

Williston-Elko **High School** celebrates Paristhemed prom, Photos, A4



The Penple-Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

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2 SECTIONS / 20 PAGES / \$1

Allendale shootings injure cop, kill teen

Jonathan Vickery Publisher jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

A police officer and two juveniles are among the victims of a series of recent shootings

in Allendale County.

On Saturday afternoon, April 27, an Allendale police officer was shot in the line of duty as he responded to a shooting incident call. This shooting followed two others in recent days that left a juvenile dead adult injured.

"We've had a rash of shootings in Allendale County that seem to be connected," said Chief

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 and two other juveniles and an 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 elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

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.

didn't know anything about guns Allendale community leaders and shootings, [but] now it's like about local gun violence. 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

"I grew up in this town and I discussions are occurring among

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



headset during a visit from Save A Life.

Students learn safe driving techniques

Alexandra Whitbeck Reporter

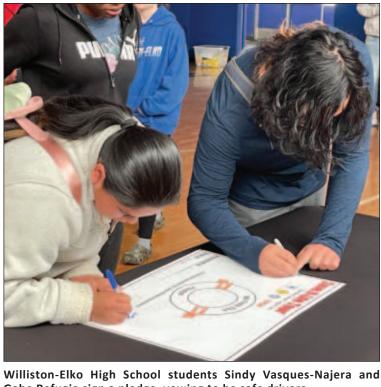
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

arnwell 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

Students used a virtual reality headset mimicking alcoholic impaired reaction times to navigate roadways;



Gabe Refugia sign a pledge, vowing to be safe drivers.

The safe driving program educational programs across some virtually crashing into is operated by Matrix the country.

other cars and some into trees Entertainment, a company providing immersive

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



For home delivery pricing, 4B

WHAT'S INSIDE Sports......1-3B Education..... 8 B

OBITUARIES, 7 & 8A

Bonetta Sanders Bolen -Blackville

Gloria Jean Gunnells - Barnwell Zane Hudson - Barnwell Eddie Myers Jr. - Barnwell

Ottie Clifford Nix Sr. -Lexington

Catherine R. Tharin - Allendale Betty F. Walters - Tennessee

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

firms to continue working on

a new district-wide high interest. school and career center. The district administration has created historical committees to preserve the history of the county's three high schools. Dr. Crissie Štapleton,

superintendent of the high school maintaining Barnwell County School District, said the school district has received \$100 million from the state of South Carolina for school consolidation. This \$100 The school district has million was deposited into a school of choice option final draft contracts with two First Citizens Bank, where for parents and students architectural and engineering it will collect what Stapleton interested in going to a estimates to be \$5 million in school outside of their zoned

school funded extracurricular activities.

Stapleton.

School of choice The district has created

"That is wonderful, we're

Part of the financial

consolidation of the school

district comes with each

their pupils activities funds

account, earmarked for

very excited about that," said

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

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

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

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.



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

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

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.



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

LAW LLC

12923 Main Street, Williston, SC 29853 | 803.266.2290



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

Family Medical Center of Blackville 803.284.1045

Barnwell Family Specialty Services Women's Health Center 803.259.5762

Barnwell Family Medicine 803.259.5762 | *Pharmacy: 803.591.7891

> **Barnwell Pediatrics** 803.259.7337

Williston Family Medicine 803,266,0060



SHOOTINGS: 14-year-old girl killed, police officer injured after recent shootings

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 Police Department.

In response to the shooting, law enforcement officers from neighboring counties along with agents investigation into the an 11-year-old was shot

from the S.C. State Law shooting of the officer, at a residence in the Town Enforcement Division though local agencies and S.C. Highway Patrol are involved. The Peoplegathered in Allendale to Sentinel reached out to lend their assistance. Chief SLED for more information, Williams from Fairfax said but they only stated it's an more than 100 officers were active investigation. on the scene.

"There's a great turnout moving to the Allendale of support from officers follows at least two other afternoon," said Chief

SLED is handling the

Juveniles Shot

The officer's shooting coming together this shootings in Allendale County within about 48

On Thursday, April 25,

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-yearold 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

Allendale County Coroner Renique Riley-Spiller declined to release the name of the juvenile female victim from the Fairfax shooting.

of Allendale. Another 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 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 for nobody when they are shooting at people's houses."

the Fairfax shooting in conjunction with the Fairfax Police Department.

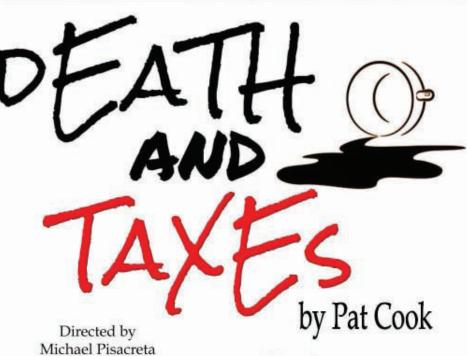
Information Sought No suspects have been arrested in any of the shootings as of publication,

"I'm not going to release 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, a relative of a "possible 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 the shooters "don't aim on the Allendale Police Department's Facebook

page. Ănyone SLED is investigating 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



FEATURING

Marion Young Produced by Beth Miller

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

Performances

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

> May 5 & 12 at 3:00 PM

Purchase Tickets online for \$20 at barnwellct.weebly.com or at The People Sentinel



Season Ticket Holders call (803) 471-8929

325 Academy Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

BHHS Prom King & Queen



Amonya 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



SCAN HERE FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT:

JOEWILSON.HOUSE.GOV/SERVICES/CONGRESSIONAL-ART-COMPETITION

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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

Tilliston-Elko High School students danced the night away on April 27 at their Paristhemed prom.

