



**Barnwell Ponytails headed to World Series, Sports, B1**

**Who won races on the June 11th primaries? News, A2**



# The People • Sentinel

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2 SECTIONS / 20 PAGES / \$

## Meeting about new consolidated high school draws large crowd

**Alexandra Whitbeck**  
Reporter  
[reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com)

The Barnwell County School District (BCSD) transition board's June 11 community meeting was well attended. Residents from across the county came to learn more about the upcoming facility plans for the new, consolidated high school.

"You have been working with us to consolidate district operations and working on that throughout this year, but you have also been tasked with putting into effect a plan to have one countywide high school. That isn't a choice you were given, but instead you have been tasked to put a plan in

place to make that happen," said BCSD Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton to the board.

"That is not easy, because change is difficult. I appreciate you doing your due diligence to gather all of the information you need to make an informed decision," said Dr. Stapleton.

Four concepts were presented by Tim Williams, the principal architect of SSOE, the district's architect/engineering firm, and Jeffrey Reynolds of H.G. Reynolds, a Construction Management At-Risk Services firm as well as the district's project manager.

"This is probably one of the most important things that has happened and that is going to happen in



See SCHOOL, 9A **Concept one for a new CATE-focused high school in Barnwell County.**

*"This isn't a choice you were given, but instead you have been tasked to put a plan in place."*

**- BCSD Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton** speaking to the appointed board of their decision for a new high school



**William Shipes (second from left) of Windmill Farms in Williston talks with visitors who stopped by his farm as part of the Ag + Art Tour of Barnwell County.** Contributed Photo

## Ag + Art Tour celebrates local farmers and artisans

**Elijah de Castro**  
Report for America  
[elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com)

Over two weekends, hundreds of locals and tourists gathered at farms across Barnwell and Allendale counties for the regional Ag + Art tour, which celebrated farmers and artists from throughout the region.

On June 1, Hanberry and Sons Family Farm, Well Springs Farm and the Allendale Farmers Market were the first locations for the events.

"The main goal is for this to become a holistic place. We not only have the farm but other therapeutic things going on. I think people need to have a safe haven," said Phyllis Smart, owner of Well Springs Farm in Appleton. They had vendors and live music.

At Handberry & Sons Family Farm in Martin, George and Mia Handberry are raising the seventh generation of farmers with their sons.



**Fresh cut lavender was a popular purchase at King George Lavender Farm in Barnwell during the Ag + Art Tour.** Photo Courtesy: Laura J. McKenzie

"Truly is a family affair. our greenhouse and check it George and I order the seeds. every day. Then we bring it We mix our own compost fertilizer. Grow everything in

See TOUR, 3A

## Four schools receive new leaders after series of leadership shifts

**Jonathan Vickery**  
Publisher  
[jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com)

Several leaders are shifting positions in advance of the Barnwell County School District's (BCSD) inaugural year.

With Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45), the Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD), and the Barnwell County Career Center consolidating into one district, the BCSD, on July 1, the board and administration are working to fill several vacant leadership positions on the school and district levels.

"Each of these new appointees comes with a rich background in education and a deep commitment to the district's communities. Each of these individuals is a true



champion for children and has exhibited a strong passion for helping our county's children be successful. We look forward to a wonderful 2024-2025 school year!" said BCSD Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

**New Assistant Superintendent Barnwell High School**

See LEADERS, 10A

## Romantic rivalry leads to fatal hit and run in Allendale

**Jonathan Vickery**  
Publisher  
[jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com)

A romantic rivalry turned fatal over the weekend in Allendale.

In the late evening hours of Saturday, June 15, the Allendale Police Department (APD) responded to the area of Mill Street South at the intersection of Bing Street, Kennedy Park neighborhood, for a hit and run.

"The Allendale County EMS was dispatched first in response to a 911 caller who heard the victim, Theresa Elmore, crying out for assistance. Upon arrival it was determined that Elmore's injuries were the result of being struck by a vehicle," stated a press release from APD.

Assistance was requested by the South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) who assisted in the initial traffic investigation. Investigation



**Shakita Duncan is charged in a fatal hit and run that happened in Allendale on June 15.**

by the APD and the Allendale County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) revealed that Elmore was struck by a Chrysler 300C driven by 35-year-old Shakita Duncan, originally from Greenwood.

See CHARGED, 3A

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### OBITUARIES, 7A

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- Elizabeth Dean Moon Mansfield - Washington, GA
- Ms. Earline Bing - Williston
- Chuck McCormick - Blackville
- Thomas R. Higgs - Lexington
- James Hugh Plunk - Barnwell
- Louise King - Aiken



\$1.00 Retail  
For home delivery pricing, 4B

# Primary results: Sheriff Griffith, new council members elected

**Jonathan Vickery**  
 Publisher  
[joickery@thepeoplesentinel.com](mailto:joickery@thepeoplesentinel.com)

The field for the November general election has narrowed after voters cast their votes in the June 11 primaries.

Of Barnwell County's 12,750 registered voters, 2,100 turned out - 1,570 Republican voters and 530 Democratic voters. This equates to a 16.47 percent voter turnout, according to unofficial results provided by the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Election Office.

Of those who voted, 1,387 votes were cast on election day, 646 were done during early voting, and 67 were by absentee ballot.



**Sheriff Steve Griffith won re-election in the Republican primary.**

In the race for Barnwell County sheriff, two candidates were vying for the Republican nomination.

Incumbent Sheriff Steven "Grits" Griffith won re-election with 1,413 votes. Challenger Stephen Gunnells received 148 votes.

"I thank each of you who came out and voted, or voted early, to re-elect me in the primary as Sheriff of Barnwell County. I would also like to thank you all for

the prayers, support and encouragement I received. I am deeply humbled by your trust and confidence in me, and your sheriff's office," said Griffith, who also thanked his wife, family and close friends for their help.

While the results didn't turn out as he'd hoped, Gunnells said it was a learning experience. "I have learned that God always has a plan," said Gunnells, who thanked his supporters and congratulated Griffith on his win.

Griffith now advances to the November election where he will be the only candidate. There are no Democratic challengers.

**Barnwell County Council District 3**



**Andy Hogg won the Republican primary for the District 3 seat on Barnwell County Council.**

In the race for the District 3 seat on Barnwell County Council, two people sought the Republican nomination in the primary.

Andy Hogg won with 181 votes while David Peachey received 162 votes.

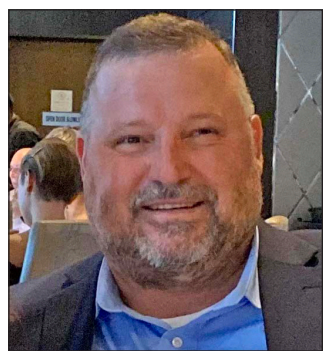
"I am honored and humbled by the support. I applaud David Peachey for a hard-fought race. As always, I will strive to put our community first and be a servant of all people to better Barnwell County,"

said Hogg.

In congratulating Hogg on his victory, Peachey said he hopes Hogg "supports the constituents of our district and our county with the highest regard while fulfilling this position."

Hogg will face Democratic candidate Willie Walker in the November general election.

**Barnwell County Council District 7**



**Travis Hooper won the Republican primary for the District 7 seat on Barnwell County Council.**

In the race for the District 7 seat on Barnwell County Council, three people were running for the Republican nomination.

Travis Hooper won with 265 votes. Alan Kennedy received 96 votes while Johnnie Zorn received 48.

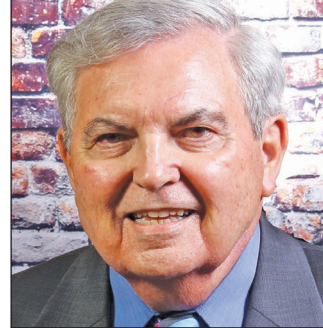
"Unfortunately, this election did not go as we would have liked. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who supported me and helped me along the way. I'd also like to ask that you pray for the ones who will be elected in November that they put God first and that the citizens of Barnwell County be their priority," said Kennedy.

Zorn said he is "greatly and sincerely thankful" to each person who exercised their right to vote, regardless of who they voted for.

Though he didn't win, he is glad to have brought attention of some "issues and innovative idea of what and where our county should go. I will remain a voice for my community, just as my campaign slogan was, by still advocating for the things our community needs," said Zorn, who congratulates Hooper on his election.

