

Details on Relay for Life of Allendale & Barnwell Counties

News, A5

HOPE





JDA playing in State Championship series,

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Murder suspect arrested 5 years after shooting

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

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Over five years after 22-year-old Steven Ansley was fatally shot in a Williston apartment, the gunman was arrested across state lines.

Active warrants have been out on the suspect, Christopher A. Fuller, 29, of Barnwell, S.C., since

March 25, 2019.

A day before the warrants were issued, the Williston Police Department (WPD) arrived at Lisa Street in response to shots fired. Upon arrival, officers found Ansley lying on the floor surrounded by four people tending to him medically.

Witnesses informed officers he was shot and EMS was called. Shortly after, Ansley was pronounced dead on the scene.

Ansley was shot three times in the abdomen and identified by his grandmother.

Officers found shell casings on the floor and couch, as well as ample amounts of marijuana in the apartment.

A witness told WPD she and Ansley met with Fuller and four other individuals earlier in the evening and believes Ansley was set up to be robbed.

On April 19, 2024 – five years

after Ansley’s murder – Fuller was arrested in Wilson, North Carolina and brought back to Barnwell County. Fuller was charged with murder and is currently detained at the Barnwell County Detention Center.

A warrant was also issued for Marcus Deandre Johnson, who was later arrested on March 28, 2019 for his connection to the crime. Johnson was charged with murder and was granted

a \$75,000 surety bond which was posted in May 2019. An indictment for this charge was filed in May 2021.

WPD arrested a juvenile in connection to the incident while obtaining warrants for Fuller and Johnson. Bond was denied and the juvenile was released to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Fuller is set to appear in Barnwell County Court in May 2024.



Seth Dorn, Shanese Samuels, Nevaeh Tisdale, and Kamryn Cave from the Bands of Barnwell County practice in April before the CWEA Percussion & Winds Championship.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Bands of Barnwell County unite for indoor winter marching season

Alexandra Whitbeck

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Seventeen musically inclined students from across Barnwell County traveled to Dorman High School in Roebuck, S.C. on April 13 for the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association’s (CWEA) Percussion & Winds Championship.

This is the first year students have participated in the indoor marching band season events. This is also the first year students from Barnwell and Williston-Elko have joined together to play.

“Our goal this year was to be happy, be together, have a fun time, and they’ve done that,” said band director Dawn Vickery.

Vickery formerly directed Barnwell bands, and recently made the move to growing the program at Williston-Elko alongside director Jessica Pym, and re-establishing a band in Blackville-Hilda schools. Joining Vickery and Pym on the directing side is Jasmine Brown, a first-year band director at Barnwell High School who was once a student in the Scarlet Knights Marching Band under Vickery’s direction.

“We’ve just really enjoyed being together,” said Pym of working with Vickery, Brown and students from across Barnwell County.

To participate in the winter winds competition, Vickery and Pym came up with a routine filled with familiar favorites to create the show ‘Royal Tea.’ Students performed songs by Queen’s



Nakoma Madyun holds a prop while playing her instrument during an April practice.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Freddie Mercury and Royals by Lorde.

“It’s a really fun show,” said Vickery. “It’s kind of a play on tea party and royalty.”

Three seniors are especially excited for the competition, as it is one of the last times they will be representing their school on a

large stage.

Kamryn Cave is a senior at Barnwell High School (BHS) and has been part of the band program since sixth grade. In eighth grade, she joined the marching band where she plays baritone and

See BAND, 10A

Allendale officer healing at home after shooting

Jonathan Vickery

Publisher

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An Allendale police officer is recovering after being shot five times.

James Hall was shot five times in his right arm on Saturday, April 27 as he was responding to a shooting incident while on patrol. He was transported to the Allendale County Hospital and later airlifted to an Augusta, Ga. hospital, but is now recovering at home in Blackville.

“He’s very lucky to be sitting there,” said his wife Michelle during a May 14 interview with *The People-Sentinel*.

Sgt. Hall said his father, the late James Lee Hall Sr., “was my guardian angel that day.” His father was a Williston police officer for 15 years but passed away in 2022.

After being shot five times – and more bullets striking his patrol car – Sgt. Hall said adrenaline and the



Sergeant James Hall is recovering at home after being shot while on duty for the Allendale Police Department on April 27.

will to live and return to his family kicked in. He was alert the entire time, even as he was transported to two hospitals.

See OFFICER, 10A

County denies request to help cash-strapped Generations Unlimited

Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

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Barnwell County Council met on April 9 – here is what was discussed.

Funding denied to GU

The county’s finance committee recommended the county council not approve additional funding to Generations Unlimited (GU) after years of financial uncertainty.

GU is the county’s office on aging. In previous years, the county has taken and released hold on the agency’s operations including finances, public transportation, Meals on Wheels, and other senior specific and public services. A new board of directors was appointed in July 2023 to turn things around.

During this transitional period, public transit services for non-Medicaid recipients were halted and many were left without transportation to medical appointments or work as previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*. In the wake of this transit

loss, other rideshare opportunities began appearing in the county.

On April 1, GU’s financial consultant Neil Crider with McGregor & Company LLC informed GU’s director Ethel Faust that the agency needs \$250,000 in funding for the 2024-25 fiscal year to stay afloat.


“We have appropriated, over the last several years, over \$600,000 to GU,” said Councilman Daniel Alexander at the county’s April 9 meeting. “At this time, the finance committee does not recommend any money coming out of the budget this year for that.”

According to Crider, “there is also an immediate need of \$150,000 to finish fiscal year 2024 and to catch up on bills,” he said.

In this correspondence, Crider sent Faust a year-to-date, profit and loss rundown by month “showing the loss which includes the \$100,000 from the county.”

The newly appointed board expected increased revenue streams after the pandemic.

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Joseph Michael Bootle - Ulmer

Eugene “Buddy” Darnell - Barnwell

Catherine Tilley - Barnwell

Patricia Ann Tucker - Barnwell

Jessica Bozard Williams - Barnwell

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

'Sid' is playful & sweet

Sid is this week's Adoptable Pet of the Week from The Animal Advocates.

"Sid is around 6 years old and he is a sweetheart! He is friendly with most other dogs and he does like attention and love. He is playful and has a sweet temperament. He is up to date on vaccines, been neutered, micro chipped, and heartworm negative. He walks good on a leash and is also house trained," said Vikki Scott with the Animal Advocates.

The Friends for Life Center is open Tues.- Sat. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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



Got fleas? Barnwell veterinary hospital enrolling pets into a flea control study

Spring is around the corner, bringing flowering trees, buzzing bees, and emerging fleas! As the weather gets warmer, fleas can become a problem for pets and their parents. Fortunately for dogs with a flea problem in Barnwell and the surrounding area, there is help available!

Dogwood Animal Hospital has been selected to participate in a national clinical study to evaluate a new flea control medication. Participating households will receive FREE flea medications, as well as FREE study related exams, for up to three dogs in their household for the 3-month study

duration. If these households have cats, up to three cats will also receive FREE flea medication during the study.

"We start to see more dogs with fleas as the weather gets warmer. One of the first signs of a flea infestation is an itchy dog. By the time the fleas have multiplied enough for your dog to start to itch, there is usually a significant amount of developing immature fleas hiding in the home. This study is a great opportunity for pet owners that find fleas on their pet because it provides free treatment not only for the fleas visible on the pet, but also

will help control the flea infestation in the environment," Dr. Shannan Miller of Dogwood Animal Hospital explains.

Do you want to participate in the study but are not sure if your dog has fleas? Look on your dog's skin, like their belly or along their rump. Move your hand against the direction of your dog's coat to part the fur and you may see fleas or dark specks, called 'flea dirt,' which is a sign of fleas. Also, any signs of itchiness in your dog should be a sign to check for fleas!

If you think your dog has fleas, please do not treat your dog or your home with any type of flea con-

trol product. Call Dogwood Animal Hospital at (803) 259-5606 as soon as possible! You may be eligible to enroll your pets in the study to receive FREE flea control and other important medications that protect your dog from other common parasites. Dogs must have visible live fleas at the time of initial assessment. The dog or home cannot be treated with flea control products prior to study enrollment.

Contact Dr. Shannan Miller for more information. For full eligibility and clinical study details, pet owners can also visit <https://www.clinicalstudiesforpets.com/study/canine-flea>.

COUNTY: Increased risk management efforts rewarded on state level

However, incoming money is nowhere near the same amount it was pre-March 2020 and programs are slow to reinvigorate.

"The agency is already operating with minimal admin staff," said Crider. "Based on the trends I see, this is unfortunately the figures that are needed to continue operating.

Purchase of Voter Registration Building

The Barnwell County Economic Development Commission (EDC) met on April 8 and approved the sale of the current Barnwell County Voter Registration building to the county for \$200,000.

The EDC is a member of the SouthernCarolina Alliance, and is the current owner of the Fuldner Road building.

The sale is contingent on funding secured by the state to make this purchase.

Steel Creek Landing Easement

Councilman Freddie Houston made a motion to approach Allendale County for an easement for the land containing Steel Creek boat landing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander and was unanimously approved. The county will move forward in conversations with Allendale County.

Awarded for safety

Barnwell County received the S.C. Association of Counties' (SCAC) Outstanding Safety Achievement Award presented by Robert Benfield, SCAC Director of Insurance Services, for the county's achievements in



Barnwell County received the S.C. Association of Counties' (SCAC) Outstanding Safety Achievement Award presented by Robert Benfield (left), SCAC Director of Insurance Services for the county's achievements in risk management. Receiving the award is Barnwell County Emergency Management Director Roger Riley (center) and Deputy Administrator Meredith Wright.

risk management.

"It's my pleasure tonight to come here and talk about all the great stuff going on in Barnwell County behind the scenes," said Benfield.

According to Benfield, risk management includes actions that are taken to save lives, money, and time. With solid risk management strategies throughout all areas in the county, the county can receive benefits from insurance providers.

"The last five years, Barnwell County has had less employees get hurt and cost less money than anticipated. Every year that happens, the county gets a discount of its worker's comp coverage," said Benfield. "You had an

experience model of .78 this year versus a 1, which means you had a 22 percent savings."

According to Benfield, this translated to a savings of over \$54,000 in 2023 alone.

This is not the first time the county has been awarded for their risk management efforts.

Part of risk management has been Barnwell County Emergency Management Director Roger Riley obtaining 30 -V-Watch voltage detectors.

"This piece of equipment will let you know if a live powerline is down," said Riley.

These mobile detectors can be worn similarly to a

necklace or easily carried by first responders on scene. Knowing where electricity is coming from in the event of an emergency can be vital to proceeding safety measures.

Riley considers this device as an asset to first responders and has supplied the first 30 to local fire departments with plans to bring the technology to police departments as well.

The first batch was purchased through grant funding and cost roughly \$400 to \$500 a piece.

"If this saves one life, it's worth every penny," said Riley.

Animal Shelter Grant
The council unanimously

approved a second, one-year, \$30,000 grant from the Best Friends Animal Society to the Barnwell County Animal Shelter. The intended purpose for the funding is to increase the overall save rate, which is the number of animals coming through the shelter who are rescued, adopted, or reunited with their owner.

The allocation of this funding will allow the shelter employees to implement and achieve life saving programs to decrease county intakes and increase positive outcomes.

In practice, this looks like the already implemented trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) program which addresses feral cat colonies, dog vouchers, pet retention and educational materials for the public, and microchip scanners for animal control officers.

The grant requires one-time submission of monthly data from the shelter to Best Friends Animal Society.

Barnwell County Administrator Tim Bennett described this funding opportunity as a "great grant."

"It will hopefully reduce our euthanasia rate and will reassess the grant and the progress quarterly," said Bennett.

Audit contract

The county has received two bids in response to their request for a routine audit; one from Scott & Company of Columbia, S.C., and one from Mauldin & Jenkins of Columbia, S.C.

After insight from Crider, the finance committee

recommended the contract be awarded to Scott & Company.

CPST project prioritization

Councilman Alexander stated the first step for the county and other municipalities in the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) process is to supply the CPST Commission with a list of priorities.

Many of these projects were previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*, however, the council voted on the official priority list to be presented to the commission. The final priority order is:

1. Amphitheater on Lake Edgar Brown: \$2.6 million
2. Animal shelter purchase and improvements: \$1.8 million
3. Landfill Phase I (purchase of equipment, vehicles): \$900,000
4. Courthouse (installing holding cells, elevator repairs, ADA compliant restrooms, enhanced security): \$1,095,000
5. Improvements of Agriculture Building: \$100,000

These projects total \$6.495 million, which is the estimated bonded amount the county will receive if the CPST referendum passes in November.

According to Councilman Alexander, the final \$1 million acquired by the county after receiving the bonded amount is set to be allocated toward the second phase of landfill improvements including a more efficient redesign.

The council approved the priority list unanimously.



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Regional Ranger of the Year shares on bold career shift and brave pursuit of her passion for great outdoors

Ciera Sanders
Contributing Writer
www.thepeoplesentinel.com

Discovering your life purpose can feel like a daunting journey. The balance between checking off priorities, such as paying the bills, and pursuing your passions that make you eager for each new day is not always easy. There's a beautiful intersection though when one's priorities and passions might eventually cross paths, and there you can find purpose.

Barnwell State Park ranger Ashley Audette was recently recognized by the South Carolina State Park Service as Ranger of the Year for the Sandhills Region. She shares how working as a ranger has helped her more clearly discover her purpose, where her priorities and passions meet.

Audette is from a small town named Lyndon, Vermont. As a child, she wanted to be a marine biologist and reminisced about hikes with her mother. Although her passions were always for wildlife, outdoors, and animals, Audette went to college to be a restaurant manager and received her bachelor's degree in culinary arts and food service management in 2015. But something was missing; she knew there was more for her in life.