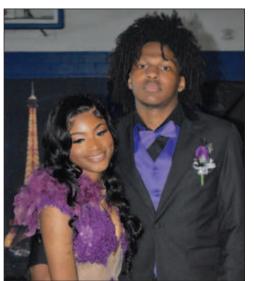
George Barrett was crowned king and NaKiya Mercado was crowned queen. Kyle Rudolph was named prince and Ashauna Hosey was named princess.

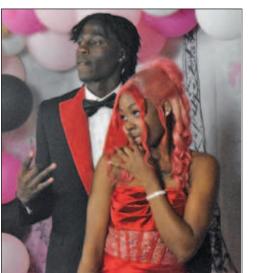
Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

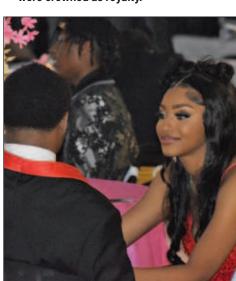


Prince Kyle Rudolph and Princess Ashauna Hosey were crowned as royalty.





























Local

Directory

Allendale Library

297 Main St., Allendale

(803) 584-2371

Hours of Operation

Mon.-Fri.

9am-5pm

Sat.

10am-2pm

Barnwell Library

40 Burr St., Barnwell

(803) 259-3612

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.

10am-6pm

Thurs.

10am-7pm

Sat.

10am-2pm

Blackville Library

19420 Solomon Blatt

Ave., Blackville

(803) 284-2295

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

10am-lpm

2pm-6pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

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

Ongoing

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

Exercise should be fun! Dancing for Joy is a fun way to dance and move to the beat and gain coordination, muscle tone and cardio fitness. Classes are free. We ask that you support your local food bank or pay it forward in any way you wish. Classes are virtual. To participate, email Elizabeth at egalaida@yahoo.com or text 301-473-3418 to get the Zoom information. Zoom links and codes are emailed out prior to every class.

Mondays 3:45-4:50pm Thursdays 9:15-10:30am Saturdays 10:15-11:30am

May 1, 2, 3, 5
St. Peter Missionary Baptist
Church 157th Church
Anniversary

7110 Bay Street Elko, SC Guest speakers include Pastor Jimmie Wise of Sardis Missionary Baptist Church of Salley, SC; Dr. Lucious Dixon of Honey Ford Missionary Baptist Church of Denmark, SC; and Dr. Jamie O. Graham of St. John Baptist Church of Columbia, SC, respectively. The anniversary celebration will conclude with a worship service which will be held on Sunday, May 5 at I lam. Dr. Alexander Pope, Jr. will serve as the guest speaker. For more information, please call (803) 266-4282. Anthony F. Gadson, Senior Pastor 7pm nightly

Thurs., May 2
National Day of Prayer
Barnwell County Ministerial
Coalition hosts Community
Prayer at the Barnwell City
Water Fountain
12pm

Evening with the Arts Art Show & Music Performance

Admission free. Music performance by the BES Music and Dance participants. \$20 will purchase your child's framed artwork and they will receive a free paint set. BES Multi-Purpose Room.

5:30pm

May 2, 3, 4, 6
Bamberg County Chorale
Performance
The Rephase 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 accepted. **7pm**

Fri., May 3
A Place to Dream Fundraiser
Golf Tournament
Sweetwater Country Club

Hosted by Izzie Brandt, Young Miss Teen Lake Murray/Barnwell native. 4-man Captain's Choice Team entry \$400. \$100 hole sponsor. Call of text Stephanie Brandt at 803-596-6833.

Registration 9am
Tee Off 9:30am

Tee Off 9:30am
Lunch 12pm

Fri.-Sun., May 3-5
The Yamassee Indian Tribe
Green Corn Cultural Festival
USC Salkahatchie Campus, 465
James Brandt Blvd., Allendale
Fri. open 11am
Sat. Family Day open 12pm
Sun. Gullah Geechee Day
803-702-1715

Food Giveaway

4493 Barnwell Rd., Williston. All are welcome. Unity Outreach Church Food Pantry partnered with Atlas Golf Carts in Williston. Valid SC ID required. 10am-2pm

May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 Circle Theatre Death and Taxes

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

Sat., May 4
Spathetti Dinner Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Trinity Baptist Fellowship Hall, 4721 Galilee Rd., Barnwell

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

DIG STEM Festival

A free outdoor event for children, teens, and families. STEM hands-on activities, exhibits, interactive demonstrations, and showcases.

13030 Main St., Williston www.digdp.org/digstem

11am-5pm

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

Mon., May 6
Barnwell County First Steps
"Vision Board"

Williston Town Park. 9-11am

The public is invited to join Barnwell County First Steps at 110 Franklin Street, Barnwell,to engage in creating a vision board. This is free.

Dinner will be served at 4:30

Meeting 5pm

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.

