



The People • Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

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2 SECTIONS / 20 PAGES / \$

Allendale shootings injure cop, kill teen

Jonathan Vickery

Publisher

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Lawrence Wiggins with the Allendale Police Department. **Officer Shot**

The officer responded to a call about a shooting incident in the vicinity of Razor Road and Carroll Street in the Town of Allendale.

"It appears as he was pulling up on the scene that he had been ambushed," said Chief Wiggins.

The officer, James Hall, was transported to the Allendale County Hospital before later being airlifted to another hospital. Hours after the shooting, Chief Wiggins said Hall was stable, but Hall has

See SHOOTINGS, 3A

'When are we going to stop burying our children?': Allendale leaders look for paths forward after shootings

Elijah de Castro

Report for America

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Allendale community leader Lottie Lewis remembers when gun violence and shootings in her hometown were once rare. Yet, as years have gone by and Allendale has fallen behind, community gun violence slowly became normal. At a certain point, Lewis says, the community grew used to the gunshots and the fear.

"I grew up in this town and I didn't know anything about guns and shootings, [but] now it's like the wild, wild west," said Lewis, who uses a painting to cover a hole in her wall where a stray bullet struck. "Us folks trying to make a living everyday and keep a roof over our family's heads, we're the ones suffering from this."

After a weekend spate of violence resulted in the death of a 14-year-old girl as well as two other young people and a police officer being injured, wider

discussions are occurring among Allendale community leaders about local gun violence.

The rate of gun violence in Allendale County is among the highest in the state of South Carolina, which has the eighth highest rate of gun violence of the 50 United States. Yet, behind these statistics are family members, friends, churchgoers, husbands, wives and children who have died or have borne witness to the

See LEADERS, 6A



Williston-Elko High School student A'nyla Chavous simulates impaired driving using a virtual reality headset during a visit from Save A Life. Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Students learn safe driving techniques

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

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Barnwell County students dodged virtual trees and aimed to stay on the road while behind the wheel of a vehicle simulator to see the dangers of impaired or distracted driving.

The International Save A Life Tour was brought to Williston-Elko High School, Blackville-Hilda High School, Jefferson Davis Academy, and Barnwell High School during the week of April 15 through a sponsorship by the Axis I Center of Barnwell.

The Save A Life Tour has come to Barnwell County in previous years to teach students the impact and potentially deadly consequences of dangerous driving through videos, discussion, and the vehicle simulators.

Students used a virtual reality headset mimicking alcoholic impaired reaction times to navigate roadways; some virtually crashing into



Williston-Elko High School students Sindy Vasques-Najera and Gabe Refugia sign a pledge, vowing to be safe drivers.

other cars and some into trees or houses.

The safe driving program is operated by Matrix

Entertainment, a company providing immersive educational programs across the country.

SLED investigating death of Barnwell County jail inmate

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

An inmate at the Barnwell County Detention Center died on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Eddie Alvin Myers Jr., 39, of Barnwell, was transported to Aiken Regional Hospital last Wednesday where he later died, according to Barnwell County Coroner Denise Gibson.

The S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is investigating, according to Sheriff Steve Griffith.

"Anytime there is a death at a correctional facility or detention center in the state...SLED has to come and investigate it," said Sheriff Griffith.

An autopsy was performed on April 29, according to Gibson.

SLED's investigation into Myers' death is active and ongoing.

For info on funeral services, read his obituary on page A8.

City of Barnwell, former leaders sued over 2022 dog attack

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

A lawsuit claiming negligence and recklessness has been brought against the City of Barnwell and two former officials in relation to a 2022 dog attack.

The lawsuit details allegations against the city, former mayor Marcus Rivera, and former police chief Lamaz Robinson, both personally and officially, for failing to fully enforce ordinances and policies regarding dangerous animals within the city limits, claims which are alleged to directly correlate to the injuries Jennie Brown, the plaintiff, and Rose Hartzog incurred on July 18, 2022.

Rose Hartzog was walking to work when she was attacked by a pack of dogs near Patterson Street in Barnwell. When Jennie Brown heard her neighbor's screams and ran to help, she was attacked as well.

The dogs were found to be owned by Angela Ray— whose animals have been the subject of many calls to the Barnwell Police Department (BPD).

As previously reported by *The People-Sentinel* in August 2022, BPD responded to 11 complaints between June 2021 and July 2022 in

relation to Ray's dogs. According to Chapter 4 of the city's Code of Ordinances, it takes three separate incidents involving an individual's animals before action can be taken in the form of surrendering said animals to the county's shelter.

"Prior to the complained of incident, Defendants received numerous complaints and reports of vicious dog encounters within the City; that Defendants made conscious and official decisions not to enforce the City's ordinances for the prohibition of dogs running at large," states the lawsuit.

The city's ordinance does not state how this rule can be enforced either with citations, criminal charges, or fines if the owner chooses not to do so. The ordinance further details the duty of police officers to investigate all complaints with regard to dogs, and enforcing all state laws and city ordinances.

The lawsuit continues to claim the city "owes the general public the specific duty of protecting the public from known dangers," such as dogs with a proclivity to bite, and the defendants failed to act reasonably in numerous ways.

These alleged actions include failing to abide by and enforce ordinances, failing to adopt and

See LAWSUIT, 8A

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OBITUARIES, 7 & 8A

- | | |
|--|--|
| Bonetta Sanders Bolen -
Blackville | Ottie Clifford Nix Sr. -
Lexington |
| Gloria Jean Gunnells - Barnwell | Catherine R. Tharin - Allendale |
| Zane Hudson - Barnwell | Betty F. Walters - Tennessee |
| Eddie Myers Jr. - Barnwell | |



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Barnwell County School Board delivers updates on facility, consolidation plans

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

At its April 23 meeting, the Barnwell County School District Board discussed recent updates to its facility plan, numbers regarding school of choice applications, and the district's salary study.

Facility plan
The school district has final draft contracts with two architectural and engineering firms to continue working on

a new district-wide high school and career center. The district administration has created historical committees to preserve the history of the county's three high schools.
Dr. Crissie Stapleton, superintendent of the Barnwell County School District, said the school district has received \$100 million from the state of South Carolina for school consolidation. This \$100 million was deposited into First Citizens Bank, where it will collect what Stapleton estimates to be \$5 million in

interest.
"That is wonderful, we're very excited about that," said Stapleton.
Part of the financial consolidation of the school district comes with each high school maintaining their pupils activities funds account, earmarked for school funded extracurricular activities.
School of choice
The district has created a school of choice option for parents and students interested in going to a school outside of their zoned

district. The applications closed April 7, and Stapleton said they received a total of 107 applications.
"Out of those applicants, 44 were either coming back to the public school system or coming to the public school system for the first time," Stapleton said. "Five were homeschool students, nine were from private school [and] 23 were from daycare programs. I think that is a great number, [that] out of 107, 44 [are] coming back to public schools."
Salary study and

consolidation plan
The salary study, which was recently completed, unifies salaries across the district, creating a more even scale for employees regarding schedule, classification and pay.
The administration is continuing to meet with athletic directors and high school principals to coordinate athletics for the 2024-25 school year. Administrators are also meeting with other district personnel.
At the Barnwell County

Career Center, there are currently four homeschool students in programs. Under the Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act, homeschool students are allowed to participate in the school-sponsored interscholastic activities, like athletics, music and speech, of the school district in which they reside. District attorneys recommended that the current homeschool students be grandfathered in and future situations be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Police officers recognized



PFC Molly Curley (center) was promoted to Lance Corporal at the Barnwell Police Department after only being hired in October 2023. She is pictured with her wife and Barnwell Police Chief Michael Butts.



Sergeant David Greene (not pictured) was promoted to First Sergeant. His wife and daughter accepted his plaque and credentials on his behalf. They are pictured with Police Chief Michael Butts.