"After managing many different types of restaurants for a few years, I realized that was no longer my passion," shared Audette.

She began taking online classes in environmental



Photo By: Darrell Queen

Ashley Audette is a Ranger 2 at the Barnwell State Park.

science and received her second bachelor's in 2021. Upon receiving this degree, Audette went on a month-long solo cross country road trip in April 2021 to check out state parks, national parks, and zoos across the country, trying to decide what she wanted to do and where she wanted to live. She landed an assistant ranger position at Table Rock State Park in Pickens, S.C. Just over a year later, Audette pursued other job openings at different parks in South Carolina and was promoted to Ranger II at Barnwell State Park.

Barnwell State Park Manager Eddie Richburg stated that when Audette applied for the ranger position, "she made a

great impression, so much so that we hired her as a Ranger II, skipping her next step as a Ranger I." Richburg emphasized that Audette is a great advocate for not only external customer service, but internal as well. "She manages several operations on the park, has joined several park service teams, and still manages to provide top-notch customer service."

There's no doubt that Audette has discovered her purpose, but there have been challenges along the way. One of the challenges has been physically adapting as a female to the tasks that come with the ranger role.

"Sometimes I will look

at a task and think 'I can't do that,' or 'I don't know how to do that.' My biggest piece of advice I can give to anyone is trust yourself," said Audette, who has learned to trust her instinct and take creative approaches to difficult tasks.

Women, such as Audette, continue to prove that they too can fulfill what used to be considered solely a male's job.

"There are many amazing female rangers making their ways through the ranks and I think [women] are getting close to outnumbering the men. The Regional Chief of the Sandhills region, Joy Raintree, is one of the strongest women I know, and she has been an incredible role model to me," said Audette, who encourages women to not let their gender prevent them from pursuing their passions. "[Women] are strong, smart, and have just as much ability to be a park ranger, or anything else [they] want to be, as a man has."

Audette plans to keep digging her roots in South Carolina and expanding her knowledge as a ranger. "I am currently taking Master Naturalist classes to help expand my knowledge. At the end of the 12-week course, I will be a certified Master Naturalist!"

She encourages visitors to check out the Barnwell State Park website for upcoming events and opportunities, such as the Memorial Saturday Fun Day, and other monthly programs.

To check out the park, you can go to www.SouthCarolinaParks.com/Barnwell.

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ROTARY CLUB

Two join Rotary Club of Barnwell County



Shellie Bumgarner (second from left) of Blackville and Reid Boylston (third from left) of Barnwell were inducted as new members of the Rotary Club of Barnwell County on April 11, 2024. Though Boylston has attended for many years under Rotary's "friend" status through a corporate membership, he technically wasn't a member before. Bumgarner and Boylston are pictured with Rotarians Lynn McEwen and Dr. Crissie Stapleton. "The ideal of Rotary is service. Our principle motto is 'Service Above Self' and the object of this club and all Rotary clubs is to encourage and foster this ideal as a basis of worthy enterprise. You are to share in this effort," said Rotary President Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

MILITARY

Trevor Stanley joins Marines

Trevor Stanley, 21, graduated from Marine boot camp at Parris Island on April 5, 2024.

The lifelong Barnwell resident is the son of Leigh Stanley and brother to Mya Stanley. He graduated from Barnwell High School in 2020.

"We are so proud of him. He's so kind and compassionate and it has truly been an honor to raise him and to see him transition from boyhood and into manhood," said Leigh Stanley of her son.

Though joining the military means Trevor will be away from his close-knit family and miss important milestones like his sister's college graduation in a few weeks, Leigh Stanley said they "are completely supportive of the path he has chosen. I pray for him all the time and I know God has a plan for Trevor's life and I'm happy to be able to watch it unfold. I hit the parent lottery with Mya and Trevor. I thank God for allowing me to be their mom."

Trevor has enlisted for four years. He will then decide whether to make a career with the Marines or complete his service and go to college.



Trevor Stanley of Barnwell recently graduated from boot camp.

BIRTH



Henry Copeland Toole was born on April 4, 2024.

Henry Copeland Toole

Jared and Olivia Toole of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of their son, Henry Copeland Toole.

He was born on April 4, 2024 at 2:08 p.m. at Piedmont Hospital in Augusta, Ga. He measured 19.5 inches long and weighed 7.3 pounds.

Paternal grandparents are Dale & Rhonda Toole of Barnwell.

Maternal grandparents are Don Horst of Wrens, Ga. and Linnea Horst of Washington, Ga.

Great-grandparents are James & Sherrie Dyson, the late John & Cheryl Manthei, and the late Leon Tony Keenan.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Sprawls recognized by Ivy Garden Club



Congratulations to Dick and Cecilia Sprawls on winning the Ivy Garden Club's "Yard of the Month" award for April 2024. Located at 4330 Rosemary Street, Williston.



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Relay for Life of Allendale & Barnwell seeks to raise \$35,000 this Friday, May 17

The Allendale-Barnwell Relay for Life is gearing up for its annual Relay event this Friday, May 17, 2024. There are over twenty teams participating. The event will begin with

the survivors' walk at 6 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. This year's goal is \$35,000. The teams are close to \$20,000 now. The final tally last year was \$50,439. Everyone is invited to

attend as they make laps together "fighting every cancer for every life." Teams will continue fundraising after Relay. Contact Artheen Fitts at 803-584-3368 with questions.



Local cancer survivors are pictured at a previous Relay for Life during the Survivors Lap.

Blackville man received maximum sentence for criminal sexual conduct with a minor

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

The deputy solicitor asked the judge to sentence Sidney Davis, 39, of Blackville, to 15 years in prison – the maximum penalty for criminal sexual conduct with a minor, third degree.

Davis pleaded guilty to this charge on March 11, 2024 in the Barnwell County Courthouse before presiding Judge Kristi Curtis.

Davis was initially charged with criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the second degree, but with a guilty plea came a negotiated lesser charge, and two other charges (criminal sexual conduct with a minor, second degree, and disseminating obscene material) relating to a separate victim being dismissed.

"I do think you're getting a pretty good deal here

sir, with it being lowered from second degree to third degree, and I think you're also getting the benefit of these other charges being dismissed, which is why I am giving you 15 years," said Judge Curtis.

Davis was first arrested in relation to this charge on August 16, 2019 and later granted bond which was posted on January 17, 2020.

A week before Davis' arrest, the minor victim and her mother went to the Blackville Police Department (BPD) and reported that the victim's biological father (Davis) "had been making her perform sexual acts since she was 10 years old," said deputy solicitor Leigh Staggs.

The victim was 14 at the time of disclosing this information to police.

Staggs explained the victim would go visit her father at his Myrtle Beach residence when she was 10 years old and he would make

her watch pornography. According to the deputy solicitor, Davis would request his daughter mirror the behavior of the women on the television with him such as performing oral sex.

During this period, Davis disclosed to the victim's cousin that he would engage in sexual acts with his daughter, according to the presented facts of the case.

Davis later moved to Blackville and the assault continued.

The most recent incident occurred at Hampton Apartments in Blackville, where the victim told law enforcement "he showed her pornographic videos and made her engage in sex acts with him," said Staggs.

Staggs then explained what prevailed as "one of the most powerful facts in this case for me, other than the sheer abuse of power and trust in a familial relationship."

Staggs explained the

victim chose to have sex with a boy her own age and it was not well received by her mother due to her age. However, Staggs said "what the victim told her mom was that she lost her virginity because she did not want her dad to take it."

"I found that to be one of the most profound things that I have heard in a criminal setting," said Staggs.

The victim, who was present in the courtroom, gave Staggs a letter to read for the record.

"You made me believe that I could trust you as my father, I would have thought that you would've protected me from sick individuals in the world, but you're a sick individual yourself," read Staggs. "It takes a really sick person to do what you did to me, and I can never forgive you because I didn't deserve any of it."

The letter expressed how difficult some days have

been for the victim and how she wanted to give up, but remained strong for herself regardless.

"I hate you. I hate that you did this to me. I'm strong now, nothing can break me. I feel like I've already been hurt the worst way possible, yet I do not let this situation define me," Staggs read. "I would like to publicly thank God for getting me through these tough days in my life and I pray that I can finally heal."

In the final lines of the letter, Staggs read, "people like you don't change, their victims do."

Judge Curtis commended the victim for her courage, bravery, and perseverance throughout the entire court process she describes as an "emotional rollercoaster for the family."

"I commend you so much for the courage to come forward and for making it this far with all the different court appearances," said Judge Curtis. "You did it,

you made it through this."

"I know that it is not over with after today for you though, but I hope that at least this is one more thing, one more obstacle, that you have made it through," said the judge.

A conviction of criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the third degree is classified as a sexually violent and most serious offense, and counts as two strikes per the state's three-strike law.

Davis will serve 15 years at the S.C. Department of Corrections. Upon release, he will be required to register for the state sex offender registry, cannot have contact with the victim, and requires active electronic monitoring for a designated time period.

Davis will receive credit for the 154 days he has already served either incarcerated, on house arrest, or wearing an ankle monitor prior to this conviction.

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.

Roger Brown, 39, of 147 Lido Drive, Springfield, S.C. was arrested on May 12, 2024 by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Failure to Appear. Brown was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention

Center (BCDC).

Jamie Andre Creech, 39, of 96 Calico Lane, Williston, S.C. was arrested on May 7, 2024 by BCSO for Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited. Creech was booked and released to BCDC.

Stephen Augustus Dellario, 38, of 5703 Friend-

ship Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on May 7, 2024 by BCSO for Illegal Distribution of Prescription Drugs. Dellario was also charged May 7, 2024 by the Williston Police Department (WPD) for Injury to Real Property. Dellario was booked and released to BCDC in both cases.

Willie Laquadia Donta Guinyard, 40, of 117 Percheron Drive, Orangeburg, S.C. was arrested on May 7, 2024 by WPD for Driving Under Suspension Habitual Offender and Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited. Guinyard was booked and released to BCDC.

Todd Avery Hammett, 45, of 3466 Highway 37, Williston, S.C. was arrested on May 10, 2024 by BCSO for (2) counts of Distribution of Meth and Illegal Distribution of a Prescription Narcotic. Hammett was booked and released to BCDC.

Joe Barrett Owens Jr., 53, of 184 Summer Drive, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on May 9, 2024 by BCSO for Assault & Battery. Owens was booked and released to BCDC.

John Carlton Rhodes, 56, of 60 Camden Court, Williston, S.C. was arrested on May 11, 2024 by WPD for Trespass of Real Property and Shoplifting. Rhodes was also arrested for Shoplifting on May 11, 2024 in relation to a separate incident by WPD. Rhodes was booked and released to BCDC.

Joseph Lee Samarco II, 23, of 229 Dyson Drive, Williston, S.C. was arrested on May 6, 2024 by WPD for Driving Under Suspension. Samarco was booked and released to BCDC.

Quanterris Jaquan White, 19, of 152 Rapp Lane, Springfield, S.C. was arrested on May 7, 2024 by WPD for Armed Robbery and Weapons Law Violations. White was also arrested on May 10, 2024 by BCSO for Assault & Battery. White was booked and released to BCDC in both cases.

Myron Renard Williams, 40, of 12002 Highway 64 Lot #52, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on May 7, 2024 by BCSO for Malicious Injury to Personal Property. Williams was booked and released to BCDC.

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Notice

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 Branchville 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

Affordable and effective units Available. Rent is based on income. Applicants will be screened prior to Leasing. Contact the Barnwell, SC Office to submit an application on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at 1-800-922-5504 Or 803-259-3588

AG-0003364030-01

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.

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Allendale-Fairfax High School Class of 1973 mourns beloved band director Randy Martin on first anniversary of passing

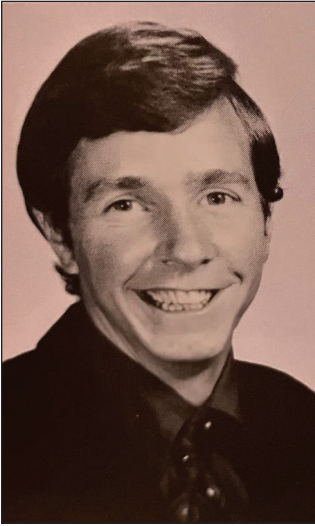
Contributed by
Allendale-Fairfax High
School Class of 1973

The Allendale-Fairfax High School graduating Class of 1973 remembers and honors their former band director, Randy Martin, one year after his passing. Mr. Martin's dedication to music education and his lasting impact on countless students were a cornerstone of the school's arts program for many years.

While news outlets across this small rural community recognized Mr. Martin's impressive career, his time leading the Allendale-Fairfax High School was a notable omission and prompted a heartfelt response from the band's alumni community. The Class of 1973 gathered the first weekend of May 2024 to mark its 50th Golden Tiger Reunion and in their search to include surviving teachers who were instrumental in their youth development and lifelong pursuits were shocked to learn of Mr. Martin's transition. In a related matter, yet equally disturbing moment, the group also learned the Allendale-Fairfax High School Band program is



These yearbook photos show Randy Martin in his early teaching years along with some of his Allendale-Fairfax High School band students.



Photos Contributed

no longer offered by the district. The Class of 1973 among other A-F band alumni would like to in some way properly honor Mr. Martin's legacy and ensure his contributions are not forgotten as well as share the importance of the arts and particularly band and concert music programs in schools.

"Mr. Martin wasn't just a talented music teacher," says Class of 1973 Band Captain alumna and first tenor saxophonist, Marilyn Seabrooks. "He was inspirational and instilled a love of music in his students that many carry with us to this day. He fostered a sense of community within the band's

infrastructure that spoke to his remarkable ability to nurture that something in every student that made them special, and his passion for grooming young minds and homegrown talent was truly contagious as we participated and brought home many regional, state, and local recognitions from such events as the Edisto Conference, Dogwood Arts Festival, All-State competitions, local parades, and concerts."