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. 10am
program begins with mid-19th
Century music, followed at
I I am 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. 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 I am-7pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

Sat., May II
Ist Annual Uganda Missions
Golf Tournament
Sweetwater Golf Club
Haygood Baptist Church fund
raiser. 4 man Captain's Choice.
Team entry \$400. Registration

803-671-4371. 9am Tee off, Lunch

Call of text Nick Owens,

Tues., May 14
Hilda Town Council Meeting
Hilda Town Hall Conference
Room
7pm

Tues., May 16
Barnwell County First Steps
"Money Management"
The public is invited to join
Barnwell County First Steps at

I 10 Franklin Street, Barnwell for a seminar on money management. This is free.

Dinner will be served at 5pm Meeting 5:30pm

Fri., May 17

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

Fri.-Sun., May 17-19
CERT Basic Course

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

Sun. 8am-4:30pm

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

Thurs., May 23
Generations Unlimited
Council Meeting
T.E. Richardson Building
Conference Room, Barnwell
5:30pm

Ε

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

Barnwell Library Events

ADULT
Barnwell County Library
Board Meeting
Mon., May 6 at 3:30 pm

Friends of the Libraries of Barnwell County Board Meeting Mon., May 6 following the

Barnwell County Library Board Meeting.

Thurs., May 9 Crafter-Noon for Kids Mother's Day Craft. Paint a wooden pendant for a necklace, keychain or earrings

CHILDREN/FAMILY

for mom. 4-5pm

Wed., May 22nd Crafter-Noon for Kids Pokémon Trainer Hats. Decorate your own Pokémon Trainer Hat. Registration is

required call 803-259-3612

or stop by the front desk to register. **4-5pm**

4-5pm

Wed., May 29th STEM for Kids Pokéball Levitating Contraption. Make your own Pokéball levitating contraption out of paper and a straw.

Fri., May 3 I
Summer Reading Kickoff:
Tee off for Summer
Reading
Bring the whole family and ha

Bring the whole family and hang out at the library after hours for mini golf. In partnership with Friends of the Libraries of Barnwell County. Registration requested call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register.

5:30-7pm

Sat., May 25
Ned Branch Missionary
Baptist Church Male Chorus
Anniversary

Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 10620 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell. **3pm**

Community Fishing
Tournament
Locations: Edisto and Savannah

rivers. Sponsored by the Barnwell First Baptist Church Men's Ministry. Minimum team size is two adults. Prizes will be awarded. This is a fundraiser to support missions in Los Angeles. Teams should meet back at the church parking lot by 4:30 p.m. for weigh-in. Sign up at the FBC office or at fbcbarnwell.org/ upcoming-events.

7am to 3pm

June 4, 11, 18, 25
Barnwell County Sheriff's
Office GRITS Program
presents Story Time
Come out for story time and
an activity at the Barnwell
McDonalds.
9-10am

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 803-300-8299 or visit the festival website hcmelonfest.org. STORY TIME
Thurs., May 23rd
Story Time: Read Rattle &
Roll
Enjoy themed songs and stories

followed by free developmental screenings. To discover a child's strengths and identify areas where extra support may be needed, parents and caregivers will engage with their children through fun and interactive play focused on learning behavior and development. *Sponsored by Help Me Grow S.C.

Allendale County Library Events

Thurs., May 9 Mother's Day Paint & Sip 3-4pm

Wed., May 15 Seniors' Fun Day 3-4pm

Wed., May 14, 22

Five & Under Storytime! 9:30-10:30am Fri., May 24

Get a Leg(o) Up! Youth ages 2-17. 4:30-5:30pm

Blackville Library Events

Williston

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

Library Events Wed., May 8, 22 Story Time

Thurs., May 23 Adult Book Club 6pm

Sat., June 8
Swiss Krono Cean Scarbeary
Jr. GolfTournament 2024
Sweetwater Country Club, 57 I
Johnny George Lane, Barnwell.
Ivd., Ticket \$120. Prizes for Longest

Mon., June 10-July 1
Faith @ the Fountain
15 minute kids' praise &
devotion on the Circle in

Drive & Closest to Pin.

Tues., June 11
Cancer Screenings

Barnwell 10am

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!
Bamberg County Health Dept., 50 Dickinson St., Extension, Bamberg. Learn more: clemsonruralhealth. org, 803-516-9992. 9am-3:40pm

Sat., July 13
Wrestling with Weston
Fundraiser for Weston
Hutson

12889 Main St., Williston. Come shop vendors, touch a truck, silent auction, raffles, good food and live music with special guest WARREN PEAY. For vendor info, please contact Dawn Nix, 803-709-1467, or Jo Ward, 803-300-0404, or Monica Maxwell, 865-803-2785.

10am-5pm

Evening with the Arts

Art Show and Music Performance

May 2, 2024

Admission - Free

Music Performance by the BES Music and Dance Participants

\$20 will purchase your child's framed artwork

AND they will receive a FREE paint set.

BES Multi-Purpose Re

Williston Library

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

MUSEUMS

BARNWELL CO. MUSEUM

9426 Marlboro Ave.,
Barnwell
Tues., Wed., Thurs.
Noon-4pm
Self-guided tours are
offered
Register at the office
building

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



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Crossword Puzzle Solution Puzzle on Page 7B

REST

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Sudoku Puzzle Solution Puzzle on Page 7B

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MLK Day of Service helps over 250 people in Denmark, Bamberg

Luther King (MLK) commenced on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Amazing Grace Ministries' Glory Room in Denmark.

service to over 250 people in the communities of Denmark and Bamberg. The communities received warmed tasty meal items, soup, cornbread, dessert, and a beverage during the service initiative.