ADOPTABLE CAT OF THE WEEK

'Yasmin' is shy, laid back, and loves naps


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

"She is a young adult around 2 to 3 years old. She is a little shy and laid back. She loves for you to pet her, but doesn't really care to be picked up. Yasmin enjoys spending her days napping and she does well with other cats. She is spayed, up to date on her vaccines and litter box trained. Yasmine would make a great companion to just relax with," said Vikki Scott with the Friends for Life Center.

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

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

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



Public invited to observe Confederate Memorial Day at Rivers Bridge State Historic Site

The Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial Association will present its 148th annual commemoration of Confederate Memorial Day on Friday, May 10, 2024 at the Memorial Grounds on the Battle of Rivers Bridge State Historic Site, near Ehrhardt.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. with a prelude of mid-19th Century music, followed at 11 a.m. by commemorative activities and oratory dedicated to the memory of the Confederate soldiers who fought and died at the battle of Rivers Bridge in February 1865.

This year's program will feature keynote speaker, Julie Hardaway, vice president general of the UDC, and guest speaker Tammy Herron, president of the South Carolina UDC.

After the ceremonies, a 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.

Thanks for 20+ Years of Business!



On April 17, 2024, Martha M. Rivers Davisson was elected to the Circuit Court to be the newest judge for the Second Judicial Circuit.

The Aiken Office of Rivers Law will close permanently on May 1st while the Williston office will remain open to clients through May 15th.

Existing clients should receive a letter with details about the next steps and are encouraged to call the office to schedule an appointment.

I would like to thank the community for your business for the past 20+ years. I've enjoyed helping clients in my hometown of Williston, Aiken, Barnwell, and beyond the Second Circuit. Thank you to my dedicated team for their hard work over the years.

Martha M. Rivers Davisson



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<p>Low Country Health Care System 803.632.2533 *Pharmacy: 803.632.1951</p> <p>Padgett Family Practice (Bamberg) 803.245.2433</p> <p>Bamberg Specialty Services 803.956.6100 *Pharmacy: 803.956.6073</p> <p>Aiken Specialty Services 803.306.1433</p> <p>Family Medical Center of Blackville 803.284.1045</p>	<p>Barnwell Family Specialty Services Women's Health Center 803.259.5762</p> <p>Barnwell Family Medicine 803.259.5762 *Pharmacy: 803.591.7891</p> <p>Barnwell Pediatrics 803.259.7337</p> <p>Williston Family Medicine 803.266.0060</p>
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SHOOTINGS: 14-year-old girl killed, police officer injured after recent shootings

FROM PAGE 1A

since been released. "He is home and doing fine," said Chief Marvin Williams with the Fairfax Police Department on Tuesday, April 30. Officer Hall previously worked for the Blackville Police Department before moving to the Allendale Police Department. In response to the shooting, law enforcement officers from neighboring counties along with agents

from the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division and S.C. Highway Patrol gathered in Allendale to lend their assistance. Chief Williams from Fairfax said more than 100 officers were on the scene. "There's a great turnout of support from officers coming together this afternoon," said Chief Williams. SLED is handling the investigation into the

shooting of the officer, though local agencies are involved. *The People-Sentinel* reached out to SLED for more information, but they only stated it's an active investigation. **Juveniles Shot** The officer's shooting follows at least two other shootings in Allendale County within about 48 hours. On Thursday, April 25, an 11-year-old was shot

at a residence in the Town of Allendale. Another juvenile was grazed by a bullet, said Fairfax Chief Williams, whose agency is assisting the Allendale Police Department. Around 1 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, officers responded to a home on Bayshore Drive in the Town of Fairfax for a shooting that riddled the property with 15 to 20 bullets, said Chief Williams. A 14-year-old juvenile female was shot while sleeping and was later pronounced dead at the Allendale County Hospital. An adult male was also grazed but was treated at the hospital and released, said Chief Williams. Allendale County Coroner Renique Riley-Spiller declined to release the name of the juvenile female victim from the Fairfax shooting.

"I'm not going to release her name, she's a minor. She's a female, that's all I'm going to say," said the coroner. An autopsy on the juvenile was scheduled for Tuesday, said Riley-Spiller. Chief Williams said the 14-year-old victim is a relative of a "possible suspect" from the shooting in the Town of Allendale. "It's a tragic situation," said Chief Williams of an innocent juvenile losing her life. In shooting incidents like this, he said the shooters "don't aim for nobody when they are shooting at people's houses." SLED is investigating the Fairfax shooting in conjunction with the Fairfax Police Department. **Information Sought** No suspects have been arrested in any of the shootings as of publication,

but law enforcement authorities are working to bring justice to the victims. "A recent series of events has left the communities of Allendale, Fairfax, and Allendale County as a whole with a profound sense of sadness. We cannot, as a community, accept or condone violence as a part of our culture. The most innocent in our communities are being hurt and lost to violence they don't have a hand in. This is not acceptable," stated a post on the Allendale Police Department's Facebook page. Anyone with information about any of the recent shootings in the Town of Allendale can drop an anonymous tip to the Allendale Police Department by calling (803) 584-2178 or emailing AT@allendalepolice.com.

Circle Theatre of Barnwell

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by Pat Cook


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Marion Young
Produced by Beth Miller

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BHHS Prom King & Queen



Amyona Smalls was crowned 2024 Blackville-Hilda High School Prom Queen while Tyler Profit was named Prom King.



THE 2024 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN!

- ELIGIBILITY:** All high school students in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina
- THEME:** America the Beautiful
- DEADLINE:** May 13th, 2024

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Williston's night in Paris



George Barrett was named king and NaKiya Mercado was named queen.



Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Williston-Elko High School students danced the night away on April 27 at their Paris-themed prom. George Barrett was crowned king and NaKiya Mercado was crowned queen. Kyle Rudolph was named prince and Ashauna Hosey was named princess.



Prince Kyle Rudolph and Princess Ashauna Hosey were crowned as royalty.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter





Gloria Jean Gunnells

pond, or beach. She loved lighthouses and her furbabies, was a crafting-queen, a frequent Huddle House visitor, and an amazing gift giver. She had a heart of gold, and never met a stranger. She was a sassy, loving woman and will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Loren E. Tracey, Mary Franklin Bryant Black, and Emmet Black; son, A.J. Still; and her brother, Ralph E. Black III. A visitation was held Wednesday, April 24, 2024 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Mole Funeral Home in Barnwell. A graveside service was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 3 p.m. at Reedy Branch Baptist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Timothy Gunnells officiating. Pallbearers were Emmet Black, Joey Gunnells, Jeremy Gunnells, Mark Correll, and Scottie Redding. Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell assisted the family with arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at molefh.com.

The People-Sentinel
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BARNWELL - Gloria Jean "Jeannie Bug" Gunnells, 61, passed away at home on April 21, 2024. She was born on March 9, 1963 in Barnwell to the late Loren E. Tracey and Mary Frankie Bryant Black.

Jeannie was a loving, compassionate, understanding, and over-protective Momma. She was an adoring wife, and she and her sisters were the epitome of sisterhood. She loved many things in her life, including being on the water, whether it be a lake,



Catherine R. Tharin

in Aiken, South Carolina, aka "The Savannah River Plant," in the fall of 1953, or SRP at that time.

She held multiple jobs and titles at "The Plant" until she became a Senior Computer Programmer. In the early 1970's she was assigned to the deer hunt lottery program; to this day the guidelines for the lottery are still being used. She retired after 40 years in 1993.

After Whitney's death in 1995, she began getting involved with the community by being on the Allendale Development Board, Thoroughbred Country, and the Allendale County Airport Commission, for which she was Chairman from 1998 to 2012. Catherine loved to travel and went all over the world with her sister, Maner, and "40 or 50" of her travel buddies from all parts of South Carolina each June from 1997 until 2010.

Despite her busy schedule, she always made time for her passions, reading, bridge, or relaxing and visiting with family and friends. Her adventurous spirit and love for the outdoors were infectious, and she made many memories with those she held dear.