Dozens of former students across the region and throughout this country are reaching out to share their memories of Mr. Martin. Many credit him with sparking their lifelong love

of music and being a part of something larger than themselves as impressionable young people at a pivotal moment in their development.

"Mr. Martin saw the potential in every student who walked through his band room door," says '73 alumna, first lieutenant and second tenor saxophonist Mae Helen Stoney-Hartley, as she shared notes Mr. Martin and his then wife Abby wrote in her class yearbook. "He pushed us to challenge ourselves and never gave up on us," echoed '73 First alto saxophonist Linda Boynton Moss, who marveled at Mr. Martin's ability to ensure that students

read and memorized complicated music selections while marching and performing in syncopation. "He made band a place where everyone felt welcomed and valued, as participant and friend, creating a sense of camaraderie and teamwork within the band that extended far beyond the marching field," offered first trombonist Paul Wilson in an emotional tribute. "My initial motorcycle ride was in 1973 with Mr. Martin. Along with being scared to death, I enjoyed holding onto a man of character and charisma. Truly a giant of a man has been removed but never forgotten".

Additionally, Class of '72 Alumni band captain and first flutist James Myers, Ph.D. recalled a personal entry he made in his English V journal, September 9, 1971, capturing his impression of Mr. Martin and the impact he made early on as A-F Tiger Band Director. Here is an excerpt from the entry entitled A Giant Leap Forward. "Now with a new leader, the band has worked hard and made a sensational debut. Martin is a man who provides the band with plenty of optimism. He feels that once he teaches and makes

sure every member knows what to do, it is the individual's responsibility to do it. And made a giant leap forward for A-F High." Dr. Myers further shared that "Randy Martin taught us and encouraged us to go to college."

As tributes marking his enduring legacy continue, "we are incredibly grateful for the time Mr. Martin spent at Allendale-Fairfax as his influence is undeniable among alumnus everywhere, who cherish not only his memory but the man himself who continues to motivate and inspire a generation well beyond their prime," proclaim '73 alumni trumpet player Odean Smart Mosley.

Shout out to "BABRB CBDA" if you guys are reading this article, please consider reaching out (afclass73@mail.com) in memory of Mr. Martin and consider leading alumni band members from both Barnwell and Allendale counties in a concert to celebrate the life of this inspirational educator as well as showcase his enduring legacy. Not sure what such an effort would take but many of us still remember how to march and hold an instrument at the same time as well as toe tap in concert.

Yamassee Indian Tribe celebrates Green Corn Cultural Festival

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

Between May 3-5, people from around the Lowcountry came to The Yamassee Indian Tribe's Green Corn Cultural Festival, which celebrated the culture and traditions of Yamassee and Gullah Geechee history.

The event featured dance, storytelling, history lessons and taught attendees about the connections between the Gullah Geechee people and Native Americans.

"The Green corn is a special celebration and ceremony practiced by my people for centuries," said Chief Se'khu Hadjo. "It represents a new year

and new beginning. But it's also a time for unity and friendship. This entire area including Hampton was part of our original Settlement and shares our heritage and culture. Our plan is to work with the different counties and townships to bring back unity among the people and our tribe."

All Photos Contributed



Town of Fairfax repairs City Hall roof after years of leakage

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Town of Fairfax has repaired the city hall roof after a previous construction job had left the building leaking.

"Every contractor that looked at [the old repairs] said it was not a good job," said Fairfax mayor Butch Sauls.

The building's old roofing job was done in 2022, and since has been repeatedly criticized by citizens and local leaders alike. The job also made the building unable to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.

The issue was worsened in August 2023 when Hurricane Idalia tore apart the roof. Since then, leaking has been occurring regularly.



The roof of the Fairfax City Hall before (left) and after (right) the recent roofing job repaired the building's leaky roof.

Photos By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

The recent repairs involved ripping off the previous construction job, which protruded from the building, rebuilding the roof underneath and sealing it with rubber. These repairs, Sauls said, were funded in part by an insurance payout from the damage that Hurricane Idalia caused to the building.

However, the building's upkeep is not yet completed, Sauls said. The building recently tested positive for mold and further construction will need to be done. As

the town navigates its own financial crisis, Sauls said, finding more money for repairs will be a challenge.

As previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*, city hall is also currently in the process of reorganizing documents after years of mismanagement and will be adding a digital payment option for utility bills.

"I was elected to serve them and this is [the citizens'] building, not my building," Sauls said. "We want them to have a place that they can come and be safe."

TOWN OF ALLENDALE PUBLIC NOTICE Hearing on Municipal Budget FY 2024-2025 and New Water & Sewer Rates

Pursuant to Section 6-1-80 of the SC Code of Laws, Public notice is hereby given that the Council for the Town of Allendale will hold a public hearing on the Municipal Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and on New Water and Sewer Rates on June 3, 2024 at 18:00 p.m. at: Allendale Town Hall – 1296 Main Street South

Current Fiscal Year Revenue	Projected Revenue 2024-2025	Percentage Change in Revenue	Current Fiscal Year Millage
\$4,073,223	\$4,215,453	3%	0.189 Mills

Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	Projected Expenditures 2024-2025	Percentage Change in Expenditures	Estimated Millage for 2024-2025
\$4,073,223	\$4,215,453	3%	0.189 Mills



Jessica Bozard Williams

other. She saw the good in everyone, and you knew she was around as soon as you heard “Bless It!”

She is survived by her mother, Becky Collins Bozard; husband, John R. Williams II; children, Josie Lynn (Doug) Beasley and Joseph Earl “Jaye” (Jennifer) Beasley Jr.; grandchildren, Annabelle Marie Grubbs and Lakelyn Claire Hoefs; siblings, James Allen “Jamey” (Elizabeth) Bozard Jr., Morgan Bozard (Joe) Still, Jesse Mitchell (Kellsey) Fenn, and Michelle Thigpen (Michael) Schumpert; nieces and nephews, Alexis Bozard (Dylan) Griffith, James Allen “Jimmy” (Gracie) Bozard III, Natalie Joleen Still, Joe Dale Still Jr., Sadie Azilee Still, Chance Grayson Bozard, Corbin Douglas Schumpert, Bristol

James Bozard, and Ansley May Fenn; great nephew, Asher William Griffith; and precious babies of “Ma Jess”, Olivia Kennedy and Grant Robinson.

A visitation was held on Saturday, May 11th, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Lower Three Runs Baptist Church. Funeral services followed in the church at 11 a.m., with Rev. Mark Epperson officiating. Graveside was held in the Lower Three Runs Cemetery. Honored to serve as pallbearers were Jamey Bozard, Jaye Beasley, Douglas Hoefs, Jimmy Bozard, Jesse Fenn, Chip Nolind, and Joe Still.

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

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024

BARNWELL - Jessica Bozard Williams, 45, passed away on May 6th, 2024. She was born in Orangeburg, S.C., on May 4, 1978 to Becky Collins Bozard and the late James Allen Bozard Sr.

Not only was Jessica a loving wife, mother, sister, daughter, aunt, and friend; she was “Ma Jess” to her two precious babies that she loved oh so much, Olivia and Grant. Jessica could light up a room with her smile and her silly laugh. She had the biggest heart and she loved like no



Catherine C. Tilley

Sunday, May 5, 2024, at her residence in Barnwell, S.C.

The Home Going Celebration for Miss Catherine Tilley was conducted on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 12 p.m. at Brown Chapel Baptist Church (3700 SC-70, Barnwell, S.C. 29812), with Reverend Mickey Joyner officiating.

Burial was in the church cemetery. Visitation was on Friday, May 10, 2024,

from 1-7 p.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service.

Family and friends may call the residence of her brother, Jacob “Jake” Tilley, at 36 Ashley Lane, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, or Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. (13188 Main Street, Williston, S.C. 29853, 803-266-7808.

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024

BARNWELL - Miss Catherine Rubeanna Tilley entered into eternal rest on



Patricia Ann Tucker

memory to The Animal Advocates, P.O. Box 1924, Barnwell, S.C. 29812.

Patricia passed away on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

Born in Sumter, S.C., she was a daughter of the late Claytor and Nancy Tucker. Patricia retired from Savannah River Site having worked 32 years in Document Control and was of the Baptist faith. Patricia enjoyed spending time gardening and traveling. She also enjoyed fishing, especially at Edisto Beach. She enjoyed cooking and gathering together with her family. Her nieces and nephews brought her great joy; she treasured every moment that she got to spend with them. Patricia was an avid animal lover and especially loved her

dog “Teagan.”

Survivors include her daughter, Priscilla (Grant) Summerford of Aiken, S.C.; sisters, Barbara (Michael) Harber of Windsor, S.C. and Susan (David) Gardner of Barnwell, S.C.; brothers, Tim (Cathy) Tucker of Barnwell, S.C. and Gary Tucker of Aiken, S.C.; nieces and nephews, Tiffany Tucker, Sarah (Chris) Daley, Clay (Alexandra) Tucker, Benjamin (Anna) Gardner and Morgan Tucker; and a great niece, Kate Daley.

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

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024

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ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT

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JUNE 8th | 8:00 AM

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Eugene E. “Buddy” Darnell

Darnell. He attended Bamberg County public schools, graduating from Denmark High School in 1954 and was a 1983 graduate of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. He was a faithful member of Friendship Baptist Church where he served as music director for over 50 years. He began his work career at Ameritron which later became Miliken, he was a weights and measures technician for the State of South Carolina, and was office manager for Vickery Oil Company. He was a founding member of the Barnwell Rescue Squad and served as captain for several years. He was appointed Municipal Court Judge for the City of Barnwell and retired as the Police Chief for the City of Barnwell after working for 22 years. He also served in the S.C. Army National Guard. After his retirement, he enjoyed working in his yard, especially mowing his grass, and tinkering in his shop.

BARNWELL - Funeral services for Eugene E. “Buddy” Darnell, 87, of Barnwell, were held at 2 o’clock p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Friendship Baptist Church with the Reverends Jim Parnell and John Nixon officiating; burial followed at the Barnwell Memory Gardens on Reynolds Road with the Reverend Jeffrey Ray officiating. The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday at Folk Funeral Home, Williston.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Friendship Baptist Church, 5801 Friendship Rd., Barnwell, S.C. 29812 or to a charity of one’s choice.

Buddy passed away at home on Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Born in Bamberg County, South Carolina, he was a son of the late Joseph Nathaniel and Annie Eliza

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jeaneece Darnell; daughters, Cindy Darnell of Barnwell, S.C., Jodi (Doug) Croft of Barnwell, S.C., and Jana (Doug) Schroeder of Aiken, S.C.;

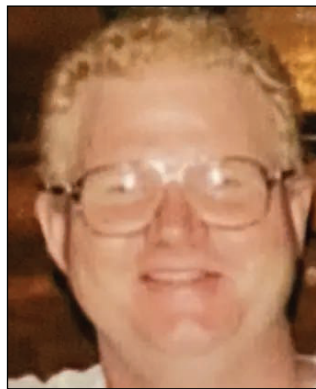
grandchildren, Lauren Sims, Megan (Richie) Peterson, Chad (April) Croft, Jeremy (Ellie) Fail, and Bailey Darnell; great-grandchildren, Madison Sims, Lizzie Elkins, Ava Lawton and Morgan Croft, and Russell Peterson; along with many cousins, nieces and nephews who he loved dearly.

He was predeceased by his parents; his identical twin brother, John Edward “Ed” Darnell; brother, Hardy “Buck” Darnell; and sisters, Hazel Sharpe, Helen Ayer, Annie Lou Walters, Modelle Gibson and Betty Jo Camp.

Honored to serve as pallbearers were Chad Croft, Jeremy Fail, Greg Creech, Ken Creech, Tommy Darnell and Stephen Darnell. Honorary pallbearers were Jonathan Darnell, William Darnell, Russell Peterson, current and former Barnwell City Police Department Officers, and all Law Enforcement Officers.

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

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024



Joseph Michael Bootle

Michael grew up in Fairfax and attended Fairfax First Baptist Church. He was called “Michael”, “Big Mike” and “Bootle”. He loved to lift weights, martial arts, and reading. He loved music and singing. He always followed the local bands and musicians like Jim Ashley, Nick Webb, White Cap, Moxie, and Medicine Hat, to name a few. He had several jobs in his life, but he loved to be a bouncer at Bailey’s and Mrs. Bea’s. He was an only child, so he enjoyed meet-

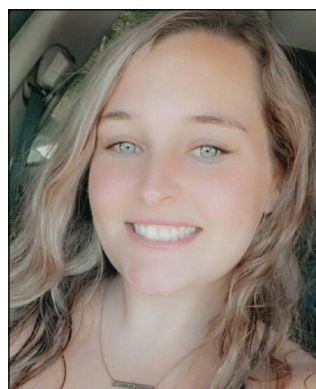
ing and making friends.

He is survived by one daughter, Lottie Elizabeth Battle, and grandchildren

Graveside service was held 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 10, 2024, at Fairfax Cemetery.

Keith Smith Funeral Service, 128 Water Street, Allendale, assisted the family with arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at keithsmithfuneralservice.com.

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024



Megan Faith Bodiford

The family has asked that memorial contributions be given to Enterprise Bank for the family of Megan Bodiford.

Born in Columbia, Megan was the daughter of Shannon Douglas Bodiford and Shawn Renea Hutto. Megan loved all animals; she was a fun-loving girl who enjoyed life and lived life to the fullest. Hanging out with her friends was always an enjoyable time; Megan was always on-the-go. Her greatest pleasure in life was her girls, she was a wonderful mother to her three daughters who will miss her deeply.