There are no Democratic candidates, so Hooper will be the only candidate in November.

**S.C. House District 91**



**Ben Kinlaw won the Republican primary for the S.C. House District 91 seat.**

In the Republican primary, two candidates ran for the S.C. House District 91 seat.

Ben Kinlaw received 1,242 votes districtwide, which includes Barnwell, Allendale and Orangeburg counties. This included 1,038 votes in Barnwell County and 32 in Allendale County. Demaris Johnson received 600 votes across the district, including 474 in Barnwell County and 47 in Allendale County.

"I want to thank everyone who voted for me. We are already working on the Nov. 5th election," said Kinlaw.

"I would like to thank everyone who supported me during my campaign. I wish Mr. Kinlaw the best of

luck come November," said Johnson.

Kinlaw will face Democratic incumbent Rep. Lonnie Hosey on Nov. 5.

**S.C. Senate District 40**



**Sen. Brad Hutto won the Democratic primary for his District 40 S.C. Senate seat.**

In the Democratic primary, two candidates ran for the S.C. Senate District 40 seat.

Incumbent Brad Hutto received 5,153 votes from across the district, which includes Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton and Orangeburg. Of that total, local votes included 385 votes from Barnwell County and 300 from Allendale County. Challenger Kendrick Brown received 2,055 votes, including 135 from Barnwell County and 88 from Allendale County.

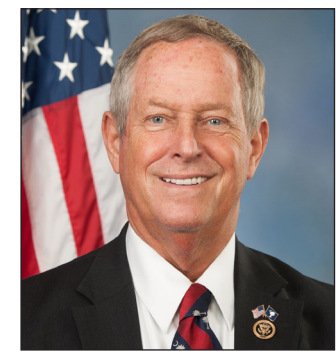
After attending the Barnwell County Democratic Party's fish fry recently, Hutto said, "It was clear in speaking to everyone in attendance that education, affordable housing, and curbing gun violence are priority concerns for voters, and I will continue to fight to address those issues at the State House."

Though he came up short in votes, Brown thanks everyone that supported his campaign. "My number one goal was to inspire people to go after their dreams and be the change they want to

see. I'll never stop fighting for our communities and the future generations that will one day run the world. Family, friends, voters, and supporters, you all have given me the inspiration to keep fighting for a better future for all of us," said Brown.

Sen. Hutto will face Republican candidate Sharon Carter on November 5.

**U.S. House of Representatives District 2**



**Rep. Joe Wilson won the Republican primary for his U.S. House District 2 seat.**

Republican and Democratic primaries were held for the U.S. House of Representatives District 2 seat.

On the Republican side, incumbent Joe Wilson won with 34,292 votes districtwide, including 1,162 votes in Barnwell County. Challenger Hamp Redmond received 12,085 votes districtwide, including 373 in Barnwell County.

On the Democratic side, David Robinson II won with 16,299 votes, 340 of which were from Barnwell County voters. Daniel J. Shrief received 3,093 votes, including 94 from Barnwell County voters.

Rep. Wilson and Robinson will face off in the November 5 general election.

Check your voter registration info at [scvotes.gov](http://scvotes.gov).

## 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.

**Rasheed James Ballard**, 32, of 427 Carroll Street, Al-

lendale, S.C. was arrested on June 13, 2024 by Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Driving Under Suspension, Possession of Ecstasy, Possession of Marijuana, Operating Uninsured Vehicle, and Open Container. Ballard was booked and

released to Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

**Nina Olivia Delk**, 32, of 463 Blossom Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on June 14, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Appear. Delk was booked and released to BCDC.

**Linda Leigh Elliott**, 50,

of 94 Corley Heights Richard Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on June 10, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Court Fines. Elliot was booked and released to BCDC.

**Thomas Weslie Emery**, 39, of 130 Percheron Drive, Or-

angeburg, S.C. was arrested on June 11, 2024 by BCSO for Unlawful Communications. Emery was booked and released to BCDC.

**Brandon Justin Owens**, 35, of 165 Bass Lake Drive, Ridgeland, S.C. was arrested on June 11, 2024 by BCSO

for Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Convicted Felon. Owens was booked and released to BCDC.

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# Sundial Festival donates proceeds to Keep Barnwell County Beautiful

**CHARGED:**  
Driver arrested for killing romantic rival in hit and run

FROM PAGE 1A

“Elmore succumbed to her injuries while receiving medical attention. Duncan and Elmore had romantic interests in the same man, who Elmore went to see the morning of her death,” stated the release.

Duncan was charged with Murder and Hit and Run Death. She was booked at the Allendale County Detention Center.



The Barnwell Sundial Committee presented a check with proceeds from the annual festival to Keep Barnwell County Beautiful. Pictured from left: Ashley Culp, Barbara Christian, Ben Kinlaw, Peggy Kinlaw, Nicole Conklin, Evelyn Coker, Rowlanda “Ronnie” McClain, Amy Davis, and Liz Ringus.

Alexandra Whitbeck  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeople sentinel.com

The 2024 Sundial Festival donated a check for \$2,949 to Keep Barnwell County Beautiful (KBCB) from the proceeds of the annual event.

Barnwell County received their official affiliation with Keep America Beautiful on April 20, 2023 and has been working diligently to clean up the county since. Funding support from the Sundial Festival Committee allows them to continue.

“We are flabbergasted at the amount of this check,” said Ben Kinlaw, Chairman

of KBCB. Kinlaw explained KBCB recently designed the 3 E Program, ‘Enlightenment, Education, and Enforcement,’ which this funding will go toward supporting.

“We will continue to work hard to push this forward,” said Kinlaw.

Other KBCB members are Peggy Kinlaw, Margo Huggins, Liz Ringus Ashley Howell, Evelyn Coker, Enterick Lee, and Darlene Sanders. Members of the Barnwell Sundial Committee are Ashley Kearse Culp, Barbara Christian, Liz Ringus, Amy Davis, Nicole Conklin, and Rowlanda “Ronnie” McClain.

## TOUR: Residents, visitors discover agriculture, art treasures in Allendale, Barnwell

FROM PAGE 1A



Peachey Farms, owned by Milisa and David Peachey, was one of the stops on the tour. Laura J. McKenzie



Barnwell Primary School's garden and space chicken program was a stop on the tour. Contributed



David Reuis and his son check out the vendors at the Barnwell Farmers Market. Laura J. McKenzie

out here and get on back of tractor....and plant every single one by hand,” said Mia.

On June 8 and 9, seven locations throughout Barnwell County hosted attendees for the events.

At Windmill Farms, a farm in Williston that participated in the tour, stained glass artist Stacy O’Sullivan sold pieces alongside farmer William Shipes.

“A lot of people don’t know some of the smaller local businesses that do arts and crafts,” said Shipes, who gave tours of

his farm to visitors. “This gave them a chance to get to know some people and to make some contacts.”

Although locals made up a large number of the attendees, people from as far as Charleston and North Carolina came on the tour.

“It was a great opportunity to see where our food comes from, while supporting the arts and culture of the region,” said Bob Snead, president of the Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber, which organized the event with Clemson University

Extension. “It gave us the opportunity to spur tourism to our area and feature some of our greatest regional assets. We had the honor of meeting folks from all over the state, some of whom were visiting the region for the first time.”

Shipes also said the event helped reconnect locals to the food system. At Windmill Farms, Shipes brought attendees through their fields and discussed different agricultural practices.

“It was really good getting everybody to see

how hard we work and what we’re doing,” said Shipes. “A lot of times you don’t get that interaction in the market because there’s so many people coming and going and you don’t get that personal experience. A lot of people don’t even know what a tomato plant looks like, they only know what a tomato looks like in the store.”

Rodney Oakley, a new farmer at Oakley Family Farms, said the tour helped his farm get more exposure. Within the local community, the

farmers market, Facebook and word of mouth are often the only ways that small farmers can market themselves.

“We don’t have a huge marketing push,” Oakley said. Oakley Family Farms is a small-scale meat farm that also sells goat milk products like soaps and lotions. “It’s word of mouth, Facebook and our website. This has really helped us and exposed people to us. It gives us a shot.”

Other stops in Barnwell County included King George Lavender Farm &

Mercantile, Peachey Farms, the Barnwell Farmers Market, the Barnwell Primary School Garden & Space Chicken Program, the Little Red Barn Pottery & Art Gallery.