Family members include daughter, Kathy; son, Dan (Nita); grandchildren Danielle (Robert), Corey (Teresa); and great-grandchildren Eli, Victoria, and Kay. Catherine also has several nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. She will be remembered for her strong work ethic, dedication to family, community, and her ability to bring laughter to those around her, whether intentionally or not. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her legacy will live on in her absence.

Visitation was held at Keith Smith Funeral Service, 128 Water St., Allendale, SC 29810 on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Graveside services took place on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Swallow Savannah Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you remember Catherine by donating to the Tharin Family Endowment at USC-Salkehatchie in Allendale or the Swallow Savannah Cemetery Fund.

Sign the online guestbook at keithsmithfuneralservice.com.

The People-Sentinel
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Betty F. Walters

Arthur State Bank and was employed at Woodruff State Bank for twelve and a half years and was of the Pentecostal Holiness faith.

Survivors include her children, Donald Walters (Daphne) of Barnwell, SC, John Walters Jr. (Elizabeth) of Fountain Inn, SC, and Amy Shults (Brent) of Sevierville, TN; grandchildren, Keeton Shults (Renée), Macy Shults (Ryan), Auburn Ferguson (Justin), Alyssa Walters, John Paul Walters III, and Jeb Walters; great-grandchildren, Fisher Ferguson, Walt Ferguson, Reed Ferguson, and Sophia Dean. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her siblings, Shirley Mumford of Wilmington, NC; brother, Ervin Freeman of Dillon, S.C.; sister, Patricia Stubbs of Bennettsville,

SC; and her furry shih tzu buddy, Toby.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908.

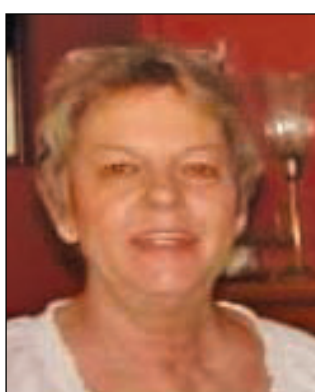
Visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, April 28, 2024, at Floyd's North Church Street Chapel (235 N. Church St., Spartanburg, SC 29306). Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, April 29, 2024, at Floyd's North Church Street Chapel conducted by the Rev. Teresa B. Lewis. Burial was in Westwood Memorial Gardens (6101 Reidville Rd., Moore, SC 29369).

An online guest register is available at www.floyd-mortuary.com.

The People-Sentinel
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TENNESSEE - Betty Lou Freeman Walters, 80, of Sevierville, TN and formerly of Spartanburg, SC, died Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the McCall Hospice House in Simpsonville, SC surrounded by her loving family. Born January 28, 1944, in Marlboro County, SC, she was the daughter of the late Preston and Gertrude Driggers Freeman and widow of John Paul Walters Sr.

Mrs. Walters loved to read. She retired from



Zane Hudson

ily received friends one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Zane passed away on April 20, 2024.

Born in Augusta, GA, she was a daughter of the late Lewis Rogers and Audrey Gleasner Rogers. She enjoyed crocheting, reading and spending time with family.

Survivors include her daughter, Savannah (Shane) Harmon of Savannah, GA; a son, Joshua

(Lauren) Hudson of Barnwell, SC; a sister, Mona Krogh of Williston, SC; brother, Rodney (Tina) Rogers of Barnwell, SC; grandchildren, Grayson Harmon, Brantley Hudson and Mackston Hudson.

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

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Bonetta Sanders Bolen

nurse Sallye Jameson and CNA Bernice Owens for their loving kindness and care shown to Bonetta during her illness. Bonetta's family is forever grateful for their service to Bonetta.

Born in Olar, S.C., she was a daughter of Simon Sanders and Eloise Still and was married to the late Edward Bolen. She was a life-long member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. She loved being outdoors tending to her garden and taking care of her chickens. She enjoyed every minute she could spend with her children and grandchildren; she loved hosting family gatherings at her home as she was wonderful cook and a gracious hostess. Bonetta loved spending time relaxing at Edisto Beach.

Survivors include her daughters, Terri (Francis) Sanders of Blackville, S.C., Debbie (Tab) Bonidy of Hendersonville, N.C., and Christine Morris of Blackville, S.C.; a sister, Ruth Love; brothers, Ray Sanders and Perry Hugh Sanders, all of Olar, S.C.; grand-

children Vanessa Sanders Hooper, Blake (Judi) Sanders, Melanie Renaud, Valerie Rutherford, Austin Morris (Sierra Mosely), Garrison (Mattie) Morris, Ashton Morris, Landrea Morris (Alphonso), Erica (Cory) Dukes, and Heather (Austin) Croft; great-grandchildren, Britten Sturkie, Logan Sturkie, Brew Hooper, Sullivan Sanders, Saylor Sanders, Brandon Rutherford, Brantley Rutherford, Summer Rutherford, Rio Renaud, Dretynn Morris, Tesla Morris, Ivy Morris, Kihyan Nesbit, Alandis Youmans, Savannah Zorn, Junior Zorn, Leila Croft, Cody Croft, Eli and Riley Dukes.

In addition to her husband, Edward Bolen, she was preceded in death by her son, Greg Bolen, and her daughter, Judi Bolen.

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

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Ottie Clifford Nix Sr.

late Ottie Breland Nix and Corrie Mae Chitty Nix and was married to the late Mary Claire Dukes Nix for 62 years. He retired as the Assistant Director of the School Bus Transportation Department for the State of SC. While living in Elko, SC, he served as the town mayor for several years and also served as a deacon at Elko Baptist Church. After moving to Cayce, SC in 1969, he was a member of Broadacres Baptist Church where he served on the deacon board and served in many other capacities at the church for many years. He was family oriented and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. Clifford also enjoyed spending time with his brother, Russell, at Whittle Motor Company, Williston, SC. After Russell's passing, Clifford continued to help his niece and nephew at Whittle Motor Company for many years. He was a long-time member of the Gamecock Club and Woodman of the World. He served in the U.S. Army as a Cryptographer Specialist.

Survivors include his daughter, Connie Nix Dorsey of Lexington, SC; a son, John Clifford (Dru McPherson) Nix of Gilbert, SC; grandchildren, Megan Claire Dorsey of Lexington, SC, Joseph (Chyanne) McArthur Nix of WI, and Philip John Nix of Charleston, SC; a great-granddaughter, Kaylie Rose Nix; sisters, Joyce Baxley of Beech Island, SC; brothers, John (Sandra) Nix of North Charleston, SC, David "D.K." (Carolyn) Nix of Wilmington, NC and Gene (Nell) Nix of Elko, SC; sister-in-law, Virginia "Ginny" Nix of Williston, SC; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Claire Dukes Nix; a son, Ottie Clifford Nix Jr.; a sister, Effie Mae Nix Delk; and a brother, Russell W. Nix.

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

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LAWSUIT: Claims of 'recklessness' and 'negligence' brought against city

FROM PAGE 1A

"The decision of the defendants to not enforce the ordinances and to protect the residents of the city is akin to being aware of a crime occurring inside a building, knocking on the door, and then leaving."

- states a lawsuit against the City of Barnwell, former Mayor Marcus Rivera, and former police chief Lamaz Robinson

enforce an appropriate policy for dangerous animals, failing to ensure necessary employees are trained to handle dangerous animals, as well as negligent hiring and failing to supervise Robinson.

The lawsuit alleges these reports to BPD regarding Ray's dogs prior to the July attack were "largely ignored and/or carelessly acted on" by Robinson, Rivera, and the city, resulting in the physical injuries, "emotional distress, and mental anguish" suffered by the plaintiff, states the lawsuit.

Pursuant to the S.C. Tort Claims Act, governmental agencies and entities (such as the City of Barnwell) are vicariously liable for the acts and omissions of their agents, servants and/or employees (such as Rivera and Robinson).

"The decisions of defendants to not enforce the ordinances and to protect the residents of the City is akin to being aware of a crime occurring

inside a building, knocking on the door, and then leaving," states the lawsuit. "Defendants affirmatively acted by directing their employees to not report all dog-related incidents in the police system with case numbers; instead, employees were directed to rely on documentation, if any, from the local animal shelter."