Survivors include her parents; her daughters,

Tesla Morris, Ivy Morris, and Kylie Davis; maternal grandparents, Tommy and Nancy Hutto of Winnsboro; paternal grandparents, Roy and Carolyn Bodiford of Hilda; aunts, Sharon (Greg) Elkins and Crystal (Adam) Mattison; uncles, Stephen (Courtney) Hutto, Greigg Bodiford, and Creigg Bodiford; first cousins, Alyssa Elkins and Helena Campbell, and numerous other family members.

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

The People-Sentinel
5/15/2024

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Sundial Festival draws locals, visitors to downtown Barnwell



Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Photo Contributed



Photo Contributed

Petite Miss Nora Givens, age 5..



Photo Contributed

The annual Sundial Festival drew a large crowd of Barnwell County residents and out-of-town visitors to downtown Barnwell on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11. Traditionally, the festival has been one day, but organizers expanded this year's festivities to two days of food, fun, live entertainment, contests, activities, vendors, and more.

Sundial Festival Art Show winners:

Bailey Darnell 1st place
Jennifer King 2nd place
Ashley Culp 3rd place
People's Choice Winner
Tom Faircloth
Honorable Mentions
Terri DeLuca
Tom Faircloth

Sundial Festival Pageant winners

Baby Miss-
Tillman Jaye Connelly
Toddler Miss-
Lynnlee Price
Tiny Miss-
Lynnley Lamar Wise

Tiny Master-
Augustus Jeffers
Petite Miss- Nora Givens
Petite Master-
Solana Varnadoe
Little Miss- Brittleigh Still
Young Miss-
Alayna Beasley
Teen Miss- Natalee Bruner
Jr. Miss- Addison Cook
Miss- Mackayla Caudill
Mrs. - Heather Stevens
Mrs. Congeniality-
Heather Stevens
Overall Sundial
Sweetheart- Bexliegh Still
Overall Miss Sundial
Festival 2024-
Neriah Young



Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report For America

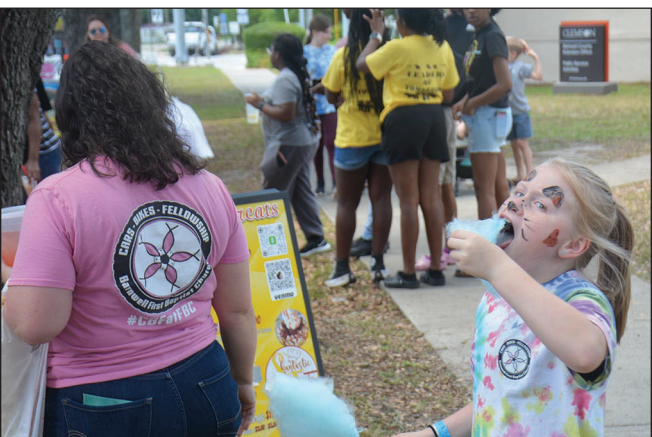


Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



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Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report For America



Photo By: Elijah de Castro



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Jacob Sanders performs. Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report For America



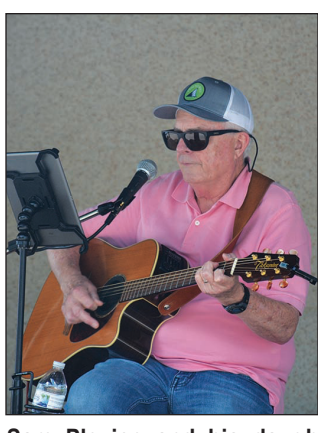
Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Sam Plexico and his daughter Katie were two of the live entertainers.



Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



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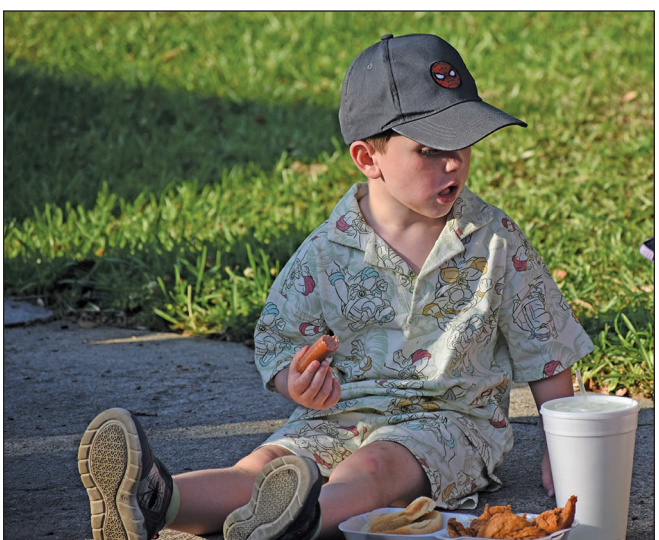
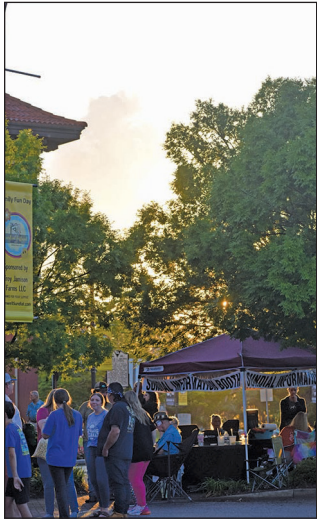
Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



All photos on this page by: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Williston teen Gage Cagle (left) performed Friday night before American Idol Top 8 finalist and Bamberg native Warren Peay (right).



Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

BAND: Barnwell County marching bands unite for winter season

FROM PAGE 1A

does color guard.

"I like the way music makes me feel, I'm passionate about it," said Cave, who plans to continue her musical talents at North Carolina's High Point University while studying business marketing.

Shanese Samuels also attends BHS and is a senior. She played the piccolo during her junior year, but made the switch to flute.

"I wanted to try something different, and it was basically the same thing but higher," said Samuels. "I was exposed to the flute as a young child because my uncle played it. So that is what inspired me to play the flute."

Cave and Samuels are encouraged and energized to keep crafting their skills by the people they are surrounded by.

"I love the energy that

we bring, every practice is always filled with enjoyment," said Samuels.

The band directors noticed the group is seamless despite coming from different schools. The teachers can hardly tell which kids came from what school based on how quickly they all have become friends.

"The kids have been great... they just want a band!" said Vickery.

The students competed against both S.C. based bands and bands from North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and more.

Although final results weren't what they hoped, students had an enjoyable time at the competition and participating in the other planned events for the trip.

"Winter marching band was such a great experience.



The Bands of Barnwell County includes (bottom row) Nick Jones, Madison Doughtie, Kamryn Cave, Nakoma Madyun, Seth Dorn; (second row) Ahmad Washington, Bailey Doughtie, Nevaeh Tisdale, Shanese Samuels, Hailee Stanley, Aiyanna Palmer, Baylee Adams; (top row) Cassie Land, Gabe Refugia, James Hiers, Landon Heckaman.

It's something I would have loved to have done as a student, but experiencing it as a director was amazing," said Brown

Marching band students are now gearing up for the fall outdoor season.

OFFICER: Sgt. Hall recovering after being shot

FROM PAGE 1A

"Never give up. Don't quit," said Sgt. Hall, who doesn't want to discuss details of the shooting due to it still being an active investigation.

Though he's not yet cleared to go back to work, Sgt. Hall said he's ready to protect and serve the community once again.

"He cannot get there quick enough," said Michelle.

Sgt. Hall also doesn't want the shooting to "discourage others from thinking about or wanting to become an officer." He said the world needs men and women who are willing to earn the respect of the communities they serve. That's what he's tried to do throughout his 20-year career in law enforcement.

"The rewarding moments are knowing that sometimes you can look back and know you've made a difference and made the community safer," he said.

While the past two and a half weeks have been filled with good days and bad days, Sgt. Hall said the support of his fellow officers, community, family, and friends has made the ordeal much better.



James and Michelle Hall have been together nearly 26 years.

"Even in our darkest hour, there's always a bright light. The support and outreach for our family has been outstanding. It's deeply and greatly appreciated," he said.

Immediately following the shooting, officers from

law enforcement agencies across the region and state responded to Allendale to show their support and assist.

"They were coming from every direction. It was crazy. I've never seen that many

law enforcement officers in one place," said Michelle, who estimated nearly 200 officers were on the ground in Allendale.

Sgt. Hall said the Blackville community, where he's lived off and on for over 20 years, has especially shown him and his family a lot of love since the shooting.

Ever since police officers visited his school in the second grade, he's wanted to be a cop. "I used to sit and talk with them," he said.

After completing his military service, the Flint, Michigan native started his law enforcement career in Blackville. He later moved to Houston, Texas to work in the oil fields, but returned to Barnwell County to help his father, who was medically retired in 2007.

After a few years working in Cottageville, he returned to the Blackville Police Department. He transferred to Bamberg in 2022 before joining the Allendale Police Department in October 2023.

Sgt. Hall has many medical appointments in his future as his injuries heal, but he's maintaining a positive attitude and a grateful heart.

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Laney Grubbs
Barnwell High School



Grade: 9th
Sports: Softball/volleyball
Favorites...
•**Pro Team:** Kansas City Chiefs
•**Athletes:** Jennie Finch, Natasha Watley
•**Food:** Chicken
•**Movie/TV shows:** *The Greatest Showman*, *Fire Country*
•**Snacks:** Goldfish
•**Free time activity:** Shopping
•**Musicians:** For King and Country, Bailey Zimmerman
Goal for this season:
“To improve in my skills and to glorify God in everything I do.”

Logan Foskey
Barnwell High School



Grade: 11th
Sport: Track
Favorites...
•**Pro Team:** Saints or Eagles
•**Pro Athlete:** Sha Carri Richardson
•**Food:** Seafood
•**Movie/TV shows:** *All American*
•**Snack:** Red Doritos
•**Free time activity:** Doing hair
•**Musicians:** Bryson Tiller and Future
Goal for this season:
“Become better and just have fun.”
• • • • •

Varsity
High School
Sports
Schedule

- BASEBALL**
Wednesday, May 8
AA Playoffs
• Andrew Jackson @ Barnwell (if necessary)
Thursday, May 9
SCISA Playoffs
• JDA @ Richard Winn (if necessary)
AA Playoffs
• District 5 winner @ District 6 winner (TBD)
- SOFTBALL**
Wednesday, May 8
AA Playoffs
• Barnwell/Andrews winner @ North Central (TBD)
Friday, May 10
AA Playoffs
• District 5 winner @ District 6 winner (TBD)
- TRACK**
Saturday, May 11
AA Lower State
• (Barnwell) @ Woodland 11:00 AM
A Upper State
• (Blackville-Hilda) @ Lower Richland 9:00 AM
- GOLF**
Monday and Tuesday
May 13-14
AA State Tournament
• (Nick Jones, Barnwell) @ Cheraw State Park 10:00 AM

Lady Blue Devils
end season as
district
runners-up
See page 2B

JDA heading to State Championship series

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Jefferson Davis Academy Raiders softball team has had a good season, but they are really playing some great softball at the right time of the season. The Raiders ended the regular season on a hot streak, and they haven’t slowed down since.

JDA went 3-0 this past weekend in the State Tournament to advance to the State Championship series. JDA faced Cross, Laurens Academy, and Wardlaw Academy. The results were all the same. JDA came away with big wins in each contest. The Raiders downed the Wardlaw Patriots by a score of 16-3, then easily conquered the Crusaders from Laurens Academy by a 17-1 margin. JDA played the Cross Stingrays the following day and walked away with a 7-1 win and a weekend of undefeated softball going 3-0.

Raider all-star pitcher Reagan Still was masterful from the circle. She pitched all 19 innings for the Raiders and struck out 30 of the 72 batters she faced. She finished the weekend with an ERA (earned run average) of less than one and never let any of the opponents mount any real threats on her way to adding three more wins to her totals.

Offensively for the Raiders, CarrieLynn Loadholt led the way, going 6-12 for the weekend. Gylan Gooze and Reagan Still each went 5-12 from the plate and Kinlee Ray finished 4-11. Many other Raiders contributed by getting timely hits, walks, scoring runs, or driving in runs in the Raiders big offensive weekend.

JDA head coach Bart Owens was asked about his team’s performance and said, “On the weekend we played some really awesome softball, scoring 40 runs and giving up only 5 runs. Reagan Still pitched lights out this weekend, giving up only two earned runs. Our defense behind her was great. Everyone



The JDA softball team went 3-0 at the State Tournament to advance to the State Championship Series this week.

Photo By: Kathy Googe



Reagan Still and Gylan Gooze share a hug from the sidelines. Both players went 5-12 from the plate during the State Tournament.

Photo By: Hillery Still

has been playing at a high level over the last couple of weeks and it showed in the State Tournament.”

Coach Owens is looking forward to the State Championship series.

“I think we are ready for the challenge this time around. Last year, we were a little overwhelmed, but I think it prepared us for this year. We are ready and the girls are excited. We are playing the best we have played all year. Go Raiders!” said Coach Owens.

JDA defeated Cross in the first game of the three-game series by a score of 4-0 Monday night, May 13. If JDA wins Tuesday, May 14 at Bluffton High, they will be State Champions. If they lose, the two teams will play Wednesday with the winner of game three crowned State Champions.

If the third game is needed for Wednesday, May 15, then it will be for the State Championship at a neutral site still to be determined at the time this goes to press, but the school will post the location. All these young ladies and coaches would love to have your support, so please come out and cheer these girls on to a JDA State Championship!

Blackville-Hilda to send 15 athletes to State Championships



The Hawks took 27 region qualifiers to Upper State and earned 15 athletes the chance to compete in the State Championships to be held at Spring Valley High School this Thursday, May 16.