Nu Tau Omega and Eta Nu Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, brainstorming viable joined Absolute Total Care, community's most pressing Amazing Grace Ministries problems.

The 2024 Martin and Southern to reflect with Alpha Kappa Alpha Greater Heights of Service & Sisterhood. This call to serve initiative galvanized a diverse group of citizens in the communities of Denmark and Bamberg. These citizens were able to enjoy meal items and intellectual conversation

The Alpha Kappa Alpha on Dr. Martin Luther Sorority Incorporated® King (MLK) Jr.'s day of members were excited service. The MLK Day of to serve all the citizens Service initiative is aligned who participated and are already looking Sorority Inc. Supreme forward to continuing The initiative provided President Reed's national to foster empowerment call to serve, Soaring to and discussions that are feasible solutions to social problems that plague the communities. Mrs. Tracy Golden, president of Nu Tau Omega Chapter, Ms. Julia Bartlett, president of Eta Nu Chapter, Mrs. Antigone Solomon, Graduate Advisor of Eta Nu Chapter, and Mrs. Incorporated® participants solutions to the Carolyn Davis, 2024 MLK Chairman are thankful for all the support and



Some of the volunteers who made the MLK Day of Service possible.

contributions from contributions stimulated Jr.'s words "Out of the the communities to ensure mountain of despair, a The support and Dr. Martin Luther King stone of hope" will emerge.

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.

Kaila Terria Bostick, 34, of 124 Woodrow Road, Etill, S.C. was arrested on April 24, 2024 by Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Kidnapping. Bostick was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Carolyn Denise Byrd, 50, of Perry Street, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 1, 2024 by the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) for Public DIsorderly Conduct. Byrd was booked

and released to BCDC.

Thomas Weslie Emery, 30, of Cottageville, S.C. was arrested on April 23, 2024 by BCSO for Unlawful Communications. Emery was booked and released to BCDC.

Gerardo Fernandez, 35, of Rice Street, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 18, 2024 by BPD for Motor Vehicle Stop and General Traffic Provisions. Fernandez was booked and released to BCDC.

Adrienne Burgen Ginn, 31, of 124 Winnie Trail, Varnville, S.C. was arrested on April 23, 2024 by BCSO for Kidnapping. Ginn was booked and released to

Eric James Greene, 41, of 3180 Poplar Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 28, 2024 by BCSO for (2) counts of Failure to Appear. Greene was booked and released to

Poplar Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 24, 2024 by BCSO for Attempted Murder. Harden was booked and released to BCDC. Sonny Harden, 47, of Pop-

Sonny Harden, 48, of 6810

lar Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 24, 2024 by BPD for (2) counts of Shoplifting. Harden was booked and released to BCDC.

Clifton Eric Jones, 64, of Alberta Circle Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on March 27, 2024 by BPD for Shoplifting. Jones was booked and released to **BCDC**

Ray'traveun Jiquawn Carroll-McMillan, 20, of Greenwood, S.C. was arrested on April 1, 2024 by BPD for Failure to Stop for a Blue Light. Carroll-McMillan was booked and released to BCDC.

Steve Allen Morris, 57, of 505 Snapper Road, Blackville, S.C. was arrested on April 23, 2024 by BCSO for Falsifying Information and Petit Larceny. Morris was booked and released to BCDC.

Raven Nicole Peeples, 36, of 3037 Kingfisher Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested

on April 27, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Appear. Peeples was booked and released to BCDC. Jamaal Terrell Riley, 30,

of 220 Olive Drive, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 24, 2024 by BCSO for Kidnapping. Riley was booked and released to BCDC.

Coy Roberts, 25, of 307 Litchfield Apartments, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 23, 2024 by BCSO for (2) counts of Petit Larceny. Roberts was booked and released to BCDC.

Kei Shaun Unique Strobhart, 21, of 562921 Low Country Drive, Ridgeland, S.C. was arrested on April 26, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Court

Fines. Strobhart was booked and released to BCDC.

Kevin Elias Still, 25, of Clinton Street, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on March 23, 2024 by BPD for Domestic Violence and Resisting Arrest. Still was booked and released to BCDC.

Samantha Lynn Snow, 29, of Cherry Street, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on March 36, 2024 by BPD for Breach of Trust. Snow was booked and released to BCDC.

Barney Keith Williams Jr., 48, of Highway 278, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on April 23, 2024 by BPD for Financial Transaction Card Fraud. Williams was booked and released to BCDC.

LEADERS: Community leaders fed up with violence, ready for change

One of the biggest barriers to addressing the issue, community leaders say, is overcoming the belief that a safer community isn't possible.

Community action

Community leaders in Allendale say multiple local changes – both in municipal policy and in the community's culture can be made to move the community in the right

On April 28, Allendale County School District (ACSD) superintendent Dr. Vallerie Cave released a statement saying that the school would be increasing security. Cave joined other community leaders who are discussing the changes needed to address patterns of community violence.

"Recent events have shaken the very foundation of our community: a series of shootings that tragically took the life of one of our students and left another injured," wrote Dr. Cave in the statement. "This is a time for action. We must come together to address the root causes of violence and work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our children. We cannot accept living in fear."

Cave has been an advocate of increasing community involvement in the local school system. "Our schools are only as strong as our communities make them, so in order for that to happen I have to instill in children educational advancement and educational attainment," Cave said in a November interview with The People-

Yet, outside of school hours, Allendale's young people are often left alone without proper guidance. This combined with easy access to guns and ammunition, community leaders say, creates a recipe for violence.