The People-Sentinel has yet to confirm if Rivera, Robinson, or other city officials directed employees to withhold from properly reporting dog-related incidents.

The lawsuit alleges the defendants knowingly failed to protect the plaintiff's rights and "actions clearly resulted in a state-created danger." In addition, during the time of the dog attack, the city did not have an official animal control officer position in the police department and relied on the officer on duty to respond to animal complaints.

Eight days after the attack,

the city approved to allocate a certified officer to handle animal control and code enforcement duties. At the time of publication, nearly two years later, the city still has yet to officially place an officer in this position.

Ray was subsequently arrested and charged after the July 2022 attack for ownership of dangerous animals, neglect, and abandonment of the 19 dogs found to be in her care. She is now released on bond and awaiting trial.

The People-Sentinel reached out to the City of Barnwell's administration and Rivera, who both declined to comment on pending litigation. The People-Sentinel was unable to reach Robinson at the time of publication.

The city's brief animal related ordinances and policies are available on their website: www.cityofbarnwell.com. A copy of this lawsuit can be found on <https://www.sccourts.org/casesearch/>.

Obituaries

Eddie Myers Jr.

BARNWELL - Funeral services for Eddie Alvin Myers Jr., 39, of Barnwell, S.C., will be held at 3 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2024 in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston, S.C. with the Reverends Charles Morris and David Carson officiating; burial will follow in the Williston Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday at the funeral home.



and Axel Cole Myers, both of Olar, S.C.; two sisters, Rebecca Myers of Barnwell, S.C. and Ashley (Alex) Losanto of Pelion, S.C.; a niece, Isabella Losanto; a nephew, Jaden Lewallen; maternal grandmother, Lorraine Watts; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Michael Anthony Lewallen-Myers and Jonathan Malcolm Myers; his maternal grandfather, Michael Watts; and paternal grandparents, James and Betty Rourke.

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

The People-Sentinel 5/1/24

Eddie passed away on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Born in Barnwell County, S.C., he was a son of Sheila Lewallen Myers and Eddie (Cala) Myers Sr. He worked as a mechanic and was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Eddie had the biggest heart imaginable; he would do anything for anybody, expecting

nothing in return. He was a loving son, grandson, brother, and father. Eddie loved spending time working on cars and fishing in his spare time.

Survivors include his parents, Sheila L. Myers and Eddie (Cala) Myers Sr.; the mother of his children, Daniell Carroll All; his children, Kyleigh Gail Myers

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- Emily Sanders

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DIG celebrates decade of big dreams, achievements

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

Over the past 10 years, a Williston-based organization has helped grow dreams, imaginations, and gifts for people of all ages.

The Dreams, Imagination & Gift (DIG) Development Program started with a dream in 2013. Now, 10 years later, DIG employs over 50 people and helps over 400 students annually. DIG advances STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), fosters rural growth, and creates pathways for development through education, mentorship, recreation, and community engagement.

“If you look at where we are located, the poverty rate, the social and economic challenges, DIG shouldn’t exist. But for 10 years we have been digging and we will be around for many more. We are proof that big dreams do come from small places,” said founder and president Steven Brown, referencing DIG’s motto. He co-founded the organization with David Gleaton Jr.

DIG’s staff, current and former students, and supporters celebrated the organization’s decade of impact and growth on Nov. 18, 2023 during the inaugural DIG Gala at the North Augusta Municipal Building.

“To witness what I am blessed to see daily in what God is capable of can’t be measured by man. To witness these youth lives change, to see kids confidence grow and later watch them secure their dream is priceless. To see staff praying with parents, motivating students and even encouraging each other is a culture of love, God and passion,” said Brown.

Much of the celebration was dedicated to explaining the impact DIG has made on young people and adults alike.

“Being in DIG has sent me on a great path to where I want to go. I’ve learned the value and importance of being a good leader,” said Williston-Elko High School student Jalia Sept, who is sophomore



The North Augusta Municipal Building was packed with hundreds of people ready to celebrate DIG’s 10 years of service.

Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Vickie and Michael Benjamin of Williston are long-time supporters of the DIG program. They are pictured talking with DIG founder Steven Brown (left).



Attendees of the DIG Gala dressed in their finest attire for the special event.

class president.

WEHS alumnus Tyran Parker said DIG also set him down a path of success. Meeting Brown and seeing how he was a successful engineer with a nice house in Greenville and wearing nice suits showed Parker the opportunities he could have if he dreamed big.

“DIG has grown into an amazing program. It shaped my ability to dream big, imagine the impossible, and use my gifts to become a well-rounded young man,” said Parker, who earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of South Carolina in 2022. He now is working his first job in Tennessee.

For WEHS student Hailey O’Neal, “the DIG program represents a beacon of hope and is a catalyst for positive change,” she said. “It fills gaps where resources are scarce. It promotes the values of community and collaboration among people of diverse backgrounds. DIG is a reminder that together we can create a more equitable and inclusive society.”

Rodney Holmes, a seventh grader at Williston-Elko Middle School, started DIG in the first grade. The program has given him a sense of belonging, helped him learn to overcome challenges, and helped him “grow, learn and accel,” he said. DIG has become his second family.

“My mentors became my



Nancy Brady-Wood along with her husband Robbie and sister Emily Wiles were some of the Barnwell County residents who attended the gala.



Former DIG program director Shelby Broomfield (left) chats with guest speaker Adair Ford Boroughs, a Williston native who is now U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

biggest cheerleaders. They believed in me and instilled in me that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to,” said Holmes, who discovered a love for computer science by being part of DIG.

However, DIG’s impact isn’t limited to youth. It has also challenged adults to become a better version of themselves.

One of those adults is Williston resident Beth Overton, deputy director of Southeastern Housing and Community Development. She has seen DIG grow in its size and reach but she’s also seen herself grow as a person and leader.

She first met Brown about 10 years ago at a town hall meeting in Williston. The meeting was held following a shooting in the town. She wanted to see what she could do as a citizen and mother.

“I want my kids to grow up in a community where they felt safe and where they felt loved,” said Overton.

After Brown asked her to join the DIG board, she accepted. This led to her daughter, who is about to graduate from college, to get involved with DIG and want to become the best version of herself. Overton also gained a second family; “a group of people who would help me renew my small-town mentality and look at things in a totally different perspective,” she said.

DIG also helped former program director Shelby Broomfield gain confidence and a growth mindset.

“Do you want to be great or mediocre?” she recalls Brown once asking her.

She said one of the most emotional times during her tenure with DIG was during summer camp, which opened up opportunities for many youth.

Shon Crawford is the

current program and project director for DIG. The Spartanburg native moved to Barnwell a couple years ago with her family.

“My life has brought my family and I to Barnwell, to engrave a positive imprint of my background and experiences into the DIG program,” said Crawford, who brings a wealth of experience from her previous career working for Fortune 500 companies in marketing, sales and operations, and import/export sales.

The guest speaker for the gala was Adair Ford Boroughs, United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina. From her upbringing in Williston to now being the state’s top prosecutor, Boroughs is proof that big dreams do in fact come from small places.

As a former math teacher and a mother, Boroughs knows the importance of STEM education. STEM helps people find the rate of change, the order of operations, and other important skills.

“What they learn, what they experience, and what they get to practice over and over again is problem solving. In a STEM education, failure is not the end of anything, but is a piece of information to figure out your next goal,” said Boroughs.

She saw DIG’s impact a couple years ago when she

judged a project the students did. “It was amazing to see these kids work together, to value each other’s input, and come up with a solution and to build something. We need problem solvers as teachers,

mayors, members of Congress. We need people with tenacity and problem-solving ability to tackle all the problems that we are facing in our world today,” said Boroughs, who sees many of those problems in her current job, such as gun violence and illegal drugs.