Photo By: Miracle Jones

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks track and field team competed at the Upper-State qualifiers this past Saturday, May 11 at Lower Richland High School.

The Hawks took 27 athletes to the meet, hoping some would qualify to compete at the State Championships to be held this weekend. Not only did some qualify, but more than half of the Hawks who competed earned an entry into the State Championships to be held Thursday, May 16 at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. Fifteen of the 27 will compete for State Championships.

Blackville-Hilda head coach Rushani Burke was asked about his team’s great showing at Up-

per State and replied, “Assessing our performances, I believe our team’s progress is headed in the right direction. We had 34 athletes qualify for the Upper State qualifiers, with only 27 in attendance vying for a spot. Out of those 27, 15 athletes secured qualification, constituting 56 percent of our athletes advancing to the State Championship Final. Now, we are focused on utilizing the remaining time to further refine and prepare our athletes for the State Championship Final on Thursday, May 16, 2024.”

Coach Burke went on to say their “relay teams also showcased remarkable performances, with both the boys’ and girls’ teams securing top finishes. The boys’ 4x100m relay team clinched first place, setting a new season’s best and school record with a remarkable time of 42.21. Meanwhile, the girls’ team achieved a new

season best and school record of 51.63, settling for second place in a closely contested race where the first-place finisher also clocked 51.63.

The number of athletes that the Hawks have qualifying for State is very impressive, but what is even more staggering is that out of the 15 qualifiers, 12 of those qualified in more than one event. Thirty-one times, a Blackville-Hilda Hawk will compete at the State Championships this Thursday. So, come out and support your Blackville-Hilda Hawks as they compete for State Championship medals.

Hawks State Championship competitors include:

- Jaqual Holman: 100m, 200m, 4x100m
- Tamari Daniels: 100m, 200m, 4x100m
- Breyanna Williams: 100m, 400m hurdles, 4x100m

- 100m, 400m hurdles, 4x100m
- Samari Williams: 100m, 200m
- Namair Anderson: 100m, 200m, 4x100m
- Jamarien Priestester: 110m hurdles, 4x100m
- Sariyah Vinson: 100m hurdles, 4x100m
- Brandon Priestester: 110m hurdles
- Anastasia Beaver: 4x100m, 400m
- Jamarion Kirkland: 400m, Long Jump
- Taliah Kinard: 400m hurdles, 4x100m
- Haylie Sapp: 800m, 400m hurdles
- Darius Jenkins: 110m hurdles, Triple Jump
- Diandra Risi: 3200m
- Demeria Woodley: 400m hurdles

Rashaun Buckmon signs with Limestone

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

On Friday, May 10, Barnwell High School's Rashaun Buckmon signed to play soccer at Limestone University this fall. Friends, coaches, administrators, and family gathered to celebrate Rashaun's signing in the Barnwell High School media center.

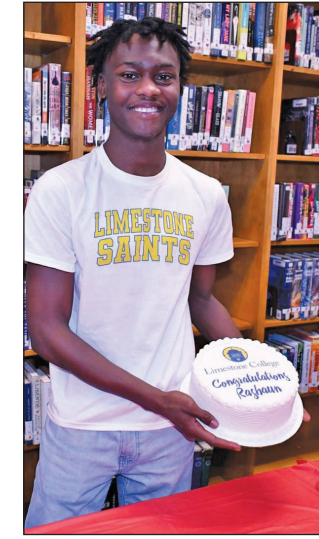
Rashaun was asked about why he chose Limestone University and said, "Limestone reminds me of Barnwell. It is a very rural, quiet setting, with very generous people. I also like how very proper and formatted the soccer program is there. It feels great knowing that I will continue playing a sport I love."

He plans to major in Information Technology and become an IT Specialist



Rashaun Buckmon signs with Limestone to play soccer. Pictured are William Barnes, Quame Dunbar, Rashaun Buckmon, India Clark, and Luke Catoe.

Photos By: Kelley Wood/Sports Photographer



Rashaun Buckmon holds the cake showing where he will be playing soccer this fall.

sports! I know he will be successful in whatever he chooses to do."

Asked if he had any advice for younger athletes that might want to follow in his footsteps and play on the collegiate level, Rashaun said, "Invest in yourself and your work will show. Mostly, I would say to remember to become a student first." That sounds like good advice. Speaking of advice, Rashaun wanted to thank Mrs. Evans, a substitute teacher who once spent more than an hour giving him what he referred to as an "inspirational and encouraging talk." He took in every piece of advice she gave him that day.

We wish Rashaun the best as he heads to Limestone University and looks to play forward for the Saints soccer team this fall. Go Saints!

Rashaun on the JV soccer team and on the cross-country team, said he's enjoyed watching Rashaun compete and "become the all-around player he is today. He always gave his all in cross-country and soccer and I am proud to have been his coach in both

Barnwell Bombers are runners-up at Statesboro tournament



From left to right: Maddox Ashby, Connor Still, Axel Myers, Sawyer Johnson, Daniel Anastasia, Jaxon Wagener, Kipper Polk, Rylan Kearse (RK), and Rylan Lacroix; (back row) coaches Chris Yancey, Dave Anastasia, Jamie Ashby, and Michael Polk.

Photos Contributed

The Barnwell Bombers 9u AAA were the runners-up in the Perfect Game Statesboro Showdown May 4-5 in Statesboro, Ga.

Out of the six competing teams, the Barnwell Bombers came in second.

"They absolutely played their butts off and with so

much adversity they took the championship to two extra innings! I am so unbelievably proud of how these boys fought and gave us everything they had! They represented our little town to the fullest. The 6 teams that were in it were all very good teams," said Coach Chris Yancey.



Rylan Kearse "RK" hit his first and the first Bomber 9u homerun with a monster shot over left center field.

Carolina Shockers compete in S.E.S. Battle of the Best



Contributed

On April 27 and 28, the 6th and 9th grade girls basketball teams for the Carolina Shockers traveled to Gilbert High School to play in the 2024 "S.E.S. Battle of the Best" basketball tournament.

After the 9th grade girls went on to win the first two games on Saturday night with one in overtime, they advanced to the finals. The 6th grade girls went one and one and also advanced as well. The championship games were played at River Bluff High School

and Columbia High School. "Although both teams lost in the championship, it was a battle to the finish. The 9th grade girls won the runner-up trophy which was a great honor. Also, one of the girls ended up being the player of the week. The 6th grade girls placed as well," said Coach John Johnson.

The Carolina Shockers includes girls from Blackville-Hilda High, Barnwell High, Andrew Jackson Academy, Aiken, and Allendale-Fairfax High. There are also boys teams. The Carolina Shockers

organization is more than just a basketball team. "We strive to make a difference in our communities through basketball, financial literacy, and life skills training. The team is encouraged to maintain good grades, participate in community service, and to be a positive role model in their community," said Johnson.

The Carolina Shockers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Carolina Shockers Basketball, P.O. Box 661, Barnwell, S.C. 29812.

Lady Blue Devils end season as district runners-up

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Lady Blue Devils ended their season as district runners-up for the second year in a row.

Williston-Elko High's softball team competed in the district championship on May 9 against Whitmire, but lost 3-21.

"Disappointing end to the season last night but if you play in May only one team gets to avoid that huddle of tears. Doesn't take away from the amazing season these girls had," said Williston-Elko head softball coach Jamie Wootten.

With a 15-9 record for the season, the Lady Blue Devils finished second in the region and second in the district. The team had a .384 batting average, hit six homeruns (four over the fence), scored 300 runs, stole 89 bases, had 68 extra base hits, and the pitchers recorded 131 strikeouts. There were four All-Region players and Hailey O'Neal was All-State player.

"The Lady Devils set records for batting average, runs scored, and homeruns this year. They have some great young talent and the future for the program is bright," said assistant coach Kevin Jones.

Coach Wootten asked



Front row: Gracyn Williams, Reese Yelton, Reese Collins. 2nd row: Matti Bell, Makayla Barrett, Kyndal Kennedy, Laney Fox, Tatum Miller. Back row: Coach Jamie Wootten, Hailey O'Neal, Kendall Adams, I'yana Robinson, Tra'Niya Josey, Chara Wootten, Taylor Croft, KK Redd, Coach Greg Williams.

Contributed Photo

Coach Jones, who is head football coach for the Blackville-Hilda Hawks, to help the Lady Blue Devils this season, particularly with their hitting. Coach Jones has experience coaching softball at other schools, but previously gave it up to focus on football.

"I had a blast working with the girls this season. I want to thank Jamie and Greg Williams for allowing me to help. They pour their heart and soul into these kids and do a good job. Obviously it could have been awkward with me being the head football coach at their rival school but they along with (WEHS athletic

director) Kenny Lipsey and the administrators at Williston-Elko made me feel welcome," said Coach Jones.

The senior class leaves with 38 wins.

"To my seniors, girls I love you, I'm here for you, and you are always welcomed back. Thank you for helping build this program back from the ashes," said Coach Wootten.

Coach Jones said he wishes the senior good luck with the next chapter in life. "I hope the younger players continue to work hard going forward," he said.

Coach Wootten also thanks the parents, fans, and school staff for their support.

Williston-Elko track athletes qualify for state championship



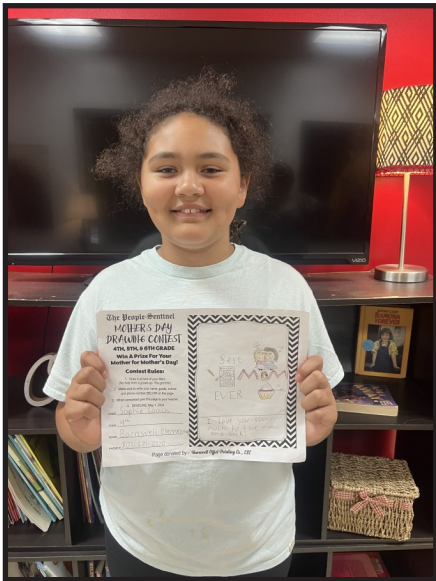
Williston-Elko High track athletes that qualified for the State Championships this Thursday, May 16 at Spring Valley include Na'Kiya Mercado 100m, Malaysia Youmans 100m hurdles, Deontae Holman long jump, Jakeran Cuthbertson 400m, De'montray Allen 110m hurdles, Jaisah Gibson discus, and the 4x400 relay team of Willie Brown, De'montray Allen, Derrell Newman, and Jakeran Cuthbertson.

Photo Contributed

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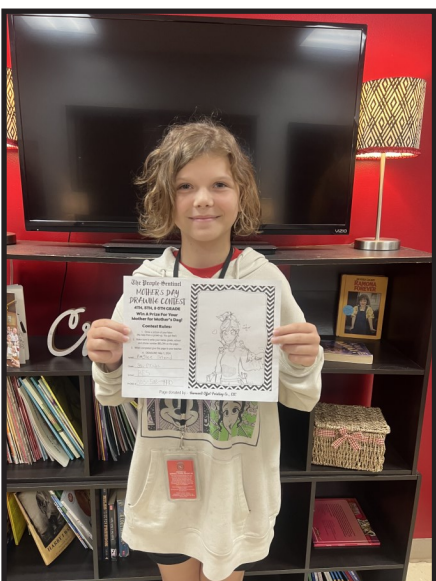
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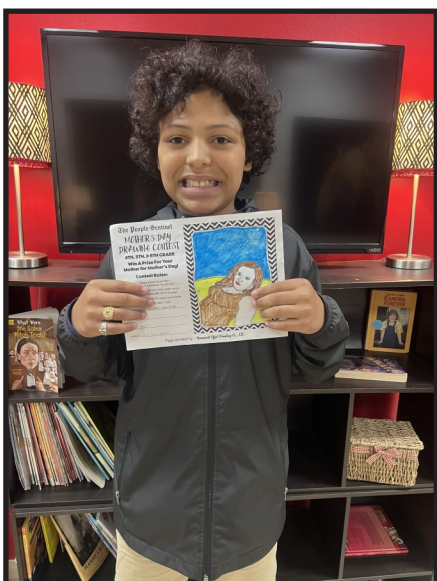
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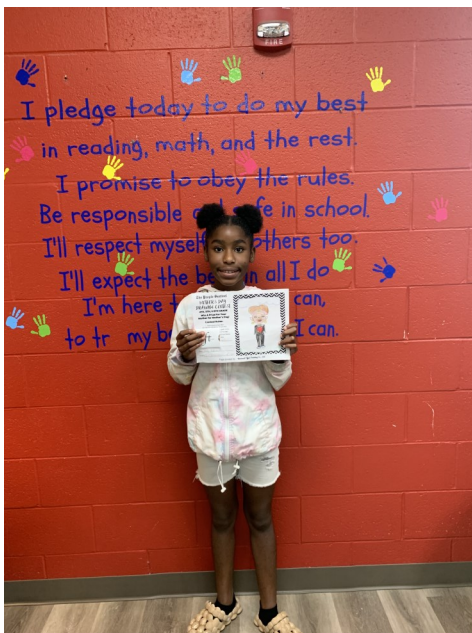
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

Weekly on Tuesdays
Free Food Distribution
Long Branch MBC,
922 Hopewell Rd., Gifford.
Food products will be available while supplies last.
3:30-5:30pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Senior Dance Lessons
Blackville Community Center.
For all Barnwell County Seniors 60 and over. Call 803-259-4592.
3-4pm

Every Thursday
Allendale Line Dance Classes
Allendale National Guard Armory (368 Court House Square, Allendale) These free line dance exercise/fitness classes are open to anyone 18 years and up. Sponsored by Allendale County Office on Aging and led by instructor Angela Doe Youmans. **6-7pm**

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

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

Wed., May 15
Allendale County Capital Sales and Use Tax meeting
Allendale County Courthouse, J.V. Wall, Jr. Council Chambers, 292 Barnwell Hwy., Allendale
5:15pm

Thurs., May 16
Allendale County County Council Regular Meeting
Allendale County Courthouse, J.V. Wall, Jr. Council Chambers, 292 Barnwell Hwy., Allendale
6pm

Barnwell County First Steps “Money Management”
The public is invited to join Barnwell County First Steps at 110 Franklin Street, Barnwell for a seminar on money management. This is free.
Dinner will be served at 5pm
Meeting 5:30pm

Voice of the Veteran
34 Pechman St., Barnwell (in the Agricultural Building). Refreshments will be served.
6pm

Calling All Veterans . . . It's that time again . . . Let's Talk Veterans Supporting Veterans topic “Healthy Choices.” Our guests will be Ms. Pamela McNight with the “AXIS I the WELL” and Mr. Michael McCary of Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA. Location: 34 Pechman St., Barnwell, SC (in the Agricultural Building) on **May 16th, at 6pm**. Refreshments will be served.