The tours in Allendale and Barnwell counties are part of a statewide tour. Snead said they plan to participate in the statewide Ag + Art Tour next year and make it even better.

Go to [www.agandarttour.com](http://www.agandarttour.com) to learn more about tours in other counties and to stay updated on the 2025 tour.

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	NEXT WORKSHOP
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">June 11</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-style: italic;">Building a Strong Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: #4CAF50;">DONE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Life Jessica Bradshaw HEALing Partners</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">June 25</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Reversing Arthritis</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Jessica Bradshaw HEALing Partners</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">July 9</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Understanding Packaging and Nutrition Information</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Hannah Long Clemson SNAP-Ed</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">July 25</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Healthy Fats vs Unhealthy Fats</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Hannah Long Clemson SNAP-Ed</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">August 13</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Nutrition Eating for Picky Eaters</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Hannah Long Clemson SNAP-Ed</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">August 27</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Nutrition and Your Heart</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Jennifer Toole American Heart Association</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">September 10</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Let's Walk Fuller Park</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Carolina Taylor HEALing Partners</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">September 24</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">Body in Motion Stays in Motions</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Earnie Gloster HEALing Partners / YMCA Instructor *Raffle giveaway each workshop</p>

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USDA

## BIRTH



Andrew Knight Kerr was born on April 25, 2024.

### Andrew Knight Kerr

Christopher and Rebecca Kerr of Norman, Oklahoma are proud to announce the birth of their son, Andrew Knight Kerr, at 10:57 a.m. on April 25, 2024 at Norman Regional HealthPlex. Andrew weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Ms. Cathy Brakefield of Spartanburg, S.C. and Mr. and Mrs. David McCarter of Columbia, S.C.

Paternal grandparents are Steve and Diane Kerr of Barnwell, S.C.

## BIRTH



Owen Dale Lott was born on April 23, 2024.

### Owen Dale Lott

David and Kendall Lott of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of their son, Owen Dale Lott. He was born on April 23, 2024 at 5:09 p.m. in Augusta, Ga. He weighed 8 pounds and measured 20 inches long.

He was welcomed home by older sister Mila Lott, age 3.

Maternal grandparents are Phillip & Jessica Thomas of Barnwell and Joseph & Patricia Harter of Martin.

Paternal grandparents are Raymond & Suzanne Lott of Barnwell.

## BIRTH



Aubree Noelle Armour was born on May 8, 2024.

### Aubree Noelle Armour

Donald and Antasha Armour of Barnwell are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Aubree Noelle Armour.

She was born May 8, 2024 at 8:24 a.m. at Lexington Hospital. She weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 18 inches long.

Aubree has four older siblings: Deshawn, Lee'Asia, Autumn, and Neveah.

Paternal grandparents are the late Harry Moore of Atlanta, Ga. and Alfrances Armour of Augusta, Ga.

Maternal grandparents are Davis and JoAnn Barker of Barnwell and Bruce and Linda Jones of Columbia.

Great-grandmothers are Minnie Odom and Josie Barker of Barnwell.

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## LouAnn Lee concert blessed Barnwell County

Donna-Maria Conzalina  
Faith Correspondent

People across the county were certainly not disappointed recently when they visited Blackville First Baptist Church (BFBC) to attend Award winning Christian recording artist LouAnn Lee's single night concert and dinner gathering that followed. Lee, who traveled the furthest herself, didn't think twice when asked to fly coast to coast to simply bless our humble community.

The invitation came from Blackville residents and devoted members of BFBC, Darlene and Steve Brandt. The Brandts became close friends of Lee's years ago when they attended church in California where Lee served as their worship leader. "LouAnn is anointed by God and will always have a special place in my heart." Darlene Brandt said.

Lee's flight arrived in South Carolina's borderline city of Charlotte, NC where she began her turn around, fast paced weekend. The Brandts began that Saturday morning early as they drove upstate, picked up Lee, returned to Blackville where BFBC had a tent set up in participation for the celebrated local Music and Arts Festival. Lee never showed or mentioned an ounce of exhaustion from extensive traveling and remained filled with The Spirit of Love. Even before settling in, she sang a couple of songs for the



LouAnn Lee sings at Blackville First Baptist Church.

Photos By: Donna-Maria Conzalina

community that very afternoon at the town's festival.

The Brandts made arrangements for Lee to rest and relax at Wisteria Cottage, run by Lill and Alvin Stoltzfus, on Jones Bridge Road in Blackville. Lee said of the accommodations, "Wisteria Cottage cottage is so quaint and wonderfully relaxing. I slept very well there and very much enjoyed the sounds of the countryside."

After a short break to unpack and rest a bit, that evening the singer rehearsed and did a sound check at the church with Sound Tech, Scott Kaigler, Worship Leader, Betsy Hair and Pastor Ken Frederick. Suzanne Frederick, the Pastor's wife, cooked a homemade dinner for the small gathering; giving the small group time to break

bread, pray, talk, laugh and enjoy.

During Sunday morning service Lee offered a few original songs and shared a glimpse into her testimony; inviting the congregation to return that evening for more details, praise and worship. A table was set up in the fellowship hall where church members were welcome to meet with Lee after service and have the opportunity to purchase CD's, T-shirts, songbooks, hats and more.

Sunday evening the church was filled with community members from various denominations, races and ages. Lee commented on how she loved "looking out and seeing such beautiful unity with the audience raising hands in praise and worship to our Lord Jesus."



From left to right: Steve and Darlene Brandt, LouAnn Lee, Pastor Ken Frederick, and Betsy Hair.

Steve Brandt noted, LouAnn's music is unique and uses scripture in her original songs. She encourages people in the audience to join in to worship the Lord".

Her selections were sung from the heart with distinct beauty and vocal range. Her favorite song, she said, titled, "Love" was especially powerful and moving. As a lyricist, keyboard musician, with a gift for angelic vocals, Lee mixes simplicity with a depth of emotion that's indeed, anointed.

"Love stretched out His Hands on a Cross.

Cried God forgive them, they are lost.

Love hung there for us.

Blood poured from His Head, His Hands, His Feet.

So we'd be healed and we'd be free.

Love bled for you and me."

-LouAnne Lee

Darlene Brandt commented on the Blackville Info Page she and her husband, Mark (Steve) Brandt run on Facebook. "What

a blessed weekend BFBC and our community had because of having LouAnn Lee sing at the Blackville Music and Arts Festival on May 18th and then on Sunday May 19th at the BFBC 10:30 a.m. service. She sang two of her beautiful songs, *Great Day* and *Behold*. Later at 6 p.m., she captivated all of us with her scripture-based original songs and her testimony. I miss you already LouAnn. Until next time. We love you."

Pastor Ken Frederick, who has an active passion for sharing Christ with the community through various events geared for all ages, shared these thoughts, "We were blessed to host LouAnn Lee for this special weekend. Sunday night's concert was an encouraging time of worship with friends from across our area. We look forward to other events like this one and pray the Lord will continue to use LouAnn across our nation and in

her ministries in the Philippines — for His Glory!" Amen to that.

Members of Blackville First Baptist Church unanimously agreed on their Facebook page by posting, "Thank you, LouAnn Lee for sharing your gift with the citizens of Blackville. What a blessing!"

Lee was just as pleased with the opportunity to visit and perform here for the first time in South Carolina, saying, "What a joy to sing the songs God gave me and to share the stories behind them at Blackville First Baptist Church. You all instantly became family to me. Thank you for the warm reception, your kind words and beautiful enthusiasm for God's presence. I can't wait to come back. May God bless each of you with His love and grace!"

More highlights about LouAnn Lee's Music Ministry can be found on Facebook, Youtube and at her website: [www.louannlee.com](http://www.louannlee.com).

## Choosing to serve God: Two Latter-day Saints missionaries serve Barnwell area

Linda F. Knapp  
Contributor

Each year, tens of thousands of neatly dressed young men and women, and senior couples go out to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ across the globe. Some regularly serve in the greater Barnwell area - currently Elder DeFriez from Utah and Elder Kaonohi from Hawaii.

There was a time when these missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints went

mostly door to door, but after Covid they rely almost exclusively on social media referrals in this area. At any given time, 72,000 missionaries are serving 18 to 24 months usually with their family or themselves paying all living expenses as all missionaries are required to focus 100% on their mission. They do not work, date, go to school, take online classes, or visit family. They do not smoke or drink alcohol. In their calling to serve in a particular country and location

is made based on the need and inspiration of church leaders. They can contact their families one day a week by email, phone, or Facebook Messenger.