DIG also recognized all believers, volunteers, sponsors, staff, parents, youth, and other supporters for believing in their mission. Three star supporters were recognized with awards, including Overton for her leadership and support, the Darnell Committee for being a financial donor for the afterschool program, and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions for financial support.

Now in their 11th year, DIG plans to keep growing across rural South Carolina communities to develop more problem-solvers and big dreamers.



Tommy and Elaine Boyleston of Williston.



Tamora Parker of Williston with her son Tyran.



Angie Overton and sister-in-law Beth Overton, both of Williston.



Shawnta and Allen Harrison of Blackville.



Debra Young and her sister Shirley Williams.



Some of the DIG Dreamers discuss how DIG has impacted their lives. Left to right: Rodney Holmes, Jalia Sept, Jasmine Epps, Zaliyah Sapp, Hailey O’Neal, Alyiah Holmes, Kamryn Creech.

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Brothers killed in early morning wreck near Blackville

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
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Two brothers from Charleston died early Saturday morning, April 27, after their vehicle crashed while headed to a relative's home in Blackville.

The one-vehicle crash occurred around 3:10 a.m. on U.S. Highway 78 near the intersection with Jean

Lane, approximately six miles east of the Town of Blackville. The 2010 Ford Crown Victoria was traveling west on U.S. Highway 78 when it "ran off the right side of the road, striking a ditch" which caused the vehicle to overturn multiple times, said Master Trooper William H. Bennett with the S.C. Highway Patrol.

"Both occupants died at the scene," said Bennett.

Barnwell County Coroner Denise Gibson identified the victims as Alton Snipe, 35, and Vernon Snipe Jr., 37, both of Charleston. She said both were ejected from the vehicle. One died of severe head trauma and the other died of abdominal trauma, said Gibson.

The wreck occurred not far from the victims' parents' house, which is on Highway 78. The brothers were on their way to visit

family when the wreck occurred, said Gibson.

There have been five traffic fatalities in Barnwell County so far in 2024.

The coroner is concerned about the safety of the road where the wreck occurred.

"It's bad out that way because the road starts curving," said Gibson.

Last weekend's wreck was not the first one in that area. Gibson said there was

a head-on collision that resulted in a fatality a few years ago, almost in the exact same spot.

"I want to request a survey of that road. The fact that we've had more than one wreck out there, I think it warrants an assessment," said Gibson.

On Tuesday, April 30, Gibson spoke with the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) about her concerns with

that section of roadway. She is in the process of submitting a letter to SCDOT requesting a traffic study be done. She hopes this will lead to a positive outcome, such as the addition of a guardrail or some other safety measures to help slow down traffic and ultimately prevent future wrecks. Gibson said the victims' father also plans to contact DOT.

Allendale County Council approves project list for 1 percent capital project sales tax

Elijah de Castro
 Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

On April 29, the Allendale County Council had a special called meeting, in which it voted on items to include in its initial capital project sales tax list.

The council removed three items from its initial capital project sales tax list: a motor grader (\$325,000) for the public works department, an HVAC system (\$320,000) for the hospital and a community swimming pool (\$500,000).

The community swimming pool was removed because the council estimates that the final cost of constructing the pool will end up being higher than the \$500,000 estimate.

"I don't think \$500,000 is going to touch it," said council member Matthew Connelly. "I think after last weekend, \$500,000 could go to a lot better things."

Items that were not taken

off the initial capital project sales tax list were a backhoe (\$200,000) for the county's Public Works Department, a pumper tanker, cascade system and personal protective equipment (\$700,000) for the Fire Department, vehicles and equipment (\$300,000) for

the Sheriff's Department, E-911 upgrades (\$275,000), plumbing replacement (\$180,000) for the nursing home, a Highway 3 Convenience Center (\$250,000), a St. Mark community center (\$500,000) and a parking lot at the Brandt Building

(\$100,000) of the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.

The council also voted to approve council member James White as a board member of Southern Carolina Alliance, a regional economic development organization.

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Community revitalization project by Barnwell County HEALING Partners



Molly Wilson
Barnwell High School



Grade: 9th

Sports: Softball

Favorites...

- **Pro Team:** Chicago Cubs
- **Athlete:** Sanaa Thompson
- **Food:** KFC mac n cheese
- **Movie/TV show:** All American
- **Snacks:** Gracies snacks
- **Free time activity:** Going to see movies with friends
- **Musician:** Jhené Aiko

Goal for this season:

"My goal continuing through this season is to build an even stronger bond with my team, support all my teammates & their successes, and to work to make myself into a better player."



VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE



BASEBALL

Williston-Elko competed against Brasier Middle College on Tuesday, April 30 (after press time). The winner will play Thursday, May 2. The District 4 championship is Monday, May 6. Barnwell High competed against Timberland on Tuesday, April 30 (after press time). The winner will play on Thursday, May 2 with another game on Saturday, May 4.



SOFTBALL

Williston-Elko competes against Brasier Middle College on Wednesday, May 1 (after press time). The winner plays again on Friday, May 3. The District 2 championship is Wednesday, May 8. Barnwell High competes against Lake Marion on Wednesday, May 1 (after press time). The winner plays again on Friday, May 3. More games will be Monday, May 6.



GIRLS SOCCER

Barnwell High competed against Woodlands on Tuesday, April 30 (after press time). Other games will be played Thursday, May 2, Saturday, May 4, and Tuesday, May 7 to determine a winner.



TRACK

Wednesday, May 1
• Barnwell @ Woodland 4:00 (Region 6-AA Region Championships)
Thursday, May 2
• Blackville-Hilda @ Calhoun County 9:00am (Region 4-A Region Championships)

Lady Warhorses head to playoffs
See page 2B



Cam Austin commits to Gamecocks

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

Barnwell two-sport athlete and All-Star Cam Austin has committed to the University of South Carolina Gamecock baseball team. Austin was selected to several All-Star and All-State teams following his 2023 football season and will undoubtedly be selected to more post-season teams at the conclusion of this 2024 baseball season.

The University of South Carolina sent representatives to come see Austin and the Warhorses play in a couple of recent games and Austin visited the Gamecocks this past weekend when South Carolina defeated the #4 ranked Wildcats in their three-game Southeastern Conference series.

Cam is a very level-headed, polite, humble young man who does things the right way. He works hard in the weight room, at practice, and in the classroom. He knows that all of these are important to help him reach his goals. He is an All-Star on the field and an honors student in the classroom.

As quarterback of the Warhorse football team, he helped lead the Horses to another playoff appearance and a surprising run to the final eight teams in AA football, before losing to a powerhouse Oceanside team. As a pitcher and outfielder for the Warhorse baseball team, Austin has helped the baseball team to a Region 6-AA Championship and another Warhorse playoff appearance. Hopefully, Barnwell can make this a long playoff ride as well.

When asked about his commitment, Austin replied, "It truly is



Barnwell 2-sport athlete Cameron Austin has committed to play baseball at the University of South Carolina. Contributed

in a big SEC series win as well, so all in all was just an incredible experience and opportunity!"

Cameron is the son of Blake and Lindsay Austin of Barnwell. Barnwell head baseball coach Cody McCullum said, "I am super excited for Cameron and his family. What an opportunity this is for him. He is an amazing player but an even better person. No one works harder in the weight room, in the cage, and on the field more than he does. He will represent that university in a first-class manner and the Gamecocks are lucky to have him!"

Austin was asked about his Warhorse days to date and replied, "My favorite Warhorse memory so far was catching a touchdown pass down the sideline as a freshman during the lower state football game in such an unbelievable, packed-out environment!"

Hopefully, with the playoffs just beginning and another year to come since Cam is just a junior, he can add a few more memories to take with him.

When asked about any advice he might have for younger athletes that might hope to follow in his steps, Austin said, "My advice to any younger athletes that want to pursue collegiate sports would be to just simply enjoy the moment. Never take a day for granted and always leave no regrets!"

The Warhorses have and will have a great student-athlete for another year. The Gamecocks have made a great move in offering Cameron Austin his lifelong dream of becoming a South Carolina Gamecock!