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. 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

Mon., May 20
Barnwell County Republican Party Meeting
(Rescheduled due to holiday.) 2269 Ashleigh Rd., Blackville.
6:30pm social time
7-8pm meeting

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

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

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

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE



The People-Sentinel • 803-259-3501
22 Burr Street, Barnwell

Mon., May 27
Memorial Day Observance
Veterans Memorial Park, Barnwell
Sgt. Jerry Smith will be the guest speaker. Hosted by the Marine Corps League and Vietnam Veterans of America.
10am

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. Children of all ages welcome. **9am**

June 5, 12, 19, 26
Barnwell County Sheriff's Office GRITS Program
Children of all ages welcome. Barnwell YMCA.
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.

Swiss Krono Cean Scarbeary Jr. Golf Tournament 2024
Sweetwater Country Club, 571 Johnny George Lane, Barnwell. Ticket \$120. Prizes for Longest Drive & Closest to Pin.
8am

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

Tues., June 11
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! 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

Tues., Aug. 6
National Night Out
Veteran's Memorial Park in Barnwell. **4-7pm**

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

2024 Summer Reading: Adventure Begins at Your Library
Encourage the entire family to read this summer. Starting May 20, pick up a paper reading log at any ABBE Library location or track your reading at abbe.beanstack.org. Everyone who reads and/or listens to audiobooks for at least 450 minutes between May 20 & August 1 will be entered into a gift card drawing at their library. Kids and teens can also pick up a prize.

Barnwell Library Events

STORY TIME
Thurs., May 23, June 20, July 18
Read, Rattle and Roll Storytime
Enjoy songs, stories, and sensory play for toddlers and preschoolers. Followed by free developmental screenings. In partnership with Help Me Grow S.C.
11am

Crafter-Noon for Kids
May 22, June 6 & 11
Stop by to create themed crafts with us. (5/22) Decorate your own Pokémon Trainer Hat, (6/6) Make a gift for Dad, and (7/11) use recycled water bottles to make Pokémon themed planters. Registration requested call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. Rising 5K-Grade 12.
4pm

STEM for Kids
Wed., May 29, June 26, July 31
Who knew learning could be fun? We did! Drop in and learn a thing or two. (5/29) make your own Pokéball levitating contraption, (6/26) make fireworks in a jar, and (7/31) create a catapult to launch your Pokéballs. Registration requested call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register.
4pm

Cooking Matters
Tues., June 11, 18, 25, July 9, 16, 23
Bring along the whole family to enjoy a fun 6 week cooking class. This class teaches school-aged children and their parents or caregivers about healthy eating as a family and the importance of working together to plan and prepare healthy meals on a budget. In partnership with Snap-Ed Clemson University Learning Institute. Registration required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register.
4pm

MyPlate
Wed., June 5 & 19, July 10 & 24
Bring along the whole family to learn about the five basic food groups and identify foods associated in each group. All while you enjoy a small food demonstration. In partnership with Snap-Ed Clemson University Learning Institute. Registration required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register.
11am

Tee off for Summer Reading
Fri., May 31
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

Rocks for Rocko the Kindness Snake
Mon., June 3
Family Program. Help us grow Rocko our Kindness Snake. Decorate a rock or two then take them outside to add them to our friend.
10:30am

Growing Your Own Kitchen Herb & Veggie Garden
Tues., June 4
Join Veggie Cupboard

Community Garden for an interactive workshop on cultivating your own kitchen herb and vegetable garden. We'll immerse ourselves in the wonders of herbs and explore how they not only enhance the flavor of your dishes but also offer a myriad of health benefits, alongside discovering simple yet nutritious vegetables that thrive in small spaces. Get your hands dirty as you plant your own herb and vegetable seedlings to take home. Registration required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. **3:30pm**

Allendale County Library Events

Wed., May 14, 22
Five & Under Storytime!
9:30-10:30am

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

Fri., May 24
Get a Leg(o) Up!
Youth ages 2-17.
4:30-5:30pm

Blackville Library Events

Super Awesome Puppet Show
Mon., June 3
Take an adventure with some extremely silly stories.
10:30am

Savannah River Ecology Lab
Mon., June 17
Learn about local wildlife with an expert and real live animals. Seating is limited and we are unable to accommodate groups. For rising 5k to 5th grade.
10:30am

Read, Rattle, and Roll Family Storytime
Mon., July 1
Fun stories, activities, and we can get you started with developmental screenings for ages 0 to 5. In partnership with Help Me Grow S.C. **10:30am**

I Survived Fan Club
Mon., July 15
Love the series? We'll have cool activities tied to the books by Lauren Tarshis. For rising 5k to 5th grade. **10:30am**

Williston Library Events

I Survived Fan Club
Thurs., June 6
Love the series? We'll have cool activities tied to the books by Lauren Tarshis. For rising 5k to 5th grade. **10:30am**

Super Awesome Puppet Show
Thurs., June 13
Take an adventure with some extremely silly stories. For rising 5k to 5th grade. **10:30am**

Savannah River Ecology Lab
Thurs., June 27
Learn about local wildlife with an expert and real live animals. Seating is limited and we are unable to accommodate groups. For rising 5k to 5th grade.
10:30am

Book Club
Thurs., June 27
May book club cancelled. Discussing *Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil* by John Berendt. **6pm**

Local Directory

Allendale Library

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

Barnwell Library

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

Blackville Library

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

Williston Library

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

BARNWELL SENIOR CENTER

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

BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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



Eat, Drink,
Shop
LOCAL

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 7B

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 7B

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

SALES

NOTICES

TV & INTERNET SERVICES

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET – Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741

DIRECTV Sports Pack. 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-542-0759

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Trucks, Motorcycles & RV's, too! Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not – 24 Hour Response – Maximum Tax Donation – Call (888) 515-3810

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare products for cats, dogs, & horses. Distributed By Florida Hardware® 800-793-0926.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-397-7030 www.dental50plus.com/60 #6258

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-852-0368

Is 2024 your year? We're here for it and here for you. Reach your goals this year with WeightWatchers. Get started with THREE months FREE, visit www.weightwatchersoffer.com/52

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833-638-3767

Craft Vendors Sought

Seeking Craft Vendors for Late Spring Maker's Market Craft Event, May 25th. Located at the National Guard Armory (3528 Platt Springs Road, West Columbia, S.C.). Indoor and Outdoor 10'x10' spaces still available. Please contact Cathy Crawford via email for a vendor application at carolinacrafteventspecialist@yahoo.com or text 864-538-8330. 2024-90 2tp 5-15-24

FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-775-0366 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Leaf-Filter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-875-2449.

Up to \$15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company – 855-837-7719 or visit www.Life55plus.info/scan

AUCTIONS

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT AUCTION. Wed., May 22 at 10am. 825 Broad Street, Camden, SC. Selling all Assets from Large Equipment Dealer. New & Like New Equipment. Forklift, Refrigeration, Cooking Units, More. www.Classic Auctions.com. 704-791-8825. Tony Furr NCAF5479/5508/SCAL2893R

LOWCOUNTRY & MIDLANDS ONLY ESTATE AUCTION – SATURDAY MAY 18TH 9:30AM – 251 GALILEE RD. BARNWELL, SC – SELLING HOUSE AND CONTENTS – NICE 2052 SQ. FOOT BRICK HOME 3 BR 2.5 BATHS, LOTS OF FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, GLASSWARE, CHINA, COINS, ART, etc. ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS www.cogburnauction.com 803-860-0712

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 80 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

NOTICES

LEGALS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Aniket-2 intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow the sale and off premises consumption of beer and wine at 20494 Solomon Blatt Avenue, Blackville, S.C. 29817. To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, you must submit Form ABL-20, be postmarked no later than May 17, 2024. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing and should include the following information:
1. the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
2. the specific reasons why the application should be denied;
3. that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
4. that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
5. the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be submitted online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or emailed to ABL@dor.sc.gov. 2024-82 3tp 5-15-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Francis Wayne Bodiford Date of Death: April 19, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00090 Personal Representative: Rhonda Little Address: 115 Ball Park Road, Gaston, S.C. 29053 2024-83 3tp 5-15-24

Notice of Abandoned Vehicles
Edward's Towing Inc.
3611 Concord Church Road
Allendale, S.C. 29810
Owner: Chadaria Knyasia Mears, 90 Hawk Rd., Varnville, SC 29944. 2008 Chevy Impala VIN#2G1WT55K689172858
Owner: Gloria Lott, 132 Mount Calvary Rd., Ulmer, SC 29849. 2003 Buick Centre VIN#2G4W552J931126885
Owner: Ashanti Lakeiflyn Brown, 218 Oswald Dr., Apt. 7A, Allendale, SC 29810. 2006 Hydan Sonata VIN#SNPEU46F864020909
Owner: Dominic Banner, 267 Walsh St., Williston, SC 29853, 2004 Kia Optima VIN#KNAG0126645363967
Owner: Marcus Rollins, 208 B Jarrell St., Hampton, SC 29924, 2011 Ford Crown Victory VIN#2FABP7BV0BX111261
Owner: Coleen Goodwin, 89 Creekside Dr., Bamberg, SC 29031, 2007 Buick Lacrosse VIN#2G4WC58271181032
Owner: Titlemax of South Carolina, 1006 Elm St. W., Hampton, SC 29924, 2011 Ford Crown Victory VIN#2FABP7BV0BX111261 2024-84 2tp 5-15-24

SUMMONS FOR DIVORCE
(One-Year Continuous Separation)
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AIKEN
IN THE FAMILY COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket No. 24-DR-02-411
JENNIFER RENEE SMITH
Petitioner
vs.
WENDELL DOUGLAS SMITH,
Defendant
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you have been sued by the Plaintiff for DIVORCE in the Court indicated above. You must respond in writing to the attached Complaint for Divorce and serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff at the address below within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons upon you, not counting the day of service, or thirty-five (35) days if you were served by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested.

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If you wish to retain an attorney to represent you in this matter, it is advisable to do so before submitting your Answer to the Plaintiff.
If you do not answer the Complaint within the required thirty (30) days, the court may grant a DIVORCE and grant the Plaintiff the relief requested in the Complaint.
Date: April 8, 2024
Jennifer R. Smith, Plaintiff
1498 Veterans Road
P.O. Box 721
Williston, S.C. 29853
2024-85 3tp 5-22-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Thomas Edward Owens Date of Death: January 20, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00069 Personal Representative: Charlene Owens Darlington Address: P.O. Box 52, Barnwell, S.C. 29812 2024-86 3tp 5-22-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Virginia Allen Mills Date of Death: March 23, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00085 Personal Representative: Paula Lynn Miller Address: 137 Flutter Drive, Lexington, S.C. 29072 2024-87 3tp 5-22-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Lois Rita Cilenti Date of Death: April 16, 2022 Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00039 Personal Representative: Brian J. Dupree Address: 400 Ables Drive, Barnwell, S.C. 29812 2024-88 3tp 5-22-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in

NOTICES

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written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Patricia Lott Craig Date of Death: March 7, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00065 Personal Representative: Mickey Craig Address: 9617 Hwy. 37, Blackville, S.C. 29817 2024-89 3tp 5-22-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Gary Keith Turner Date of Death: March 11, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00079 Personal Representative: Noreen T. Jennings Address: 596 Old Whiskey Road, Barnwell, S.C. 29812 2024-73 3tp 5-29-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Allendale County, the address of which is 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, S.C. 29810, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: John Ritter Jr. Date of Death: March 16, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 03 00037 Personal Representative: Altovise Ritter Address: 3584 Concord Church Road, Allendale, S.C. 29810 2024-91 3tp 5-29-24

NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, vs. Joseph Randolph Still, United States of America Acting through Commissioner of Housing and Urban Development, C/A No. 2023-CP-06-00275.
The following property will be sold on June 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM at the Barnwell County Courthouse to the highest bidder. ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL OR TRACT OF LAND WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN BLACKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE TOWN OF BLACKVILLE, COUNTY OF BARNWELL, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, MEASURING 100 FEET, MORE OR LESS ON ITS NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES AND 130 FEET, MORE OR LESS ON ITS EASTERN WESTERN BOUNDARIES AND BEING BOUNDED, NOW OR FORMERLY AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTH BY IZLAR STREET; ON THE EAST BY EAST BOUNDARY STREET; ON THE SOUTH BY LOT NOW OR FORMERLY OF THE ESTATE OF W.A. STORNE; AND ON THE WEST BY LOT NOW OR FORMERLY OF H.S. GRIMES. THIS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO REBECCA EVANS STILL FROM HIRAM A. EVANS A/K/A H.A. EVANS, DIED TESTATE, DOMICILED IN BARNWELL COUNTY,

