg.

Coach Burke said, "Our athletes

a chance."

Photo By: Promise Henderson

Breyanna Williams broke the Darious Gary Phillips Invitational record bronze medal in his first-ever

with her 1:07:86 in the 400-meter triple jump competition. hurdles earning the top spot at the podiums.

Photo By: Promise Henderson

conditions of the sun, staying hydrated and prepared to compete. performance from those who got For this meet, we only brought 50 percent of our team, but despite not bringing our full complement of 50 athletes, our athletes com-

peted with pride the Hawk way." In girls 100 meters, Taliah overall and the silver medal on

**Jenkins** earned the

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 were able to weather the harsh 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

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

"Overall, the top achievers at the Gary Phillips Invitational were Jamarien 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.



area I have been pushing for our The Hawks 4x800-meter relay team of Cooper Mulbah, Eric Mulbah, Bryce Collins, and Diandra Risi won Photo By: Promise Henderson



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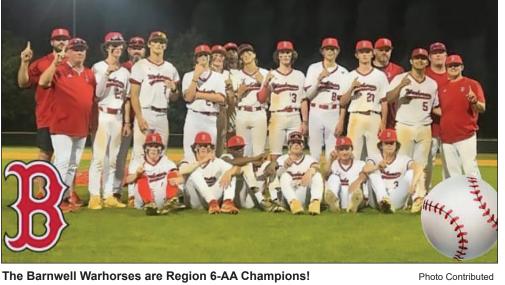
# Barnwell baseball wins region

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

**¬**he Barnwell Warhorses are the **L** 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 lum now leads the Barn- went 2 for 3 from the plate, well Warhorses and has



pionship for Barnwell.

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 6-AA Championship there. the Barnwell offense was A year later, coach McCulled by Trey Boleman, who

now won a Region Cham- drove in a run, and scored ing this goal. It was not a run. Case Davis went 2 Coach McCullum is an 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

"I am really proud of the team for accomplish-

Notice

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

Allendale Complex at

Blackville Complex at

Branchville Villa complex at

Denmark Gardens Complex at

Fairfax Boundary Complex at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

Williston West Main Complex at

Barnwell Arms Complex at

Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

Bamberg Villa Complex at

Race Street, Bamberg, SC **Hampton Gardens Complex** at W. Holly Street, Hampton, SC shot. Obviously, I have a up game from a rain out relationship with most of earlier this season. We have 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 run. We have been preachbig two out, two RBI single in the third inning that sort of sparked things for us offensively.

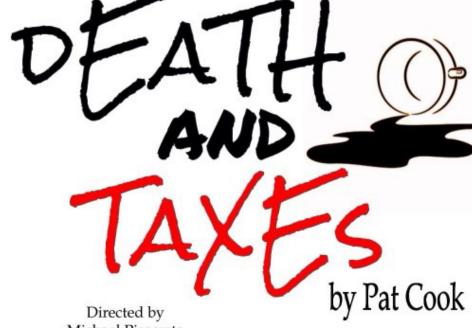
of the season.

to finish out the regular pitch is scheduled for 6:00. against us for most of the season. One being against Good luck Warhorses!

night and gave us their best Edisto, which is a makeclinched 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 ing since day one about 'Playing in May' and May is almost here."

Come out and support Coach McCullum is the Warhorses as they travlooking forward to the rest el to Edisto, Wednesday, April 24. Cheer the Horses "Moving forward, we as they try to go undefeated still have three more games in Region 6-AA play. First

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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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