Go Warhorses! Go Gamecocks! Good luck, Cam Austin!



Cam Austin has been a lifelong Gamecock fan (pictured here with Cocky and his brother Cayson). Contributed

an indescribable feeling to know you are going to be a student-athlete at the school you have dreamt of attending your whole life. From being a lifelong fan and attending many sporting events in the City of Columbia, I am super excited to call it home in 2025!"

He went on to say, "In only a matter of a week, the coaches came and watched us play in a few games right before playoffs. They reached out and said they liked what they saw in me, so I was invited to come visit USC and instantly felt drawn to the school. The coaching staff was extremely welcoming and extended the offer to me on Sunday. I knew that I wanted to leave as a Gamecock, so I decided to commit! I watched them defeat Kentucky

Blue Devil baseball ready for playoffs

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Williston-Elko Blue Devils baseball team finished the 2024 baseball season with a perfect 8-0 region record and the title of Region 4-A Champions! With their first-place finish in the region, the Blue Devils earned the right to host home games for the first few rounds of playoff games. Brasier Middle College Charter High School will be the first to visit Williston in the State Playoffs.

Devils head coach Dalton Mundy knows that having a home field advantage is important in post-season play. Having the home crowd cheering for your team can be a big lift in key



The region champion Williston-Elko baseball team opens post-season play against Bashier Middle College this week. Contributed

situations during a game. Coach Mundy and the whole Williston-Elko Blue Devils baseball team encourages all Blue Devil fans to come out and cheer the Devils on to victory.

If you have not been to many Blue Devils baseball games this season, come watch the playoffs. This team has a powerful offense that is capable of putting up big scores. In one stretch over eight games, Williston-Elko outscored their opponents by a combined total of 106-16. Lots of Devils contribute to the offense's success.

Put quality hitting along with some good pitching and you have the recipe for some really fun baseball. This team is capable of putting together a strong push in the State Playoffs. Come out and be a part of this team's efforts. Whether you sit in the stands or bring your own chairs, there isn't much better than taking in a local high school baseball game. This is especially true when your hometown team is in the playoffs! See you there!



Williston-Elko High School baseball coach Dalton Mundy and some of his varsity players traveled to Columbia on April 26 to watch the USC Gamecocks play Kentucky. USC won 6-5. "What a game! Gamecocks walk it off in the bottom of the 10th. Glad the guys were able to see some exciting baseball as we head into the playoffs!" said Coach Mundy. Contributed

Lady Warhorses win 9 straight heading into playoffs

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
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The Barnwell Lady Warhorse softball team is running like a well-oiled machine, firing on all cylinders. To say they are playing well would be an understatement. Coach Mike Beasley and his Horses have won nine straight games to close out a very successful regular season. Now, they enter the 2024 AA State Playoffs. Last week alone, Barnwell played four tough games. Monday, April 22nd Barnwell traveled to Aiken and came away with an 18-7 win over the 4-A Green Hornets. The next night, Barnwell hosted local county rivals, when Williston-Elko came to town. Barnwell outslugged the Blue-Devils 21-10 for another win. On Wednesday, Barnwell played for the third consecutive night when they traveled to face the always tough Silver Bluff Bulldogs. This was a close game, but the Horses came away with the 4-2 victory in extra innings. Friday night marked the fourth game of the week for the Lady Warhorses. Barnwell played hosts to the Branchville Yellow Jackets. Barnwell won the Friday night battle 3-1 to close out the week with four wins. The win also made it nine straight games without a loss.

Barnwell finished the regular season as Region 6-AA champions. They battled through a tough region schedule and never lost a region game. They finished the regular season beating quality softball teams like Silver Bluff and Branchville. Now the post season begins for the Lady Warhorses.

Barnwell head coach Mike Beasley was asked about ending the season on such a hot streak and starting the playoffs. He said, "I'm very proud of our ladies for closing out the regular season with nine consecutive wins. The last two against Silver Bluff (4-2) in eight innings

and Branchville 3-1 really indicated how far we have come from the beginning of the season. We begin the next season now that we've been preparing for, which is the District 6 State playoffs, we must win 3 games to advance to the Lower State round. Our first opponent is Lake Marion at home on Wednesday beginning at 6:30. What really helps is having a big crowd supporting our girls. It will be a challenge for us, but this is what we've prepared all year for. Again, I would like to thank our players for staying focused and our parents, community, and administration for their support."

Along the way, Barnwell has gotten some quality pitching from their ace, Jaidyn Devore. Jaidyn finished the regular season with a 14-1 record and a very impressive 181 strikeouts. She had four shutouts and four no hitters. Laney Grubbs and Tiera Arnold had good outings from the circle, going a combined 6-1 with 40 strikeouts and four more shutouts. The team ERA of 1.87 explains a lot of Barnwell's success.

Pitching is not the only reason for all the wins. Offensively, Devore led the team with .617 batting average. Abigail Corley hit for a .438 average and the team as a whole had a team batting average of .338. Five different players had an average over .300. Six players finished with double digit RBIs and nine different Horses had double digit runs scored. Laney Grubbs and Molly Wilson led the team in stolen bases. Tiera Arnold, Jaidyn Devore, Abigail Corley, Brooklyn Gordon, and Laney Grubbs all hit homeruns for Barnwell this year. It really was a true team effort with several other players contributing in multiple phases of the game, like Brianna Croft and Bre'Anna Buckmon leading the team in fielding percentage.

Before the Williston-Elko game, Barnwell's biggest awards were presented to



The Lady Warhorses have been playing great as a team, winning 9 straight to end the regular season. Contributed



Bre'Anna Buckmon received the Tony DeCosta award and Kamaiyah Williams received the Carol Massengale award, the two top softball awards, before the Williston-Elko game. Contributed

two very deserving young ladies.

"I'm proud of our seniors and their leadership on our team. Kamaiyah Williams received the Carol Massengale Award and Bre'Anna Buckmon received the Tony DeCosta Award. These two awards are special because of the name they represent. I'm proud of Kamaiyah and what the future holds for her receiving a full ride to Clemson to attain a degree in biological sciences. Bre'Anna Buckmon will be in the Air Force. She will be leaving July 9th for basic training camp in San Antonio. I'm looking forward to hearing back from these two young ladies as they impact the world in their future endeavors," said Coach Beasley.

Congratulations to these two young ladies. Congratulations to the entire team for winning the Region 6-AA Championship. Hopefully, we will be congratulating this special team for even more special achievements as they progress through the State Playoffs. Come out and support the Lady Warhorses as they face Lake Marion at home, with the first pitch scheduled for 6:30 Wednesday, May 1. Good luck ladies!



Barnwell School District 45 Office of Special Services

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 - ◆ Visual Impairment
 - ◆ Deaf-Blindness
- ◆ Orthopedic Impairment
- ◆ Other Health Impairment
 - ◆ Autism
- ◆ Multiple Disabilities

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Kim A. Rhoad at 803-541-1300 on weekdays between 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

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Mike Beasley named coach for North-South softball game

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com



Beasley will be making his 6th All-Star game coaching appearance, three for softball and three for basketball.

Contributed

Barnwell head softball coach Mike Beasley has been named to coach the South Team in the 2024 South Carolina Coaches of Women's Sports North-South All-Star Game.

The game features some of the state's absolute best senior high school softball players in a two-day event. The festivities will be held at Lexington High School on Wednesday, May 29th and Thursday, May 30th.