NOTICES

LEGALS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON FEBRUARY 25, 1968, LEAVING AS HIS SOLE BENEFICIARY UNDER HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, HIS WIDOW, WILLIE FRANCES EVANS., BY DEED RECORDED: 08/03/1981 IN BOOK: 16-0, PAGE: 797, IN THE REGISTER OFFICE OF BARNWELL COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. THEREAFTER REBECCA E. STILL DIED ON 01/13/2009, LEAVING HER INTEREST TO JOSEPH RANDOLPH STILL AS SHOWN IN DEED OF DISTRIBUTION RECORDED: 11/06/2009 IN BOOK: 902, PAGE: 247. TMS No. 123-07-02-002 Property Address: 454 Izlar St., Blackville SC 29817
SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, AD VALOREM TAXES, EASEMENTS AND/OR, RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. TERMS OF SALE: A 5% deposit in certified funds is required. The deposit will be applied towards the purchase price unless the bidder defaults, in which case the deposit will be forfeited. If the successful bidder fails, or refuses, to make the required deposit, or comply with his bid within 30 days, then the property will be resold at his risk. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 5.037%. For complete terms of sale, see Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed with the Barnwell County Clerk of Court at C/A 2023-CP-06-00275. Notice: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining and independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.
James M. Harvey, Jr.
Special Referee for Barnwell County
William S. Koehler
Attorney for Plaintiff
1201 Main Street, Suite 1450
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 828-0880
Fax: (803) 828-0881
scfc@alaw.net
A-05/15/2024, 05/22/2024, 05/29/2024 2024-92 3tc 5-29-24

MASTER IN EQUITY
NOTICE OF SALE
2024-CP-03-00017

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for GS Mortgage-Backed Securities Trust 2022-RPL2 vs. Cynthia A. Streater, et al., I, the undersigned Walter H. Sanders, Master in Equity for Allendale County, will sell on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM, at the County Courthouse, 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, SC 29810. The property to be sold to the highest bidder: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with any improvements thereon, situate, lying, and being in the Town of Allendale, County of Allendale, State of South Carolina, containing 0.277 acre, more or less, shown and designated on a plat entitled "Plat Prepared for Cynthia A. Streater" prepared by Richard L. All, PLS, No. 16497, dated March 16, 1996, and recorded April 1, 1996, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Allendale County in Plat Book 17 at Page 385. The aforesaid plat is incorporated by reference and made a part of this description.
This being the same property conveyed to Cynthia A. Streater by deed of Lance, Inc. recorded April 1, 1996 in Book 106 at Page 139 in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Allendale County.
TMS No. 089-03-01-019
Property address: 242 Short Street, Allendale, SC 29810
TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of said bid is due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding, in certified funds or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. In

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HOMES FOR SALE

PEE DEE ONLY
EFFICIENCY OCEANSIDE CONDO in Myrtle Beach. 70th Avenue area. \$124,500. 843-450-1309. Hoffman Group.

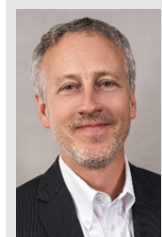
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1985 Fleetwood Vogue mobile home for sale. Located in Barnwell County. Call (803) 679-3797.
2024-95 3tp 5-29-24



Editorial

The start of something big for local news. Congress must follow New York’s lead.



Dean Ridings

CEO, America’s Newspapers

The state of New York, led by a powerful coalition of local publishers, has just approved game-changing legislation in the fight to preserve local news outlets and community journalism. By including a \$90 million payroll tax credit for hiring and retaining local journalists in the state’s 2025 budget, New York has become the nation’s first to take such a major step to protecting this vital industry. This is a commitment to local journalism that the U.S. Congress should urgently build upon.

The Empire State’s legislation is built from the framework of the Community News and Small Business Support Act that would provide similar incentives at the federal level. Much like the New York program, the proposed tax credits would provide critically-needed sustainability for local news organizations, and would ensure that its local citizens continue to receive the news and information they need from credible sources.

As smaller publications shutter by the hundreds and news deserts across the country multiply, the decline of the local newspaper threatens civic engagement. A recent study found that just one in four Americans has access to a local daily newspaper – a dire reality that impacts voter participation, local corruption, policy debates and even affects bond ratings in the affected communities.

Yet local newspapers remain the prime driver of civic knowledge and engagement. The data is crystal clear – communities with robust local news ecosystems have higher voter turnout, better governance, coordinated emergency responses and more engaged citizens. Investing in local journalism pays exponential dividends for society.

How was the New York legislature

able to pass such meaningful legislation? First, a strong coalition of local publishers came together to demonstrate the value their newspapers deliver to their communities. Government leaders recognized the value of a vibrant local newspaper in their hometown and acted in a bipartisan manner to make a difference.

Now it’s time for Congress to follow the New York lead and take action to support the local media industry nationwide. The Community News and Small Business Support Act is a unique piece of legislation where everyone wins. Local businesses benefit from advertising credits and local citizens benefit by having professional reporters covering the most important topics impacting their lives. Incentivizing local outlets to hire and compensate reporters through tax credits is a fiscally smart way to support news-gathering and watchdog capacities without compromising editorial independence. The tax credits would provide a much-needed lifeline to local newspapers while also empowering new entrants and news startups aiming to revive media entrepreneurship.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have a prime opportunity to build on the momentum from New York by supporting the Community News and Small Business Support Act. Congress must recognize what New York’s leadership already has: Local journalism is a public good worth supporting. The time to act is now. For more information visit www.supportcommunitynews.com.

About America’s Newspapers:
On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and Solutions Partner companies, America’s Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: newspapers.org
For more information, contact: Dean Ridings, CEO, America’s Newspapers – dridings@newspapers.org



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In-county:..... \$40
Two-year In-county:..... \$72
Out-of-county: \$45
Out-of-state:\$55

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Better Business Bureau

BBB Offers Tips to Avoid Data Breaches and the Red Flags of Data Theft



Kelvin Collins

Better Business Bureau

We’ve seen several data breach announcements this year, including the AT&T breach that has potentially impacted 73 million people. Data breaches are more common these days, especially as companies are collecting and storing more customer data than ever before. It’s extremely important to be proactive in protecting your information as much as possible.

No two data breaches are the same, and each incident can expose unique information. People affected by a breach may be at an increased risk for identity theft. Thieves may use stolen information to fraudulently apply for credit, unemployment benefits, and more. In some cases, individuals’ financial accounts may be accessible to thieves.

While it’s hard to fully avoid data breaches, especially since some breaches occur when we use credit or debit cards, there are steps you can take when shopping online shopping or managing accounts online to help minimize the chances.

First, always confirm you’re on a website that is using secure protocols before sharing any personal information. Basic security measures include “HTTPS” protocol, which should appear in the start of a company’s URL. (The “s” signifies the security of the page). You should also find a closed lock symbol or similar designation that allows you to confirm that the page is secure.

In addition, verify the company offers a clear and detailed privacy policy if they’re collecting personally identifiable information on their site, and review it to learn what steps the company will take to protect your information. Also look for and check the validity of trust seals like BBB’s Accredited Business seal.

Another area where you’ll want to use caution is social media. It can be easy to be pulled into oversharing information online. It’s not just about your social security number; online

quizzes and games may put you at risk! When you share things like your first pet’s name or the town you were born in, this can be used to hack your accounts - especially if you’ve used the same data in passwords and/or security questions.

Watch for signs your information has been compromised:

You may be able to identify compromised data before a breach is publicly declared. Signs can include unexplained withdrawals, charges, and new accounts that have been opened in your name or under your social security number.

It’s easiest to do this if you set up a routine to consistently check your bank transactions and financial transactions. You’ll also want to set up a schedule for checking your credit report through each of the three major credit bureaus. You can do this for free by using the officially authorized site, AnnualCreditReport.com. By selecting a different creditor to request your report each time, you can space these checks out throughout the year.

Another proactive step is to keep a schedule of when your bills are due. A tip-off for identity theft comes when you stop receiving certain bills. This can happen because scammers have changed the address associated with your bank account or credit card. If bills don’t arrive on time, follow up with your creditors. In the meantime, it’s a good idea to set up automatic alerts on your accounts so you are notified every time a transaction is made.

If you learn that your data was involved in a data breach, we encourage you to stay calm. Individuals are not liable for fraudulent charges on stolen account numbers, and most companies offer resources to help you monitor your information to detect compromises.

If you receive a notice, confirm its validity by checking the website of the company that was breached. Be sure you’re using an authentic URL to visit the company’s site, and do NOT click on a link from an email or social media message, as this could be an ID theft scam on its own. Visiting the wrong site could cause malware to be loaded on your computer.

If the company is offering you credit monitoring services, be sure to

check out the monitoring company’s report with BBB to verify they have a strong rating and customer experience record.

If your data has potentially been breached you’ll want to consider putting a credit freeze or fraud alert on your credit reports with the three major credit reporting agencies, which can be done at AnnualCreditReport.com. Once you set these up with one of the creditors, it should extend to all three. A credit freeze will prevent anyone from accessing your credit report or scores whereas a fraud alert flags your account but does not automatically stop new credit from being opened in your name.

If you see a fraudulent charge on your bank or credit card statements, report it to your bank or credit card issuer immediately, using the number that appears on your credit card. They’ll work with you to reverse the charge and issue a new card to you. Keep receipts in case you need to prove which charges you authorized and which ones you did not.

If your debit card has been breached, immediately contact your bank, and discuss obtaining a new debit card or putting a security block on your account. Debit cards do not have the same protections as credit cards and debit transactions withdraw funds directly from your bank account.

Overall, stay aware of calls or other forms of contact from people who may purport to be from the retailer, your bank, or your credit card issuer, telling you that your card was compromised and suggesting actions to “fix” the problem. They may be aware of the breach because they’re behind it and are using the opportunity to gain more of your information directly from you.

Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia, and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior; monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@central-georgia.bbb.org.

Stories on Southern speech patterns just keep a-comin’



Phil Hudgins

Contributor

One of the most overused words in any language is “expert.” News people write that word a lot to avoid a long, boring title.

I don’t claim to be an expert on anything, but I’m within striking distance on Southern accents. I’ve written about them several times, usually to defend them or just in fun.

Several years ago, for example, an author named Jennifer Adams wrote a book titled “Say Goodbye to Your Southern Accent.” She claimed that your drawl, if you have one, may be holding you back. My response to her: It’s too late for me, Miss Jennifer, but I’m usually okay with the way I talk. The exception would

be when the telephone robot at the cable company can’t understand me.

I’ll have to admit, though, that some people do judge a person’s intelligence by his or her regional accent. And that’s a shame.

More recently came results of a study on which state has the slowest-talking people. It’s Louisiana, in case you’re interested. South Carolina is second. Floridians lead the South as the fastest-talking, but how did they separate the snow birds of Ohio?

My position: Slowing down is good on the highway and in oral communication.

Of course, *Southern Living* magazine glories in stories about all things Southern, including speech patterns and lifestyles.

One of the latest stories was headlined: “50 Southern Sayings You Won’t Hear Anywhere Else.” First one was “bless your heart.” A Southerner can say anything about anybody, even if it’s mean, and be absolved of meanness by adding “bless his heart” at the end. “He’s a greedy son of a gun, bless his heart.”

Other sayings include, “if I had my druthers,” “full as a tick,” “tore up,” as in “she’s really tore up about not getting invited,” “worn slap out” (actually, *Southern Living*, it’s “wore slap out”) and “over yonder,” which

pinpoints most any distance and direction in the South.

“Getting too big for your britches” is a good one. My daddy said that of me, which was true because I was bigger than my older brother and I got his hand-me-downs.

Another *Southern Living* piece carried the headline, “34 Unspoken Rules of Etiquette That Every Southerner Follows.” I think it’s a bit much to say “every Southerner,” because rudeness has infiltrated the South.

Still, these are good rules: “Never chew with your mouth open” and “Always say please and thank you.” After thank you, I would prefer “you’re welcome” to “no problem, man.”

Okay, we can write about accents and sayings till the cows come home, but some people still love the Southern speech cadence.

Years ago, my wife was ordering a cone at an ice cream shop in Cambridge, Mass., when the young man behind the counter started practically jumping with excitement.

“Where are you from?” he asked, eyes wide.

“North Georgia,” she said.
“Well, I’m from Canton (Georgia),” the guy gushed.

He was so happy to hear a Southern accent, and I think he gave her a little extra vanilla in her cone.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This week Barnwell lost one of the finest Christian gentlemen it was ever my privilege to know.

Chief Buddy hired me at the Barnwell Police Department in 2002 and for 22 years it’s been my honor to call him my dear friend.

Although I will forever miss him, I can only smile at the thought of the joyous reunion he’s had with

his twin brother Ed as he entered the Pearly Gates.

To Mrs. Darnell, the girls and the grandkids, may you be comforted in the assurance that although you’ve lost this wonderful man, his love for you still lives and one day you can see him again on the streets of gold.

God Bless you all.
Drayton Gantt, Barnwell

Dish Up *PROTEIN-PACKED* Sweet Treats



Chocolate Ice Cream with “Caramel” Sauce

Recipe courtesy of “Chelsea’s Messy Apron”
Servings: 8

- 1 large sweet potato
- 1 bag (10 ounces) dark chocolate chips, plus additional for topping (optional)
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/4 cup coconut sugar
- 1 Premier Protein Chocolate Protein Shake

“Caramel” Sauce:

- 3 tablespoons coconut oil (measured when solid)
- 3 tablespoons real maple syrup
- 1 1/2 tablespoons almond butter
- 1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Wash and scrub sweet potato. Pierce with fork several times. Place on microwave-safe plate and microwave 5 minutes; flip and microwave 5 minutes. Allow to cool.

In microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate chips in 20-second increments, stirring between each increment until smooth and melted. Set aside.

Remove sweet potato skin and thoroughly mash. Pack into 3/4 cup measuring cup. Place in large blender.