Elder Kaonohi said he had certain goals in mind in choosing to serve a proselytizing mission. "I broke my shoulder in high school and had about 12 months as a senior to recover while I contemplated college, work options, dating and marriage. In the end I wanted to develop my faith and become a better

man. My father loves me, but he was a hard man demanding much of his children. I hoped I could learn to show love and understanding before I married and had children of my own by serving as Jesus served. You know gazing upward at Heaven, looking inward, reaching outward and pressing forward in Christ."

President Nelson, our prophet, encourages all worthy young men to serve a mission. He wants good men, who are already motivated, to stand up and be counted in that spiritual war taking place in the world. I feel like a good example, a soldier for Christ," said Elder Kaonohi.

"I genuinely am happier than I've even been and that's because of my relationship with Jesus Christ," stated Elder DeFriez. "My



Elder Waiatea Kanonohi (left) and Elder Treven A. DeFriez (right) have been serving the greater Barnwell area. Photo Contributed

parents taught me, and my siblings encouraged me to serve a mission, but I pray morning, at meals, and every night. I am so glad I've come on my mission. We are learning loads of useful skills - being organized, exercising self-control, talking to people, and really listening, public speaking, how to have a good relationship with a companion, strengthening my faith and even enduring rejection and ridicule for my belief in God. Now is my time."

"People here in Barnwell, Bamberg and Allendale counties are so kind and friendly. We teach about 20 lessons a week. People are opening their hearts to God and want spiritual experiences. We mostly teach about repentance, baptism, the restoration of the gospel following the deaths of

the original apostles, and the plan of salvation," said DeFriez.

The number of young men and women serving proselytizing missions has increased 25% in the past three years, thus, more missionaries are able to serve in their country of origin and keep living expenses lower. The Church has opened various local area service, temple and family history missions to retirees, those with learning and physical limitations, health issues and with other restrictions. Dozens of seniors and young adults are now serving these kinds of local missions in Aiken, South Carolina congregations again without any financial compensation. When serving others they have chosen to serve God.

When serving others they have chosen to serve God.

### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF BLACKVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the Barnwell County Board of Voter Registration & Elections will conduct a Special Election for the Town of Blackville on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024** to fill an unexpired term of Town Council. This is a nonpartisan election and no party affiliation shall be placed on the ballot. The polls shall open at 7:00 a.m. on Election Day and close at 7:00 p.m.

The early voting period for this election begins Monday, July 29, 2024 and ends on Friday, August 9, 2024. The following early voting centers will be open during the early voting period from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays).

- Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office, 367 Fuldner Rd. Barnwell, SC

Precincts involved in this election are Blackville #1, Blackville #2, and Healing Springs. Polling places for this Special Election will be held at the Blackville Community Center, 19464 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville, SC.

Persons desiring to be candidates for the above listed office may file with the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections Office located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC. Books will be open for filing on June 17, 2024 at Noon and remain open until June 28, 2024 at Noon. There will be a filing fee of \$75.00 for the office of Town Council.

Persons desiring to vote in this election must be duly registered on the County Books of Registration as an elector and a resident of the municipality, not less than 30 days prior to the date of election. The last day to register to vote for this municipal election will be **July 12, 2024**.

To register to vote in Barnwell County or update your address and/or other voter registration information, please visit the office of the Barnwell County Registration & Elections at 367 Fuldner Rd. Barnwell, SC. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Citizens with a current and valid S.C. Driver's License or DMV ID Card can register to vote and update their address online at [scvotes.gov](http://scvotes.gov).

At 9:00 a.m. on Election Day, the Barnwell County Election Commission will begin examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes. This examination will be held at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC.

On Thursday, **August 15, 2024** at 10:00 am, the Barnwell County Election Commission will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all ballots challenged in this election at the Barnwell County Voter Registration & Elections office located at 367 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell, SC.

## Primary runoff for Allendale County Council District 1 seat set for June 25

Elijah de Castro  
Report for America  
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

Following a close three-way primary in which neither leading candidate received a majority of votes cast, a runoff election will be held on June 25 for Allendale County Council's first district which includes large parts of Fairfax and southern Allendale County.

The first round of voting, which took place on June 11, saw 165 ballots cast in the Democratic primary, with educator Keith Browning receiving 24 votes (14.55% of ballots cast), former magistrate judge John Chaney receiving 66 votes (40% of ballots cast) and decades-long incumbent Theresa Taylor receiving 75 votes (45.45% of ballots cast).

"While I have lost my bid to be your next County Councilman for Allendale County, District 1, I am nowhere near done," Browning said. "You don't have to be a

council member to effect change. We are still in the same boat as we were when I first threw my hat into the ring. We still need a fresh, new take on representation. It is obvious that we simply cannot continue on the path that we find ourselves on."

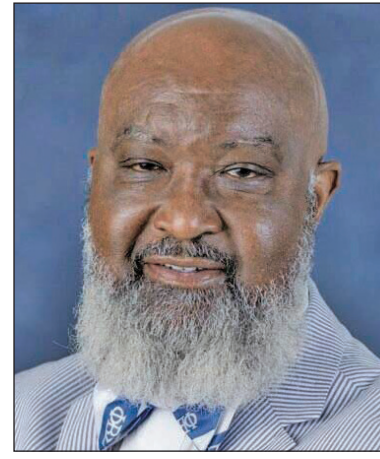
If re-elected, Taylor said, she wants to work on organizing the county's finances and hiring an administrator. Taylor also said one of her strengths as a candidate is her pre-existing knowledge of the inner workings of county council and its finances.

"I want to make sure we have accountability for our state and local funding," Taylor said. "I want to make sure employees have the tools to do their job and work towards making Allendale County a safe community."

If elected, Chaney said, he wants to work with the council to address nutrition issues in Fairfax and increase financial transparency. Chaney also said one of his strengths on council would be



Incumbent county council member Theresa Taylor and former magistrate judge John Chaney will be on the ballot on June 25 to represent Allendale County Council District 1.



being a new council member. "I think it's time for a change and I have a lot of ideas," Chaney said. "We need a store in Fairfax, and if I'm on council we can find some grant money to get that grocery store. If I'm elected, I'm going to vote if I think it's best for the county and best for the citizens."

The runoff election is open to all Allendale County voters, even

those who did not vote in the June 11 primary. However, those who voted in the primary can only vote in the same party's runoff.

### Absentee Voting

- The deadline to return an absentee application for the runoffs was June 14 at 5 p.m.

- If you applied for an absentee ballot, you will receive your ballot in the mail soon.

- Once you get your ballot in the mail, complete and return your ballot to your county voter registration office by mail or in person no later than 7 p.m. on June 25.

- Be sure to sign the voter's oath and have the return envelope witnessed.

- Consider returning your ballot in person to ensure timely delivery.

- Photo ID will be required to return your ballot in person.

### Early Voting Period

- When: Wednesday, June 19 to Friday, June 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Where: Allendale County Board of Voter Registration & Elections (158 McNair Street, Allendale)

### Polling Place on Election Day

- Open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 25.

- Check your polling place at scVOTES.gov before leaving to vote.

- Bring your Photo ID.

## Allendale event prioritizes listening to community's young men

Elijah de Castro  
Report for America  
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

Listening was the theme of the day on June 15 at the Allendale County Courthouse, where young men and adults from throughout Allendale gathered to discuss community issues.

A generational disconnect within the Allendale community has been a barrier for moving the community forward, community leaders have told *The People-Sentinel*. At the 50 Men, 50 Boys event, older men from Allendale spent time listening to the lived experiences of the boys and young men in Allendale.

"We hear what we think should be happening in Allendale from adults all the time," said Fairfax Town Council member Phyllis Smart, who organized the event. "We want crime to go down, we want better schools, we want better parks. But today is your turn."

The attendees, which included several dozen young and adult men from throughout Allendale, were broken into three groups



Dozens of people gathered at the Allendale County Courthouse on June 15 to hear the perspectives of young men in Allendale County.

where they discussed different aspects of life in Allendale: education, neighborhoods, and law enforcement.