Beasley is currently involved in the softball AA state playoffs with his Barnwell Warhorses. The Lady Warhorses went undefeated in Region 6-AA play to secure the Region Championship and hope to

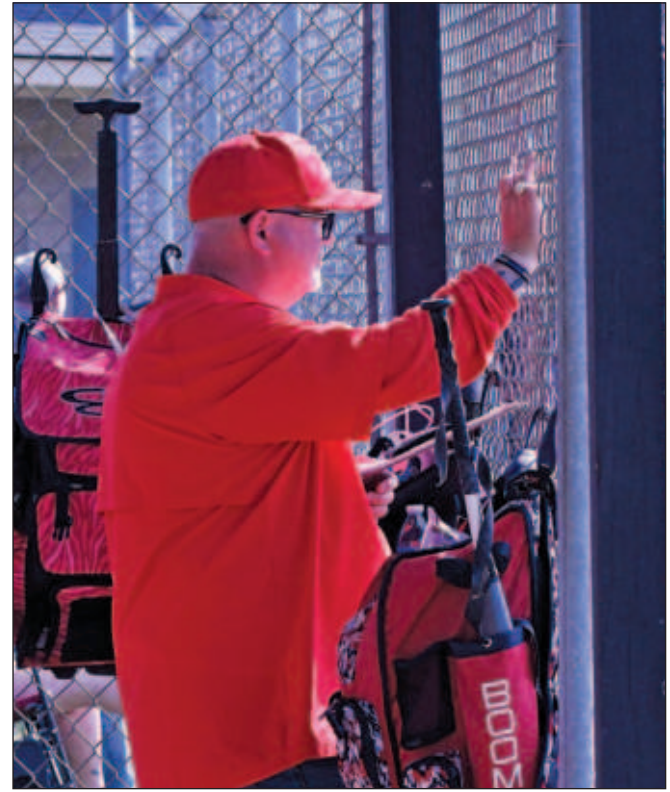
years of coaching, 23 coaching softball and 18 coaching basketball, Mike Beasley has been a North-South softball coach three times, a North-South basketball coach twice, and a North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star coach once. His resume is quite impressive. Beasley has won almost 250 high school softball games and more than 200 high school basketball games.

During these years, Beasley coached four players that participated in the North-South Softball All-Star game. One earned the MVP award. He coached another two players who played in the North-South Basketball All-Star game.

When first asked about this honor, Beasley did not want any attention, but asked that we focus on his team's playoff run. After a

little persuading, he said, "I appreciate the selection and opportunity to coach in the All-Star game. It's great to work with some of the best talent in the state. I've been blessed with players that are coachable and that are committed to working to improve their game to help their team be successful. All awards are shared by the team and I share my selection as an All-Star coach with my team!"

Congratulations Coach Beasley on being selected to coach in this prestigious All-Star game. It is a well-deserved honor and we wish you the best. Before that happens, we wish you and the Lady Warhorses all the best as you enter the 2024 State Championship Playoffs!



Barnwell head coach Mike Beasley will coach the South team in the SCCAWS North-South All-Star game May 29th at Lexington High School.

Photo By: Kelley Wood

Williston-Elko softball looks forward to playoffs

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
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The Williston-Elko softball team ended their regular season, finishing in second place in Region 4-A. The Blue Devils won their last two games and three of their last four. They have been playing better and better as they season progressed. Now it is time to take some of that momentum into the State Playoffs.

On Monday, April 22, Williston-Elko defeated Jefferson Davis Academy 8-5. The Lady Blue Devils hosted Calhoun County

on Wednesday, April 24. The Lady Devils were 17-12 winners over the Saints. On Thursday, April 25, the Devils concluded the week and the regular season by beating Edisto 16-1 on Senior Night. Williston finished the regular season with a 13-7 record and went 7-3 in region play to capture second place in the region.

Williston-Elko head coach Jamie Wootten and his assistant Kevin Jones know just how important having momentum is when it comes playoff time. In case the name Kevin Jones sounds familiar and you have not been following Williston-Elko softball this



Williston-Elko head coach Jamie Wootten and his Lady Blue Devils hope to carry over momentum gained from their last two games into post-season play.

Photo By: Ally Adams

season, he is the head football coach at Blackville-Hilda High School. Wootten was able to get Jones to work with him in the consolidated school district, since Blackville was not going to field a team this year. The two together have the Lady Blue Devils ready for post-season play.

Coach Wootten was asked about the Blue Devils' season and the upcoming playoffs and said, "We ended the regular season on a positive note with wins over JDA, Calhoun County, and Edisto. We are looking forward to hosting Brashier Middle College Charter at home this Wednesday.

They are a team we are familiar with as we played them twice last year in the playoffs. Offensively, we have exploded averaging 13 runs per game. Pitching wise we feel good about KK Redd and I'Yana Robinson throwing for us as they have a lot of playoff experience. We would love to have a big crowd come out and support us this Wednesday."

Come out and support your Lady Blue Devils as they start the State Playoffs this Wednesday, May 1. Pack the house and show these talented, hard-working ladies that Williston-Elko fans are behind them.

Warhorse baseball ends regular season with win over Red Raiders

Jeff Miller
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The Barnwell Warhorse baseball team had a good regular season. The regular season ended last Thursday, April 25 when Barnwell traveled to Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School for a baseball showdown with the Red Raiders, in a game Barnwell won 7-4.

The Warhorses finished Region 6-AA as Region Champions, but Barnwell head coach Cody McCollum knows that the Horses

will need to play good baseball to last very long in the State Playoffs. Momentum can be very important entering post-season play.

Barnwell defeated Horse Creek Academy on Tuesday, April 23 in Barnwell. The Horses did not play their best game, narrowly defeating the Stallions 12-11. Despite the win, Coach McCollum was not pleased with his team's overall performance.

The Warhorses did end the season on a little better note, collecting a win over their longtime rivals from Bamberg. Barnwell de-



Barnwell aggressively stole 8 bases to help them win 7-4 over Bamberg-Ehrhardt.

feated Bamberg-Ehrhardt 7-4. The win wasn't easy,

with no extra-base hits for the Horses, but the offense was led by Joe Huggins who went 2/3 from the plate and scored two runs. Hayden Pierce was 1/3 and drove in two runs. The offense stayed aggressive stealing eight bases to help Barnwell's small ball game. Huggins led the thievery with three steals. Cam Austin, who just committed to the University of South Carolina baseball team, added two stolen bases. Jaevin Santos stole two bases, and Lane Evans also stole a base. The aggres-



Photos By: Kelley Wood

siveness paid off and with a few timely hits, Barnwell claimed the victory.

The trio of Case Davis, Trey Boleman, and Bradley Richardson combined helped keep the Red Raiders offense from doing too much damage. Boleman earned the win pitching four-plus innings.

Coach McCollum was asked about his team and the upcoming playoffs and stated, "We did not play well against HCA. We did find a way to get it done against HCA but it was not pretty. I was much happier

with our performance against Bamberg. We need to be playing our best ball going into the playoffs, with the win we have some momentum now."

Barnwell will open post-season play against Timberland. Good luck to the Warhorses as they enter the playoffs. Come out and support the Warhorses as they will play the first couple of games at home. Fill the stands and cheer on your the Region 6-AA Champion Warhorses!

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Gylian Googe wins \$1,000 for sporting clays tournament

JDA's Gylian Googe received a \$1,000 check from the S.C. Youth Shooting Foundation during the Sporting Clays Tournament Series event held in Edgefield on April 27.

Photo By: Kathy Googe



Take Family Favorites Al Fresco



Advice for enjoying easy meals outdoors

FAMILY FEATURES

Bright sunshine, warm patios and fresh foods go hand in hand. As warm weather and sunny days call you outdoors, bring the whole family along with favorite meals that blend perfectly with a soft breeze and the subtle sounds of nature.

Al fresco dining doesn't have to be difficult. Just gather a few supplies, whip up a favorite recipe or two and ask for a hand in heading outside. Take these tips into account to help ensure your backyard dining goes off without a hitch.

Create a Cozy Spot

Dinner in the backyard means convenience and the comfort of your own patio furniture, but you can always enhance the experience with an umbrella to add a touch of shade or a small fan on those still, steamy evenings. If a busy day means a later dinner, hanging strings of soft lighting can help illuminate the table.