"We as grown-ups need to grow up as well," said Lewis, who is frustrated with other adults in the community for what she sees as a lack of leadership. "Children cannot learn what they are not taught."

Within Allendale, a growing disconnect between the community's youth and adults has left the community fractured, community leaders say. Adults and parents in the community feel that respect of violence often go that young people once had for their parents and other adults is vanishing; Meanwhile, Creech said, young people feel that adults in the community aren't talking, is because

community's gun violence. have failed to understand them and speak to them on their terms.

'In the younger generation, there's a big disconnect," said Allendale Town Council member Marlon Creech, who is the youngest elected official in Allendale. "The younger generation feels like the older generation should respect them, but the older generation feels like young people are disrespectful. We have to seek common ground and understanding."

Increasing recreational opportunities for young people outside of school hours, said Creech, is one of the best ways to help give young people a direction.

fight for the kids not to join the streets. said Creech, who is an advocate of free community recreation. "The biggest issue for parents who got three or four kids is that they don't have enough money for their kids to participate."

Yet, proposals to increase recreational opportunities for young people in the community struggle to get off the ground or get completed. In October Town of Allendale a \$25,000 grant from the Municipal Association of South Carolina to reopen the Allendale Community Center. Creech anticipated that the community center could open by January 2024. Yet, in March, Creech criticized the town council for a lack of urgency towards moving the project forward and as of May 1, the project is incomplete.

In the Town of Fairfax, a community center along Route 278 that began construction in 2019 has become infamous for its delays and high costs. Over \$1 million has been sunk into the project, which still remains incomplete. Building new places of recreation, such as the proposed county-wide community center and state park, often require high up-front costs that local governments cannot afford.

"We need all leaders to come together right now," Creech said. "We need Brad Hutto, Lonnie Hosey, [Jim] Clyburn for an emergency meeting because we in a state of emergency."

Shootings and spurts unreported, said Fairfax Mayor Butch Sauls, since community members live in

fear of retaliation. "That's why a lot of people

"We have to go out and fight for the

kids to not join the streets."

- Allendale Town Councilman Marlon Creech

they don't feel safe to be able to talk," said Fairfax Town Council member Phyllis Smart. This prevents local police from getting leads after a shooting is committed.

As of press time, the Allendale Police Department and South Carolina Law Enforcement Division have not made any arrests related to the shootings.

Structural change

Yet, increased reporting "We have to go out and to local police departments only happens after shootings occur. Larger, structural changes that hold the community back — like the lack of social services, incounty job opportunities and early childhood education are what community leaders say will help prevent violence before it happens.

Community organizations with social workers who can talk to armed youth in a non-threatening manner, is one of the most effective 2023, Creech won the methods to de-escalate community violence, according to Michael Siegel, a professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University.

"It's not simply a criminal justice problem, it's really a social problem," said Siegel, whose research focuses on the intersection of gun

violence and inequality. "The solutions are in social support and structural resources to provide alternatives to violence."

One of the reasons that Allendale's young people are often left alone, Creech said, is because parents work out-of-county jobs with long hours. "I know a lot of single

mothers have to travel so far to get a job," Creech said. "We have no choice but to drop the ball because the parents have to make a living to provide for them, and we don't have any jobs around here that's worthy of paying a living." As previously reported

by The People-Sentinel, Allendale and Barnwell counties are child care deserts, meaning that the number of children in need of child care outstrips the available supply of child care. Increasing early childhood education and afterschool programs, Siegel said, are also proven ways to help prevent young people turning to violence.

"The earlier you can intervene the more effective you can be in dealing with the problem before it actually surfaces," Siegel said. "We have to get away from the punitive approach and go to a more supportive must organize itself -

South Carolina's lack of gun control, community leaders say, is a polarizing albeit major contributor to the problem. In March, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster further loosened South Carolina's gun regulations. Now, anyone 18 or older can open carry in public without a permit. Lewis and Sauls believe the law will only worsen community gun violence.

"We've just added fuel to the fire," Lewis said. "The people making those decisions about our lives, they don't live in Allendale. They don't live in our area. They're someplace else, often negative in tone, rather living in their big, golden than constructive. nouses.

resources in Allendale is decided by lawmakers in Columbia and Washington, D.C., places where Allendale has less political access. Fairfax Mayor Butch Sauls said that following the shootings, he reached out to Allendale's lawmakers in Columbia: Lonnie Hosey and Brad Hutto. As of Monday, Sauls said, neither lawmaker had responded to him.

"We're putting all this on poor communities who are fighting just to get by," said Sauls. "I'm fighting just to keep this town going.

A starting place Community leaders

in churches, schools and neighborhoods - around common goals and understanding. The belief that a safer community is not

possible is the first barrier

FROM PAGE 1A

they believe Allendale needs to overcome. "Our community has to be introspective," said Allendale County Council member James White. "If we're not careful, we will develop an acceptance of this reality. Young people

their lives are valuable." Gun violence has also taken a toll on the community's psyche, leaders say, and conversations surrounding violence are

need to understand that

It's time for us to stor Funding for needed talking," Sauls said. "I can't imagine being a parent going through their child being murdered in bed for no reason at all. When are we going to stop burying our children?"

Given the lack of help from state and federal leaders, Lewis said, the community has grown used to living in despair, which is the first pattern that must be broken.