Following the shootings of fourteen-year-old Allendale-Fairfax High School student Markayla Roberts and an 11-year-old girl in April, wider community discussions have been taking place about the root causes of violence in Allendale; On June 5, the family of Roberts and community leaders rallied at the South Carolina statehouse in Columbia and

spoke with Representative Lonnie Hosey (District 91) about how to make Allendale County a safer place to live.

Allendale resident Nate Hartley, who listened to several young men speak about violence in different neighborhoods in Allendale, said the discussion was able to deepen empathy for victims of gun violence.

"When we initially asked them how they feel about it, they said they didn't care," Hartley said. "When I circled back around and



asked that question a second time after they had some time to think about it, they felt like they could feel for what people are going through."

As previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*, many of the proposed ideas to address gun violence face roadblocks in implementation. Both young people within Allendale and adults support increasing recreational opportunities in the community, however, high costs and municipal mismanagement have pre-

vented projects like community centers from getting completed.

Allendale Town Council member Marlon Creech, who frequently organizes with young men in the community, led a conversation on how young men in Allendale should seek guidance from older men in the community.

"I love you, I care about you, I want to be here for you," said Creech to the young men in the crowd. "We all gotta start somewhere. At one point we were also young men trying."

## Allendale town council decides on town administrator candidate, supports raising water rates

Elijah de Castro  
Report for America  
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

At its June 11 meeting, the Allendale Town Council decided on a candidate for its empty town administrator position and approved the first reading of an ordinance that would raise town water rates.

### Town administrator

Following a job search that began in September 2023, the Town of Allendale offered its open town administrator position to Kathryn Harrison, who mayor pro-tem Dawan Smith said accepted the position. Harrison holds a master of public administration in non-profit, public and organizational management from Georgia Southern University.

"She has HR experience and a finance background," said Smith,



The Allendale Town Council has offered the town administrator position to Kathryn Harrison after a job search that began in September 2023.

noting that Harrison's job contract has not been signed. "Those are the types of things that we really need. She's the ideal candidate."

Previously, the town had decided to offer the position of administrator to Lamaz Robinson, then-police chief of Barnwell,

and had proposed hiring Allendale County Council member Bill Robinson as a part-time administrator. However, the council walked back the decision to hire Robinson in October.

Town administrators are responsible for day-to-day municipal operations, such

as payroll, stewarding grant funding and working between departments. The position is of high importance to Allendale, as the organization of the town's finances has been criticized by its own council members.

### Water rates

The town voted to approve the first reading of an ordinance that would raise water rates in the Town of Allendale. The proposed rate increases would be a progressive rate increase, meaning that the more water one uses, the more the rate of increase.

The proposed water rate increase was not without critics. Allendale resident Lester Flowers voiced concerns for the effects that rising water rates will have on Allendale's senior citizens.

"You got all these elderly people living on a fixed

income and y'all gotta be mindful of how you're raising bills," Flowers said. "You've gotta take that into consideration."

The Town of Allendale has received multiple sources of funding to repair local water systems, both from state and federal sources. One of which is a \$4,991,625 grant from the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program, which uses money from the American Rescue Plan Act for water-related grants throughout the state.

"We're gonna be doing some upgrades to our water system," said council member Hattie Jackson, who serves on the town's water committee. "We are in negotiations, we have an engineering firm, the plans and everything have been developed. That work has to be completed by the year 2026."

**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

## Elizabeth Dean Moon Mansfield



WASHINGTON, GA - Elizabeth Dean Moon Mansfield took her rest from this world on June 10th, 2024 after a brief and sudden illness.

Dean was born on November 12th, 1947 in Madison, GA and grew up in Greene County, GA. She was the daughter of L.H. "Tig" Moon and Blanche Ogletree Moon. Dean attended Georgia College where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education.

She married Clifford Gary Mansfield, and moved to Allendale, SC where she began her career as an educator. For the next 36 years she dedicated her life's work to the education of the children of South Carolina. She was known as a fun and inventive teacher, who loved to challenge her students, and make them laugh at the same time. Once you were one of "her kids" you never stopped being that. In 1974 she moved to Williston, SC, where she taught for the next 17 years, as an elementary and middle school teacher. During this time, she earned her Master's Degree +30 Hours

in School Administration from the University of South Carolina. In addition to her career, Dean was an active member of and played piano at the First Baptist Church in Williston. In 1991, Dean moved to Barnwell Elementary School as an Assistant Principal, and eventually became Principal. Dean and Gary moved to Barnwell in 1992.

In 2002, Dean earned her favorite title to date, "Gigi". Hannah, Emily, and later Cat brought her tremendous joy and pleasure. She was a loving, generous, and sometimes "spoiling" grandmother.

Dean retired from her career in education in 2004 and moved to Washington, GA where she and Gary built a large network of friends and family through community involvement and their volunteer work at the First Baptist Church of Washington, the Tour of Homes, and other community organizations. In later years, after the passing of Gary, Dean had a beautiful relationship with EB Baugh, and together they provided years of laughter, love, and friendship for each other.

Dean was remembered and recognized by all who encountered her. She was the very definition of having "never met a stranger". You were either a current friend or a future one.

Dean is survived by her loving best friend, EB Baugh; her son, Cliff Mansfield (Maia); her

granddaughters, Hannah Routly (Jace), Emily Mansfield, and Catherine Galindo-Lobo; her "adopted" son, Randy Gill; her daughter-in-law for 24 years, Mary Mansfield; her sister, Patricia Adams; her sister-in-law, Sherry Moon; and her numerous nieces and nephews.

Dean was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Gary Mansfield; her parents, L.H. "Tig" Moon and Blanche Ogletree Moon; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Clifford Hester Mansfield and Eunice Paschall Mansfield; her brothers, Lenny Moon, Fred Moon, and Larry Moon; and her sister, Nita Meadows.

Pallbearers will be Cliff Mansfield, Hannah Routly, Randy Gill, Jace Routly, Joey Hutto, Robert Moon, David Simpson, Tommy Moon and Billy Byce. Honorary pallbearers will be Gene Fender, Troy Sultan, Joe Powell, Larry Dick, Larry Wonoski, and Myron Warren.

Visitation was Friday, June 14th, 2024 at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Washington, GA. A memorial service followed at Washington First Baptist Church at 2 p.m., with Dr. Lee Clamp and Dr. Phil Pilgrim officiating. Graveside services followed at Resthaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Gideons International.

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## James Hugh Plunk



BARNWELL - James Hugh Plunk, 86, passed away on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas on December 5, 1937, to the late Warren Hugh and Laura Odean Plunk, he was a retired

supervisor from Burlington Industries. Mr. Plunk served in the United States Navy.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. in Seven Pines Baptist Church, with Rev. Robert Altman and Pastor Mark Watford officiating. Burial followed in the Barnwell County Memorial Cemetery by the airport. The family greeted guests one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Mr. Plunk is survived by his wife, Mary Lee Rountree Plunk; a daughter, Beverly Ann Plunk; grandchildren,

Gregory Lee Prather, Haley Lauren Prather, Jacqueline Birchmore, Brad Cochran, Danielle Moncrieft, and Katelyn Cochran; great-grandchildren, Channing Moncrieft, Silas Moncrieft, and Elijah Moncrieft. He was predeceased by his daughter, Debora Sue Cochran.

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

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## Thomas R. Higgs



LEXINGTON - Thomas "Tommy" R. Higgs, age 71, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at home in Lexington, S.C.

He was born September 19, 1952, in Albany, Ga. Tommy was a devoted hus-

band and father. He spent many years of his career working in public service, including for several years as administrator for the City of Barnwell. He enjoyed his retirement with his family.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Pam Higgs; his children, Thomas Higgs (Meredith) and Katie Barlet (Josh); his grandchildren, TJ, Evelyn, Aiden and Theodore; and his brother Shane Higgs. He is predeceased by his mother, Nan Higgs; his father, Maynard Higgs; his brother, Jim Higgs; his son, Travis Higgs; and his

grandson, Victor Higgs.

A celebration of life is scheduled for 11 a.m. on June 20, 2024, at The Beulah Methodist Church in Gilbert, S.C. Flowers and condolences may be offered at 161 Beulah Church Road, Gilbert, S.C. 29054.

The South Carolina Cremation Society is assisting the family. Please share memories and messages on the online guestbook at <https://www.afterall.com/obituaries/ThomasHiggs>.

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## Chuck McCormick

post on Chuck's Facebook page what you have done.