Add melted chocolate to blender along with vanilla, sea salt, coconut sugar and chocolate protein shake.

Place lid on blender and blend on high at least 1 minute, or until ingredients are smooth and incorporated.

Transfer to ice cream maker and prepare according to manufacturer’s directions then transfer to airtight container and freeze 2-3 hours.

To make “caramel” sauce: In microwave-safe bowl, microwave coconut oil and syrup 30 seconds. Stir and microwave 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth. Stir in almond butter and whisk until smooth. Add sea salt and vanilla extract; whisk to combine.

Set “caramel” sauce aside at room temperature about 30 minutes. Top ice cream with sauce and additional chocolate chips, if desired.

Nutritional information per serving: 346 calories; 18 g total fat; 11 g saturated fat; 5 mg cholesterol; 219 mg sodium; 40 g total carbohydrates; 4 g dietary fiber; 31 g total sugars; 7 g protein.

FAMILY FEATURES

In a world of packed schedules and boring food, it can feel like doing the healthy thing means giving up some of what makes you happy – like treats and flavors you love. Choosing health shouldn’t mean restricting yourself; everyone deserves a treat now and again.

Try incorporating better-for-you ingredients into your favorite indulgences. Look for convenient, ready-to-use products, like Premier Protein High Protein Shakes, to help infuse the nutrition you need with the joy you deserve. With 30 grams of protein, 160 calories and 1 gram of sugar, the shakes make it easy to take the first step

and keep that momentum going, adding nutrient-dense protein to nearly any recipe.

In addition to a smooth, creamy texture, each shake delivers 24 vitamins and minerals including vitamins C and E, which help support a healthy immune system as part of a healthy diet and lifestyle. With 11 flavors – including strawberries & cream and chocolate – there’s an impossibly indulgent option for everyone to make a healthy life a happy endeavor through recipes like Peanut Butter Jelly Ice Cream and Chocolate Ice Cream with “Caramel” Sauce.

Find more information and recipes at PremierProtein.com or on Instagram.

Peanut Butter Jelly Ice Cream

Servings: 12

- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup Premier Protein Strawberries & Cream Protein Shake
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2/3 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sugar-free strawberry jelly

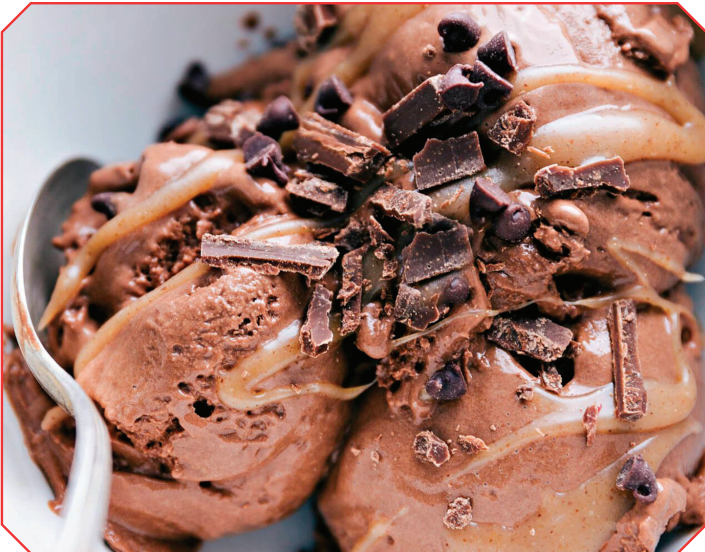
In large, heavy saucepan, heat milk, protein shake, brown sugar and salt until bubbles form around sides of pan. Whisk small amount of hot mixture into egg. Return to pan, whisking constantly.

Cook and stir over low heat until mixture thickens and coats back of spoon. Remove from heat; whisk in peanut butter. Quickly transfer to bowl; place in ice water and stir 2 minutes. Stir in cream and vanilla. Press wax paper onto surface of custard. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Fill cylinder of ice cream freezer 2/3 full; freeze according to manufacturer’s directions.

When ice cream is frozen, spoon into freezer container, layering with jelly; freeze 2-4 hours before serving.

Nutritional information per serving: 271 calories; 23 g total fat; 11 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 72 mg cholesterol; 205 mg sodium; 13 g total carbohydrates; 1 g dietary fiber; 8 g total sugars; 6 g protein.



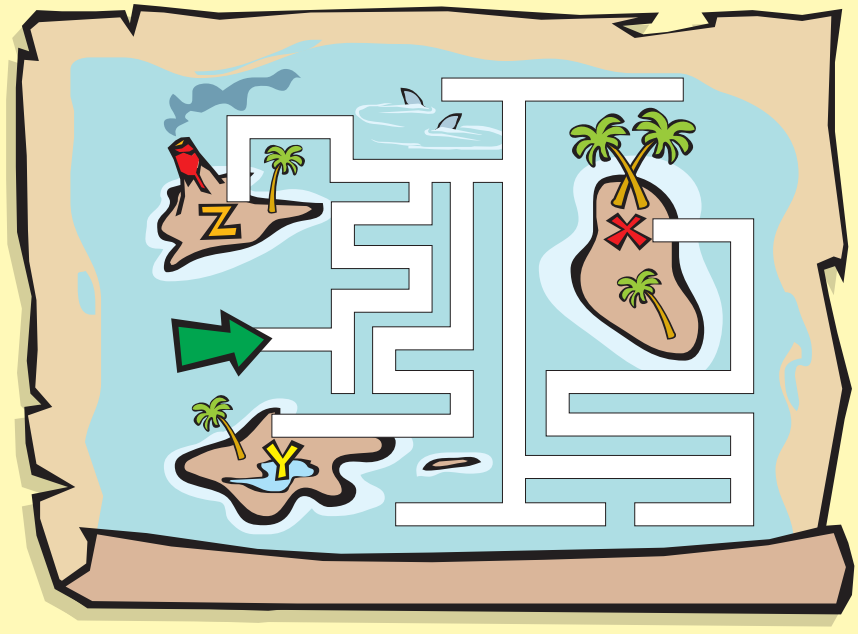
Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!



Vol. 23 No. 24 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

X Marks the Spot!

Can you find the way to the treasure?
It is buried under the big X.



My Rhyme Time

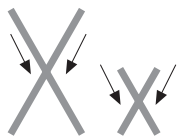
I love sixpence, jolly, jolly, sixpence,
I love sixpence as my life.
I spent a penny of it, I spent a penny of it,
I took a penny home to my wife.

My name:

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

My Letters

X marks the spot
x marks the spot



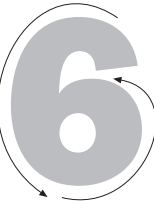
Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter X. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many pictures can you find on this page that **end** with the sound that the letter **X** makes in the word **fox**?

My Numbers

How many  ?

How many  ?



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

My Sentence

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

GO Six foxes can STOP

Sunday

Letter Identification

With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that have the same sound as the letter X in fox.

Monday

Math Play

Point to the number 6 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it’s large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Fox in a Box

Write the letters o and x on a piece of paper. Cut the letters f and b from the newspaper. Show your child how the letters can be put in front of the o and x to make the words fox and box.

Wednesday

X Marks the Spot: Numbers!

Locate and draw an X on all of the numbers in your address or phone number. Connect each X like a dot-to-dot.

Thursday

X Marks the Spot: Where You Live!

Using one page of the newspaper, say to your child, “Draw an X on all of the letters that spell the name of our street!” Connect the Xs to spell your street name.

Friday

X Marks the Spot: Squares!

Have your child look through the newspaper and draw an X on all of the squares you can find. Circle the biggest square.

Saturday

X Marks the Spot: Body Parts!

Give your child a page with pictures from the newspaper’s sports section. Have your child draw an X on different body parts, such as an elbow, a knee, a wrist, a head, etc.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy’s signature

Date

Learning Buddies!

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

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

The People-Sentinel

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Local People!
Locally Owned!

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hometown newspaper!



Finish each poem to discover where each person likes to read.

When I settle down to read,
I like something soft
To rest my head.
That's why my favorite place to read
Is in my cozy _____.

It's quiet where I read
And that makes me so merry!
The place I go to read
Is at my local _____.

Reading is fun.
It makes me feel free!
Especially at the park
In the shade of a _____.

Far from the shore,
I read wearing a coat
Because it gets chilly
Reading on our _____.

My favorite books are thrillers
And they can give me quite a scare.
That's why I keep a very
bright light on
When reading in our easy
_____.

I like to read adventure books.
They're really quite dynamic!
But I kick back to read them
While relaxing in a backyard
_____.

When I read,
I try to sit up straight.
My mom says,
"Please don't slouch."
But it's hard to do that
because I read while sitting
on our fluffy _____.

Standards Link: Identify words from context clues.

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With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop**® printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at:



kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop
VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
CAMPAIGN

The noun **campaign** means a series of activities and messages to reach a goal.

The fourth graders started a **campaign** to pick up all the litter at their school.

Try to use the word **campaign** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

Get Caught Reading

Get Caught Reading is a campaign to promote the fun of reading books!

The *Get Caught Reading* organization provides posters to schools and libraries that show Olympic stars, entertainment stars and even popular book characters reading for fun.

Can you get caught reading this month?

For information on how to get these posters go to getcaughtreading.org

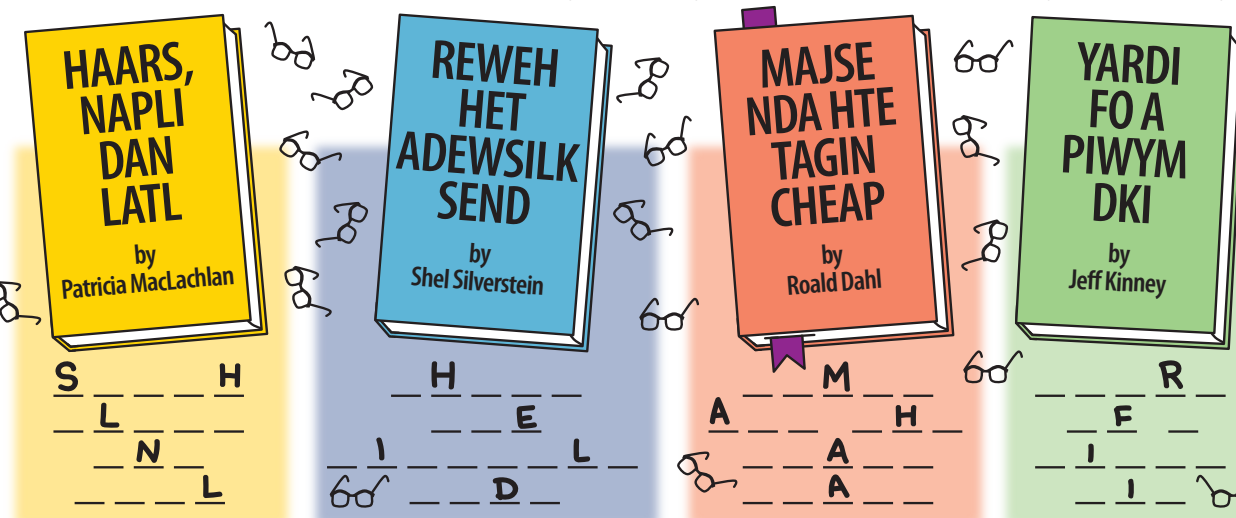


Circle the kinds of books you like to read.



Scrambled Book Titles

Unscramble the titles of these famous books. Have you read any of them? You can find them at your local library.



Extra! Extra!
What's black and white and READ all over?
Look at one page of the newspaper. Circle every word you can read in red. Pretty soon your newspaper page will be black and white and red all over—just like the riddle!
Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

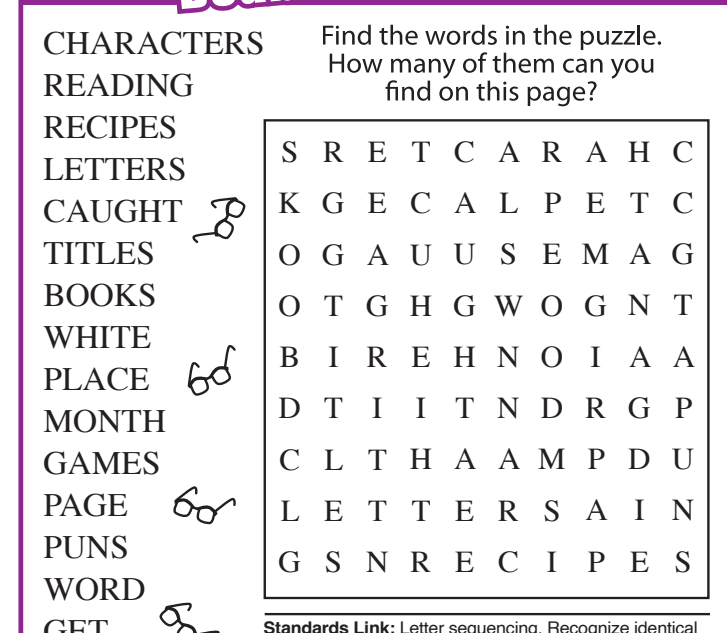
Silly Book Puns

A **pun** is a play on words. Read the book titles below and then draw a line from the book title to the author's name that makes a funny pun. For example: *The Arctic Ocean* by I.C. Waters.



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Scrambled Stories

Select three articles in the newspaper and cut them out. Cut apart the article from the headlines. Then give to a friend or family member to read each article and find the matching headline.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate info.



Write On!

Best Book of the Summer

Summertime is also reading time. What book should other kids read this summer? Why?

SOUTHEASTERN

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Homeownership
- Home Repairs
- Attainable Rental Housing
- Blight to BRIGHT Program
- FoodShare
- Benefits Access

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