"This is a little town, this is an underserved town, but this is our town," Lewis said. "It's time that we recognize that and start supporting each other. We ordinary people have power, and we can't blame others for giving say that before Allendale up on us when we give up makes larger changes, it on ourselves."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that Thomas M. Boulware has been appointed Special Personal Representative of the Estate of E.T. Moore for the purposes of closing his law practice. This is to advise that his office files that are six years (6) old or less will be retained. Files that are more than six years (6) old may be destroyed.

If you were a client more than six years (6) ago and desire your file please contact Sylvia Quattlebaum on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at 803-259-2021 to schedule an appointment to retrieve your file.

If a real estate transaction occurred more than six years (6) ago and you were represented by Mr. Moore and you desire your file, please call Sylvia Quattlebaum at 803-259-2021 to schedule an appointment to retrieve your file.

If any action by a former client is to be taken, please plan to do so before July 1, 2024.

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

Criteria for the Naming of Facilities(Policy FF):

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

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

The People-Sentinel Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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,

Gloria Jean Gunnells

pond, or beach. She loved lighthouses and her furbabies, was a craftingqueen, 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 survived by her husband, Dannie Gunnells; daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Missy) Redding (Scottie); sons, Frankie Still and Dan Gunnells Jr. (Kim); sisters, Ruth Gunnells (Dean), Donna Sue Eichberg and Carolyn Hunt (Chance); sister-in-law, Joy Black; Redding. grandchildren Jae Nettles, Zac Bradley, Tezzie Priester, Bella Wilson, Ethan Joyner, Ava Gunnells, Lindsey Gunnells, Summer molefh.com. Gunnells, and Kimberly Gunnells.

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, Jeramy Gunnells, Mark Correll, and Scottie

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

> The People-Sentinel 5/1/2024



erine R. Tharin, 91, widow of Whitney Tharin Jr., affectionately called "Mama," "Miss Catherine," "Ta," "Mu T" and "Grandmama," beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away on April 27, 2024. She leaves behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and commitment to family and community.

Born in Chester, South Carolina on May 22, 1932, to Kitty and Sam Rice, Catherine was known for her straightforward nature that was always accompanied by a dry wit and sense of humor that always brought smiles to those around her.

After graduating valedictorian from Allendale High School in 1950, Catherine graduated from Coker College with a degree in math. Catherine began working at E.I. Dupont Company

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 greatgrandchildren 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 keithsmith

funeralservice.com. The People-Sentinel 5/1/2024



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 Gerand widow of John Paul Walters Sr.

read. She retired from Stubbs of Bennettsville,

Betty F. Walters

was employed at Woodruff buddy, Toby. State Bank for twelve and 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 (Renee), 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 trude Driggers Freeman her siblings, Shirley Mumford of Wilmington, NC; brother, Ervin Freeman of Mrs. Walters loved to Dillon, S.C.; sister, Patricia

Arthur State Bank and SC; and her furry shih tzu

In lieu of flowers, mea half years and was of the morials 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 5/1/2024





BARNWELL - A Celebration of Life Service for Zane Rogers Hudson was held at 2 o'clock p.m. Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Folk Funeral Home, Williston. The family received friends one (Lauren) Hudson of Barnhour prior to the service well, SC; a sister, Mona on Saturday at the funeral Krogh of Williston, SC;

April 20, 2024.

was a daughter of the late and Mackston Hudson. Lewis Rogers and Audrey Gleasner Rogers. She enjoyed crocheting, reading and spending time with family.

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

brother, Rodney (Tina) Zane passed away on Rogers of Barnwell, SC; grandchildren, Grayson Born in Augusta, GA, she Harmon, Brantley Hudson

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

> > The People-Sentinel 5/1/2024

BLACKVILLE - A graveside funeral service for Bonetta Sanders Bolen, 89, of Blackville, S.C. will be held at 11 o'clock a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery, 10574 Hwy. #37, Blackville, S.C. with the Reverend Ben Langdale officiating. Memorial contributions may be given to Memorial and Honor Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or you may visit their website, www.stjude.org/ memorial.

Bonetta passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

The family would like to send a special heart-felt thank you to the staff of

Serving Barnwell County and Surrounding Areas Since 1937

9399 Patterson Street, Barnwell, SC 29812 | 803-259-3166

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 band, Edward Bolen, she 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 Sand-Gentiva Hospice, including ers, all of Olar, S.C.; grand-

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Pre-Planning Programs | Traditional Services

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, Iunior Zorn, Leila Croft, Cody Croft, Eli and Riley Dukes.

In addition to her huswas 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.folkfuneral home.com.

> The People-Sentinel 5/1/2024

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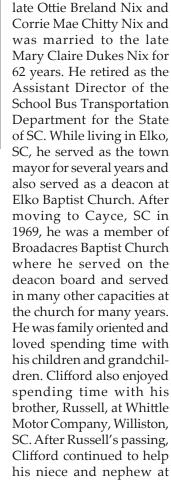


LEXINGTON - Funeral services for Ottie Clifford Nix Sr., 92, of Lexington, SC will be held at 11 o'clock a.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at Broadacres Baptist Church, 2350 Taylors Rd., Cayce, SC with the Reverend Shane McDaniel officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday. Burial will follow at 2 o'clock p.m. at the Williston Cemetery, 2600 Lake Dr., Williston, SC 29853. Memorial contributions may be given to SEA Place Non-Profit, 220 Peach Place Ct., Gilbert, SC 29054 or the Williston Cemetery, P.O. Box 367, Williston, SC 29853.