The family would like to send a special thank you to all of Chuck's doctors and nurses for being a big part of his life. Also, a huge thank you to the MUSC Adult Emergency ICU Charleston and the Staff at Mabry Cancer Center for all of their love, attention, and kindness shown to Chuck.

Born in Augusta, GA, Chuck was the son of Charles "Ed" Edward McCormick Jr. and Deborah Purvis McCormick. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Blackville. Chuck was great with numbers and never forgot a date. He loved making people happy by making nightly calls wishing people a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary. He was known as the Master of Birthdays.

In addition to his parents, Ed and Deborah, survivors include his aunts, Patty Ann

(George) Frost and Jane P. Bennett; uncle, Tim (Katie) McCormick; dear friends and caregivers, Theresa Mercado, Blaze Baxley and their daughter, Lillyanne Baxley; his cousins, Heather (Michael) Peters, Kevin (Jill) McCormick, Katelyn (Ryan) Delk, Tor (B) Huggins, Wesley Frost, Kristin (Thomas) Sellers, Todd (Piroujak) Bennett, Sara Bennett, Michael Bennett, Stephen Smeltzer and Ashley Smeltzer; and numerous other family members that Chuck loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Frank and Beatrice Purvis, and his paternal grandparents, Charlie and Kitty McCormick.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc. and Crematory assisted the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at [www.folkfuneralhome.com](http://www.folkfuneralhome.com).

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BLACKVILLE - Funeral services for Charles Edward "Chuck" McCormick III, 42, of Blackville, SC were held at 2 o'clock Monday, June 17, 2024 at the First Baptist Church of Blackville with the Reverends Ken Frederick and Andy Hunter officiating. Burial followed at the Double Pond Baptist Church Cemetery with Dr. T. Bart Kelley officiating. The family received friends from 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, June 16th at the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston, SC. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, please consider doing an act of kindness on Chuck's behalf and please

## Ms. Earline Bing

WILLISTON - Ms. Earline Bing entered into eternal rest on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Wellstar MCG, Augusta, GA.

Homegoing services for Ms. Earline Bing will be conducted on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 11 a.m. with Reverend Barney Glover

officiating at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service. Burial will be in Fair Branch Baptist Church. Visitation for Ms. Bing will be Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. &

Cremation Service.

Family and friends may call Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service, 13188 Main Street, Williston, SC 29853 (803-266-7808).

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## Louise King

AIKEN - Ms. Louise Carrie King entered into eternal

rest on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at PruittHealth-Aiken, Aiken, SC.

Homegoing celebration for Ms. Louise King will be conducted on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. with Reverend Dr. Joe F. Singleton officiating at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be on

Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service.

Family and friends may call Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service (13188 Main Street, Williston, SC 29853; 803-266-7808).

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## Maxie Barbieri

P.O. Box 367, Williston, SC 29853.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Wednesday.

Mrs. Maxie passed away on Sunday, June 16, 2024.

Born in Elko, SC, she was a daughter of the late Manuel F. Johnson and Bertha Mae Carroll Johnson Burckhalter and was married to John Joseph Barbieri Sr. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her loving husband, John Barbieri Sr. of 67 years; sons, John Joseph Barbieri Jr. of Towson, MD, Steven Floyd (Janice) Barbieri of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and George Allen (Julia) Barbieri of Bamberg, SC;

grandchildren, John Joseph Barbieri III, Diane Lee Barbieri (Zachary) Dixon, Gracie Barbieri, and Ashley Axson (Jason Drew); great-grandchildren, Shepherd, Tucker, Vivian Dixon and Danyele and Bryan Axson; brothers-in-law, Pete Grady of Williston, SC and Robert (Donna) Barbieri of St. Louis, MO; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Nina Grady.

Folk Funeral Home, Inc. and Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements. Visit the online registry at [www.folkfuneralhome.com](http://www.folkfuneralhome.com).

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# The People-Sentinel

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# County administrator Tim Bennett retires, honored by council

**Alexandra Whitbeck**  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Tim Bennett has been at the administrative helm of Barnwell County for the past six years. As the county administrator, Bennett played an instrumental role in furthering the county on a number of fronts.

"I appreciate all that you've done for Barnwell County," said Chairman Jerry Creech. "I have never had a guy that I had to ask him to quit working...I'm going to miss you."

Chairman Creech is alluding to the countless hours and late nights Bennett would spend handling the needs of the county and fulfilling the desires of council.

"I appreciate the support that y'all have provided to me and to a great group of department heads," said Bennett, who thanked

every department head he worked with.

One person he thanked was "the outstanding Martha Thompson, who has kept me together in my office as clerk to council. Thank you, Martha," he said.

He also thanked Marlena Ray, the director of the Barnwell County Animal Shelter, who he feels has one of "the most difficult jobs in the county."

Bennett also thanked Barbara Christian and Toni Hutchins, "who have led the way along with Marlena to make that animal shelter the best we can make it. They have been wonderful."

Bennett mentioned the work of these individuals has led to good things to come for the animal shelter, especially in the upcoming November Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) referendum where \$1.8 million will be voted on to the purchase of a new facility.



Photo Courtesy: Laura J. McKenzie  
**Barnwell County Council Chairman Jerry Creech (left) presents retiring administrator Tim Bennett with a plaque for his 6 years of service to the county.**

"I have been in this business for quite some time, and this is the best job I have ever had," said Bennett. "The Marine Corps was good for 20 years; this has been outstanding."

CPST presenter Clay Killian of Parker Poe Consulting congratulated Bennett on his retirement stating, "Tim has done a great job..I can tell you he is an outstanding administrator."

Bennett worked alongside Barnwell County Council and department heads on numerous, large-scale projects like those listed in the upcoming CPST, day-to-day operations, in addition to an annual budget.

"Each of these gentlemen at this desk is a leader. When y'all come together as a group, y'all are a force for good in this community," said Bennett of the council. "The personal dynamics between this county council and the administrator I am sure will continue under

Meredith."

Deputy administrator Meredith Wright officially filled the administrator role on June 17. She was hired after the county underwent an interview process last month.

In a memorandum of appointment signed by chairman of the county's personnel committee and county councilman Daniel Alexander, Wright is said to have brought "a wealth of experience and a proven record of leadership within our county, having served effectively as deputy administrator."

Alexander shared a similar sentiment regarding Bennett stating, "Tim's contributions have been invaluable, and his leadership has been a cornerstone of our community's success."

"It has been a privilege and an honor to work with every single one of you," said Bennett.

Bennett plans to retire in Florida.

# City introduces new recreation director, plans for water project

**Alexandra Whitbeck**  
Reporter  
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Kevin Roberts, the city's parks, recreation, and tourism director, is retiring in the coming months to spend more time with his family.

"I just wanted you to know how appreciative I am of everybody's support, just the love that this city has for parks and recreation... it's truly been an honor," said Roberts at the May Barnwell City Council meeting.

Roberts joined the department in 2022 and has played a part in numerous initiatives and projects.

"It's been a pleasure and a wonderful chance to meet and to work with Kevin. He has done a lot of things and has dealt with a lot of things that he didn't expect when he first came into this job," said city administrator Lynn McEwen. "We're going to miss Kevin, but he'll only be a phone call away."

Mayor Ron Still shared a similar sentiment stating, "You've done a great job since you've been here, I hope you don't move away and forget about us, door's always open."

"Barnwell has earned my heart very quickly," said Roberts.

Roberts informed the council the Fuller Park

Splash Pad is undergoing minor maintenance such as replacing sealant, Lemon Park now has new signage, and the small pavilion at Fuller Park is nearly completed. Fencing and shrubbery has been addressed at Collins Park, which Roberts describes as a "magnificent change."

Mosquito spraying has begun. More information is on the city's website. If there is a problem area, citizens can call city hall to request specific areas of spraying.

Roberts is leaving recreation in the hands of the interim director, Tommy Elkins, and will be assisting in the transition.

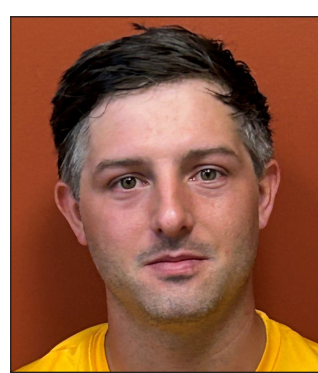
Elkins provided the council with a June update; the city's Independence Day celebration will be held on June 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. with fireworks. Fall sports are coming up - applications are online until the August 2 deadline and payments can be made at city hall.