Make It Fresh

Salad season means fresh ingredients from lettuce and veggies to favorite toppings and beyond. Add a crisp bite to your next al fresco occasion with this Southwest Ranch Taco Salad featuring Newman's Own's Southwest Ranch Dressing. The dressing is creamy and smoky with a kick of spice and features no artificial flavors, no colors from artificial sources and no MSG, making it a perfect companion for salads and dips. In fact, you can enjoy this seasonal salad even more knowing that 100% of profits from the sale of the dressing goes toward helping nourish and transform the lives of children facing adversity.

Don't Forget the Essentials

No outdoor meal is complete without a few must-have utensils. Avoid trips back and forth from the house by writing a list of everything you need so you don't head to the deck without forks to share a salad or napkins to help clean up the mess. Bring the basics like plates, cups, utensils, napkins and a cloth to rest food on. Don't leave behind serving spoons, trash bags and other convenience items that make al fresco dining a breeze.

Serve a Perfect Salad Partner

While a hearty salad alone is enough for a filling al fresco meal, you can take your backyard dining to the next level with the perfect partner for satisfying salads: crudites. Arranged neatly on a platter or board, a seasonal variety of sliced or whole raw vegetables such as snap peas, celery, carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, mini bell peppers, broccoli and more can make for a perfect accompaniment to nearly any outdoor meal. Serve with a dip or two, such as Newman's Own's Southwest Ranch Dressing, to complete your al fresco appetizer.

To find more al fresco food options that give back, visit NewmansOwn.com.

Southwest Ranch Taco Salad
Total time: 25 minutes

- 1 cup Newman's Own Southwest Ranch Dressing
- 6 ounces tortilla chips

Coarsely chop lettuce, halve cherry tomatoes and pit, peel and slice avocados. Set aside.

In large frying pan over medium-high heat, heat olive oil. Brown ground beef, stirring occasionally, 4-5 minutes. Add taco seasoning and water; cook according to package directions, 5-8 minutes, or until meat is thoroughly cooked. Drain and rinse black beans. Set aside.

Divide lettuce among serving bowls or plates. Top with ground beef, tomatoes, avocados, black beans, corn, cheese and 2 tablespoons cilantro. Tuck in tortilla chips. Drizzle with southwest ranch dressing and sprinkle with additional cilantro, if desired.



- 1/2 head romaine lettuce
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 2 small avocados
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef (80/20 ground chuck)
- 2 teaspoons Newman's Own Mild Taco Seasoning
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) black beans
- 1 1/2 cups canned corn
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, plus additional for serving (optional), divided

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 23 No. 22 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name:

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

Circle the instrument that should come next in each row.

My Letters

V is for Violin
v is for violin

Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter V. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound the letter V makes in the word violin?

My Rhyme Time

They hadn't been standin' a minute or two,
When out of his knapsack a violin he drew;
And the tune that he played made the valleys all ring,
Made the waters go glidin', made the nightingale sing!

My Numbers

How many visors?

How many vacuums?

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

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.

Playing a violin is

<p>Sunday</p> <p>Letter Identification</p> <p>With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter V in violin.</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>Math Play</p> <p>Point to the number 8 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Big V, Little v</p> <p>With your child, draw a circle around every uppercase letter V on one page of the newspaper. Draw a square around each lowercase v you find on the same page. Draw a line to connect each uppercase V to a lowercase v.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>What do you hear?</p> <p>With your child, look at pictures in the newspaper. Which things in the pictures make sounds? Imitate the sounds you might hear if pictures made sounds.</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Name That Sound</p> <p>Cut out several pictures from the newspaper and put them on a table in front of your child. Make a noise that you might hear in just one of the pictures. Ask your child to point to the picture from which that sound could come.</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>What comes next?</p> <p>Open the newspaper to one of the first 10 pages and tell your child the page number. Ask, "What page will come next?" What page comes before?"</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Find the Pairs</p> <p>Look through the newspaper for things that there are two of. For example, on a picture of a person, your child can point out two eyes, two ears, etc. Use the word "pair" to describe these things that come in twos.</p>
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Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

_____ Date

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

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

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Debunking Common Bathroom Remodeling Misconceptions

FAMILY FEATURES

Many homeowners put off upgrading essential spaces like the bathroom because they perceive the hassle or expense outweighs the benefit. Common myths surrounding these projects keep many homeowners from even envisioning a beautiful new bathroom, let alone embarking on a remodeling project.

“There’s a lot of misinformation about renovations, especially when it comes to bathrooms,” said Scott McGillivray, HGTV star. “A lot of people think a bathroom renovation means you have to gut the whole thing and start over. That is not true.”

To help sort facts from fiction, consider this information from the experts at Bath Fitter, a leader in custom bath and shower remodels, along with results from their online survey of 1,000 U.S. adults.

Myth: A traditional down-to-studs remodel is the “right” way or “only” way to achieve a new bathroom.

Truth: Tradition and right are not one and the same. There are plenty of innovative ways to achieve a like-new bathroom without the messy demolition, stress and unexpected delays. In fact, according to the survey, 50% of respondents who renovated their bathroom in the past five years agree that a tub-over-tub liner is an affordable solution that eliminates these renovation pain points while providing the same quality and durability of a traditional remodel with long-lasting results.

Myth: Tub and shower liners are made from sub-standard material that results in a low-quality look.

Truth: Constructed from the same premium acrylic found in high-end spas, custom liner products are a high-quality solution that’s just as attractive, exceptionally durable and easy to clean. Consider options from Bath Fitter, which manufactures every acrylic bathtub and wall at its North American facility, ensuring the highest quality standards are met. When installed with a one-piece seamless wall system, these acrylic tubs and showers look new for longer than most traditional remodel options and are backed by a lifetime guarantee.

Myth: Tub and shower liners are “coverups,” which can worsen or create problems with mold or water damage.

Truth: Custom-made tubs and showers are installed using a grout-free, watertight system that prevents future mold and water damage. Extensive sanitizing of existing bath areas ensures a clean and strong foundation prior to installation. In fact, 47% of survey respondents who renovated their bathroom in the past five years used a tub-over-tub solution as part of the renovation.

Myth: Liners are a temporary fix that won’t last or serve as a long-term replacement.

Truth: While 1 in 4 future renovators believe tub-over-tub solutions are covers and insufficient substitutes for a complete replacement, McGillivray’s renovation experience tells a different story.

Unlike resurfacing or replacing bathtubs or showers, which may only last a few years, Bath Fitter products offer the same look and feel of a new tub or shower but with a lifetime guarantee, installation in as little as 24 hours and less hassle than a full demolition renovation.



“Bath Fitter is a great example of how to reface a bathroom,” McGillivray said. “It gets you the beautiful, finished product you are looking for, but it’s smart because it saves time, money and adds life expectancy back to the space.”

Myth: The number of bath and shower style options are limited and won’t fit contemporary bathroom design trends.

Truth: Custom tubs and showers are available with hundreds of design and customization options to suit any space or style and blend in seamlessly with your chosen aesthetic. From Scandinavian to English Country, you can find an expansive portfolio of designs that can be integrated into an existing design or incorporated into an updated look.

Find more ideas and inspiration for your bathroom remodel at bathfitter.com.



BENEFITS OF A ONE-DAY BATHROOM REMODEL

If you’ve lived in your home for a while, it may be time to give your bathroom more than just a facelift. Dated fixtures, peeling paint and chipped tiles are telltale signs that all isn’t well with your bathroom. A beautiful new bathroom may be more accessible than you think. A one-day bath remodel can turn your outdated bathroom into a stylish space you’ll enjoy using every day.

Convenient: A one-day bathroom remodel is perfect if you want to upgrade your bathroom without interrupting your daily life. Since it can be completed in just a few hours, you can skip the inconvenience of having a construction crew in your home or experiencing extended disruptions to your daily routine.

Affordable: Traditional bathroom renovations can take weeks to finish with costs rising by the hour. A one-day bathroom remodel keeps costs down since the installers specialize in completing bathroom remodels quickly and efficiently.

Customizable: You can customize every aspect of your new bathroom, from the fixtures and walls to the accessories and lighting. Experiment with different designs and make your vision a reality using Bath Fitter’s Design Your Own Bath online tool.

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