Clifford passed away on

Sunday, April 28, 2024. Born in Barnwell County, SC, he was a son of the a Cryptographer Specialist.

Ottie Clifford Nix Sr.



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

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.folkfuneral home.com.

The People-Sentinel 5/1/2024

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

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.

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

enforce an appropriate 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 The lawsuit alleges these 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, org/casesearch/.

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.

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.

Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Born in Barnwell County,

S.C., he was a son of Sheila (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

Eddie passed away on nothing in return. He was a loving son, grandson, brother, and father. Eddie loved spending time work-Lewallen Myers and Eddie ing on cars and fishing in his spare time.

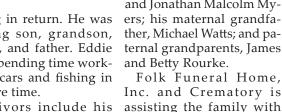
Survivors include his parents, Sheila L. Myers and Eddie (Cala) Myers Sr.; the mother of his children. Daniell Carroll All; his chilfor anybody, expecting dren, Kyleigh Gail Myers

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 Myther, Michael Watts; and pa-

assisting the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at www. folkfuneralhome.com.

The People-Sentinel







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DIG celebrates decade of big dreams, achievements

Jonathan Vickery Publlisher

jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

ver the past 10 years, a Willistonorganization 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 second family. Jalia Sept who is sophomore

of Williston.



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

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



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



Tommy and Elaine Boyleston Tamora Parker of Williston with her son Tyran.



Angie Overton and sister- Shawnta and Allen Harrison in-law Beth Overton, both of Blackville. of Williston.



Notice

southeasterr

Holly Hill Complex at Cribb Street, Holly Hill, SC

North Complex at Palmetto Ave., North, SC

Allendale Complex at Bluff Road, Allendale, SC

Blackville Complex at Hampton Ave., Blackville, SC

Branchville Villa complex at ranchville Lane, Branchville, SC

Denmark Gardens Complex at Mimosa Avenue, Denmark, SC

Fairfax Boundary Complex at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

Williston West Main Complex at West Main Street, Williston, SC **Barnwell Arms Complex** at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

Bamberg Villa Complex at Race Street, Bamberg, SC

Hampton Gardens Complex at W. Holly Street, Hampton, SC





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.

biggest cheerleaders. They believed in me and instilled in me that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to," said Holmes, who discovered her family. 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 them-

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 who would help me renew my small-town mentality and Boroughs. 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



Shirley Williams.

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

"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 family; "a group of people a piece of information to figure out your next goal," said

> 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.

> lievers, 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.

DIG also recognized all be-

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



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

jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

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 S.C. Highway Patrol.

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

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 William H. Bennett with the not far from the victims' parents' house, which is on Highway 78. The brothers were on their way to visit

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

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

Barnwell County Coroner family when the wreck a head-on collision that 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

"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

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off the initial capital project the Sheriff's Department, (\$100,000) of the University sales tax list were a backhoe E - 911 upgrades (\$200,000) for the county's (\$275,000), plumbing Public Works Department, replacement (\$180,000) a pumper tanker, cascade for the nursing home, a to approve council system and personal Highway 3 Convenience member James White protective equipment Center (\$250,000), a St. as a board member of (\$700,000) for the Fire Mark community center SouthernCarolina Alliance, Department, vehicles and (\$500,000) and a parking

of South Carolina Salkehatchie.

The council also voted a regional economic equipment (\$300,000) for lot at the Brandt Building development organization.

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- Athlete: Sanaa Thompson
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- 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.



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

The People-Sentinel Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Cam Austin commits to Gamecocks

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

arnwell 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 Cam Austin has been a lifelong this a long playoff ride as well.

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



ball at the University of South Carolina.



Gamecock fan (pictured here with Cocky and his brother Cayson).

an indescribable feeling to know you are going to be a studentathlete 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

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!

Blue Devil baseball ready for playoffs

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

lhe 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.

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

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!

Lady Warhorses win 9 straight heading into playoffs

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

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 cal 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. Barn-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

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

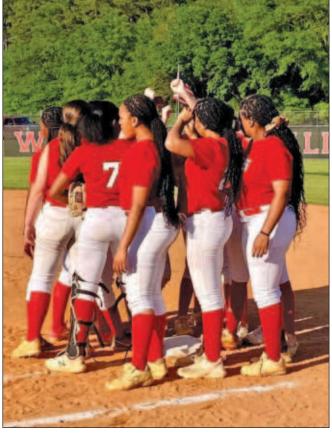
Barnwell head coach Mike Beasley was asked about ending the season on such a hot streak and starting the playoffs. He said, "I'm very proud of and Bre'Anna Buckmon offs. Come out and support our ladies for closing out leading the team in fielding the Lady Warhorses as they the regular season with percentage. Bluff (4-2) in eight innings awards were presented to May 1. Good luck ladies!