Elkins and his team are also tackling recent vandalism at the Fuller Park bathroom. They are looking at new ways to lock and monitor the facility alongside the Barnwell Police Department.

At the June meeting, the council approved hanging up banners on light posts around the downtown area in partnership with the Savannah River Site's (SRS) 75th anniversary



**Kevin Roberts (left) will soon retire as the City of Barnwell's parks, recreation and tourism director. Tommy Elkins (right) has been hired to take over the job.**



celebrations. SRS has purchased the banners and they are set to be displayed later this summer.

### Water Project Authorization

The council unanimously approved the work authorization with GHD engineering to begin the already approved wastewater rehabilitation work funded through the S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). This one-time, federal funding was issued after the pandemic to help municipalities with infrastructure projects; the City of Barnwell approved revamping areas of the waste-water treatment system.

The engineer and the projected scope of work have already been approved by the council.

The city is responsible for \$377,401 of the over \$6

million project, according to McEwen.

"We do not have the funding in the water department to pay for this right now," said McEwen, who noted the project may take up to a year to complete.

If the city cannot come up with the \$377,000, they will have to return the federal SCIIP funding. McEwen recommended to approve the work authorization now to prevent this from

occurring, and work to find the funding elsewhere.

**Council & Insurance**  
The council unanimously voted to exclude council members from the city's insurance plan in a one-time addendum to their policy.

"If you decide you want to go into it, the city would have to pay for it," said McEwen.

No council members are currently on the city's state PEBA insurance plan, only city employees. If council members were to join and be considered 'active employees,' it would cost the city \$7,900 for an individual, and \$17,000 for a family.

Although this addendum prevents council members from city insurance benefits, they are not prohibited from participating in the retirement system.

According to McEwen, PEBA offered this addendum in March for cities and counties who may not be able to afford it, including

council members as active employees receiving benefits.

**Sanitation Bid Rejected**  
The council unanimously accepted a recommendation from McEwen to reject the two bids received for sanitation contracts.

One bid was from the city's current provider, S&S Disposal, at \$13.95 for trash service with an additional \$1.95 for yard service. The other bid was from Good Ole Boys' Trash and Sanitation at \$16 for trash only.

"Due to a number of issues that we feel we've got in this particular proposal, I recommend that we reject these bids and restart this proposal. We have time," said McEwen. The current contract is not up until September.

According to the city's code of ordinances, they are allowed to reject bids and start the process over again.

According to McEwen, city staff feels more bids will be submitted if reposted.

**Re-Elect STEVEN "GRITS" GRIFITH**  
**for SHERIFF Barnwell County**  
Find us on **facebook** **803.300.2740**  
**stevegrits@gmail.com**

**Thank You**  
Dear Friends,  
I would like to thank each of you who came out and voted, or voted early, to re-elect me in the primary as Sheriff of Barnwell County. I would also like to thank you all for the prayers, support and encouragement I received.  
A special thank you to my wife, family and dear friends who helped me so much.  
I am deeply humbled by your trust and confidence in me, and your Sheriff's Office.  
I have begun taking up my political signs. We will put them back out closer to the November 5th General Election as needed. Thank you again for your continued support. May God bless Barnwell County, and may God bless you!  
Sincerely,  
Sheriff Steven "Grits" Griffith  
**VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE on NOVEMBER 5th!**  
Paid for by the Steve Griffith for Sheriff Campaign, 970 Meadow Lane, Barnwell, SC 29812

**THANK YOU**  
Thanks to everyone who voted for me on June 11th. Your support means a lot to me, and I am humbled by it.  
As the Republican candidate for Barnwell County District #3, it will be my pleasure to represent the party. I applaud David Peachey for a hard-fought race.  
As always, I will strive to put our community first and be a servant of all people to better Barnwell County.  
*Andy Hogg*  
**JAMES A. HOGG**  
**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3**  
*Your support is needed again on*  
**NOVEMBER 5th**  
Paid for by Andy Hogg, 1165 Orchard Road, Williston, SC 29883



# SCHOOL: Four concepts presented for new Barnwell County High School

FROM PAGE 1A

Barnwell County for a long time," said Williams. "Please understand our job has been to bring information to this transition board so they make the right decision for you as a community."

Williams described the construction of this new facility as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

All concepts would bring a Career and Technical Education (CATE) focused high school to the county – a school which provides students with technical skills, education, and training to succeed in future careers.

Each concept was presented to the board and community with a full rundown of programming, cost, and potential layouts.

The first concept proposes the school be built on a new site. Concepts two, three, and four all propose expanding on the current Barnwell High School site.

## BACKGROUND OF THE FACILITY PLAN

In August 2023, the transition board began working toward consolidating Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD), Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45), and BCCC.

Phase One included a facility study that found renovations and updates were needed in all schools across the county. The scope of this work exceeded the available funding, and the board began to prioritize the greatest needs.

Final approval was granted at the federal level for the FEMA Gym/Safe Room. BSD45 began this project years ago, working with Barnwell County Emergency Management and S.C. Emergency Management.

During Phase One in fall 2023, no decisions were made by the board regarding facilities (current and proposed school buildings). Phase Two was when the question of facilities came into play and the district began searching for an architectural/engineering firm as well as a construction management company. This is how Williams' and Reynolds' respective businesses became involved.

During Phase Two, the board selected and began working with SSOE (architect/engineer) and H.G. Reynolds (construction management) to develop a specific timeline and plans for a new career center and consolidated high school.

## CONCEPT ONE: A WHOLE NEW SITE

The first concept is also the most expensive, totaling \$138,778,805 for a newly constructed CATE school built on a site yet to be determined.

This new build would take between 24 to 28 months to construct, with additional time for a land search.



The auditorium of the Barnwell County Career Center was packed with people wanting to know about concepts for a new high school.

## Options Comparison Overview

Concept 1: New CATE Focused High School on a New Site TBD	Concept 2: New CATE Focused High School on Barnwell HS Site	Concept 3: New CATE Focused High School on Barnwell HS Site	Concept 4: New CATE Focused High School on Barnwell HS Site
281,892 SF, (New)	253,542 SF, (New)	155,122 SF, (New) 98,000 SF, (Exist. Renov.)	233,879 SF, (New) 19,543 SF, (Exist. Gym Renov.)
Total GMP: \$119,276,384	Total GMP: \$94,872,578	Total GMP: \$89,922,951	Total GMP: \$93,046,384
Total Cost \$138,778,805	Total Cost \$108,537,559	Total Cost \$103,276,106	Total Cost \$106,596,209
Most Expensive Option	\$30,241,246 less than Concept 1	\$35,502,699 less than Concept 1 \$5,261,453 less than Concept 2 New / Renov. Construction	\$32,128,596 less than Concept 1 \$1,941,350 less than Concept 2 New / Renov. Construction
All New Construction 24 – 28 Month Construction Move Students One Time Efficient Building Design Land Search / Purchase 6 Month OSF Approval	All New Construction 24 – 28 Month Construction Move Students One Time Efficient Building Design	36 to 40 Month Construction Move Students Multiple times Inefficient Building Design	24 to 28 Month Construction Move Students Multiple Times Inefficient Building Design

The district would need to search for and purchase land to accommodate the needed 281,892 square foot facility plus an additional 67,088 square feet for an arena and farm space, totaling 348,980 square feet. This square footage estimate was determined based on enrollment and needed programming.

According to Williams, this concept allows students to only be moved once: from their previous high school in Blackville, Williston, or Barnwell, to the newly constructed school.

A new site would also require the district to consider the already approved and funded FEMA Gym/Safehouse set to be located on the northwest corner of the current Barnwell High School (BHS) campus along Jackson Street.

This monolithic dome-shaped structure would not only serve as a gymnasium for students but also serve as a first responder/evacuee facility in the event of emergency, as it is located along an evacuation route.

The FEMA gym costs a total of \$10,806,513 and was funded with \$8.1 million of federal funding and a \$2.7 million local share.

If concept one is decided on by the board, relocating this dome would be part of the process and would need additional federal approval, which can take up to an additional six months, according to Williams.

Community member Cheryl Long spoke during public comment regarding the price and timing of each concept: "Whatever we do, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing, so if we need more money, we will find more money."