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 night, Barnwell hosted lo- 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 shoutouts 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 well played hosts to the 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 Deovre, 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 ress through the State Play-

nine consecutive wins. Before the Williston-Elko with the first pitch sched-The last two against Silver game, Barnwell's biggest uled for 6:30 Wednesday,



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

Bre'Anna Buckmon received the Tony DeCosta award

and Kamaiyah Williams received the Carol Massengale award, the two top softball awards, before the Williston-

two very deserving young "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 progface Lake Marion at home,



Barnwell School District 45 Office of Special Services

Barnwell School District 45 presently provides programs/services for children 3 to 21 who attend public or private school with the following categories of disabilities:

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- Specific Learning Disability
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- Deafness and hearing Impairment
 - Visual Impairment
 - Deaf-Blindness
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Other Health Impairment
 - Autism
 - Multiple Disabilities

Should you be aware of any such children who are in need of services, please contact: Kim A. Rhoad at 803-541-1300 on weekdays between 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

All names of referred persons will remain confidential.







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Mike Beasley named coach for North-South softball game

Jeff Miller Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

arnwell 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 on Wednesday, May 29th and Thursday, May 30th.

involved in the softball basketball. AA state playoffs with his Barnwell Warhorses. The go far in the State Champi-Lady Warhorses went undefeated in Region 6-AA



at Lexington High School Beasley will be making his 6th All-Star game coachappearance, Beasley is currently for softball and three for Contributed

onship Tournament.

This will not be Beasley's play to secure the Region first All-Star coaching ap-Championship and hope to pearance. During his 30 team's playoff run. After a

years of coaching, 23 coach- little persuading, he said, ing 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

"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

Congratulations Coach Beasley on being selected to coach in this prestigious All-Star game. It is a welldeserved 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.

Williston-Elko softball looks forward to playoffs

Sports Writer sports@tĥepeoplesentinel.com

he 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 hosted Calhoun County Williston-Elko softball this

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 8-5. The Lady Blue Devils have not been following



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.

season, he is the head foot- They are a team we are ball 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 Wooten 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.

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 Sports Writer sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

he Barnwell Warhorse baseball team had a good a baseball showdown with the Red Raiders, in a game Barnwell won 7-4.

The Warhorses finished Champions, but Barnwell head coach Cody McCol-

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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 Tuesregular season. The regular day, April 23 in Barnwell. season ended last Thurs- The Horses did not play day, April 25 when Barn- their best game, narrowly well traveled to Bamberg- defeating the Stallions 12-Ehrhardt High School for 11. Despite the win, Coach McCollum was not pleased with his team's overall per-

Region 6-AA as Region the season on a little better note, collecting a win over their longtime rivals from lum knows that the Horses Bamberg. Barnwell de-



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

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

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. bases, and Lane Evans also stole a base. The aggres-

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 Jaevin Santos stole two find a way to get it done against HCA but it was not pretty. I was much happier

with no extra-base hits for siveness paid off and with 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."

Photos By: Kelley Wood

Barnwell will open postseason 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!

Concert With Warren Peay Dylan Carter Gage Cagle Friday 5/10/24 6:30 -9:30 pm 2 DAYS OF FUN, FOOD AND FESTIVITIES Crafters FOOD VENDORS I.AMAZINGBINS DBA NUT TIME LALLIE'S BUTTONS & BOWS 2.BARNWELL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER 2. COASTAL KETTLE CORN & PORK 3.CCE CARDS & MORE
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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



Southwest Ranch Taco Salad

Total time: 25 minutes

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

1 cup Newman's Own Southwest Ranch Dressing

6 ounces tortilla chips

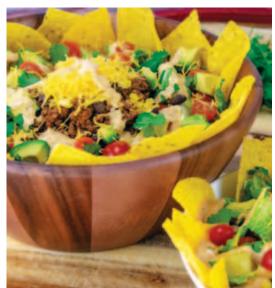
Coarsely chop lettuce, halve cherry tomatoes and pit, peel and slice avocados. Set aside.

In large frying pan over mediumhigh 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.



Advice for enjoying easy meals outdoors

right 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

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

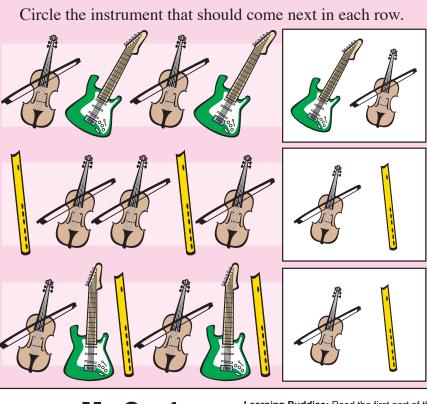
While a hearty salad alone is enough for a filling al fresco meal, you can take your backyard dining to the next level with the perfect partner for satisfying salads: crudites. Arranged neatly on a platter or board, a seasonal variety of sliced or whole raw vegetables such as snap peas, celery, carrots, 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.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

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

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,



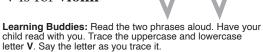
My name:

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 Letters

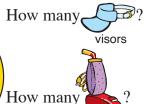
V is for Violin **v** is for **violin**



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 Numbers





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.





Sunday

Letter Identification With your child, look

through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter V in violin.

Monday

Math Play

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.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

activities with my I have completed Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature

Tuesday

Big V, Little v With your child, draw a

circle around every uppercase letter V on one page of the newspaper. Draw a square around each lowercase v vou find on the same page. Draw a line to connect each uppercase \boldsymbol{V} to a lowercase v.

Wednesday

What do you hear?

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.

Thursday

Name That Sound

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.

Friday

What comes next?

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?

Saturday

Find the Pairs

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.



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

any 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-study 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 longlasting results.

Myth: Tub and shower liners are made from substandard 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, shower 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

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



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

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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