Barnwell County School District Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton (right) speaks during the June 11 meeting.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Long's comments were met with applause from the crowd.

Ferlecia Cuthbertson shared a similar sentiment, expressing there needs to be equal voices heard at the table.

"When we're talking about the future of our community, I just don't feel like we've taken all approaches," said Cuthbertson, who compared the joining of districts to a marriage—neither loses their identity in the union.

Cuthbertson also spoke on the perceived bias of Barnwell schools she and other community members have felt, stating, "If you know there is a perception that Barnwell is bias...then you have a process that is systemic that involves everybody that may not have a vote, but does have a voice and input into that."

BCSD transition board chairman Terry Richardson explained the board itself represents educators and administrators from all three high schools and the career center.

## CONCEPT TWO: NEW CONSTRUCTION AT BARNWELL HIGH

The second concept would cost a total of \$108,537,559 – over \$30 million less than concept one. This would bring a new

CATE focused high school on the campus of the current Barnwell High School.

The BHS campus currently spans from Jackson Street to Marlboro Avenue. Concept two includes construction of a new high school nearer to Marlboro Avenue. This newly constructed facility would be 253,542 square feet, and would require the relocation of current parking lots and tennis courts.

"After this building is built, the entire existing Barnwell High School would be demolished," said Williams.

If concept two is accepted by the board, the track will have to be relocated to make space for the FEMA Gym, which is currently set to be located on the northwest corner of the BHS campus.

This concept would also be an entirely new construction, students would move once, and take between 24 to 28 months to complete.

## CONCEPTS THREE & FOUR: NEW BUILDS AND RENOVATIONS

"Concepts three and four would be renovations of most of the square footage of Barnwell High School," said Williams.

The facilities on the current BHS campus total 110,386 square feet, concepts three and four pose both renovations to current

facilities and constructions of new ones. The age of the current facilities ranges from 18 years old to 72 years old.

Concept three pitches both new construction and renovations: 155,542 square feet of new construction on the Barnwell High School campus, plus the 29,525 square feet for the FEMA Gym and 98,000 square feet of renovation to current facilities.

Concept three "is one enormous building on one level on this site," said Williams, who noted the distance students will have to travel from one side of the facility to another.

It would take roughly 36 to 40 months to complete, because the construction must be phased so students still have a functioning facility as others are being built/renovated.

The total cost for concept three is \$103,275,106 – \$35.5 million less than concept one, and \$5.2 million less than concept 2.

Concept four is the least expensive and proposes renovating the Solomon Blatt Gymnasium and constructing a new two-story facility on the Barnwell High School campus. It includes 233,879 square feet of new construction and 19,543 square feet of renovation.

The total cost for concept four is \$106,596,209 – \$32.1 million less than concept one, \$1.9 million less than concept two, and \$3.3 million more than concept three.

With concept four, students would have to be moved multiple times as buildings are built and renovated, and will take roughly 24 to 28 months to complete.

## RANKING

Williams ranked concept one, a new facility on a new site, as the best option, but explained the district would need to consider the additional six months of time needed to relocate the FEMA

Gym and the time to find and purchase land.

Concept two is ranked as the second-best option by Williams: "It has all the advantages of concept one, but you're saving the \$30 million because of the FEMA Gym and you already own the property," he said.

Concept four ranks as the third best option, and concept three ranks in the fourth due to the ample renovations required. Williams stated he would not recommend concept three.

Ultimately, Williams and his team recommended concept two.

This recommendation is just that - a recommendation. The board will make the final decision on which concept they pursue.

## FUNDING

\$105 million in Savannah River Site (SRS) settlement money has been allotted for the construction of a consolidated high school and career center, funding whichever concept the board decides.

According to Dr. Stapleton, S.C. Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver committed an additional \$5 million to the project at a recent board work session.

\$10 million in grant funding has been secured for programming and renovations at the Barnwell County Career Center.

This is a total of \$120 million toward a county-wide, CATE high school.

## PRESERVING HISTORY

Community concerns have been raised about maintaining the history and legacy of each school in the county. The district has formed historic committees to which they will appoint members and chairpersons.

These committees will consider options for a high school logo, colors, and mascot, as well as find ways to honor the legacy of the current high schools.

For the Blackville-Hilda Historical Committee, current transition board member Dr. Andy Sandifer will be the chair. For Williston-Elko, current transition board member Ronnie Brown will serve as chair.

For Barnwell's Historical Committee, BSD45 Curriculum Support Coach Kelly Shealy will lead as chair. For the new consolidated high school, Mike Beasley will serve as chair.

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**Thank You, District 7!**

My family and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your vote of confidence in the June 11th primary.

*Travis Hooper*  
**BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #7**

**MAKING A BETTER BARNWELL COUNTY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN!**

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5th!**

Paid for by Travis Hooper, 2411 Green Branch Road, Barnwell, SC 29912

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**BARNWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:00pm**

**Blackville Hilda High School Auditorium**  
76 Atkins Circle, Blackville, SC 29817

**The District's Operating Budget for FY 2024-2025 will be submitted for approval.**

	Proposed BCSD 24-25
Revenues	\$44,867,757.50
Expenditures	\$44,867,757.50

• FY 24-25 budget is available at [www.BCSD.net](http://www.BCSD.net)

# LEADERS: BCSD appoints new principals ahead of inaugural school year

FROM PAGE 1A



**Franklin McCormack is the new assistant superintendent of BCSD.**

(BHS) Principal Franklin McCormack has been named assistant superintendent of the BCSD.

"We have wonderful school communities with rich traditions of success in academics, athletics, and the arts. I look forward to working with our faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members across our county to seek innovative ways to educate our children," said McCormack. Stapleton, who has worked with McCormack for years, is confident in his ability to support staff throughout the district.

"I have no doubt Mr. McCormack will be an asset to staff across Barnwell County. He brings unique talents and strengths to this new role, along with a wealth of experience in education. We look forward to his support of our staff, students, and community as we transition into a countywide school district," said Stapleton.

She cited how McCormack implemented several key programs that led to increased academic achievement, such as Project Lead the Way, Swiss Krono apprenticeships, content/attendance recovery, virtual lab, and Star Academy. Additionally, he established an energy conservation program that saved the district over \$1 million in five years.

He has contributed to numerous district-level projects, such as creating a new district website, districtwide discipline code, Memorandum of Agreements, and a workforce management software for payroll and leave requests.

McCormack holds an Education Specialist degree

in Administration and Supervision from Clemson University (2021) and a Superintendent certification from the S.C. State Department of Education.

## New Barnwell High School Principal



**Derek Youngblood is the new principal of Barnwell High.**

Filling McCormack's principal job will be BHS athletic director Derek Youngblood, who has spent most of his 18-year career in Williston and Barnwell.

He also previously served as assistant principal at both BHS and Guinyard-Butler Middle School. Prior to coming to Barnwell in 2020, the Williston native worked many years in his hometown as head football coach and athletic director at Williston-Elko High School.

"It is an honor to serve as Barnwell High School's principal. I look forward to helping the staff empower our students to be the best they can be in the classroom and the community," said Youngblood.

He will be joined by assistant principal Dr. Jessica Brabham-James. The second assistant principal position is vacant after Jared Thrasher left to be principal of the primary school.

## New Barnwell Primary School Principal



**Jared Thrasher is the new Barnwell Primary principal.**

Barnwell Primary School

(BPS) will have two new faces in school administration.

BHS assistant principal Jared Thrasher will lead BPS after long-time principal Donna Selvey retires in June.

BPS "is presented with the unique opportunity and challenge to serve as the opening chapter in the story of our students' education. As with any good story, the 'hook' in the beginning is what draws the attention of the listener for the remainder of the story. I look forward to working alongside the incredible staff to 'hook' our students' attention and ignite their passion for learning that they will carry with them throughout the rest of their lives," said Thrasher.

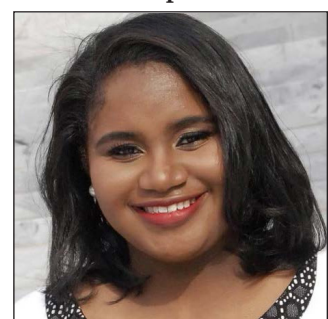
Thrasher began his teaching career in 2011 at BHS, but later taught in Anderson School District Five and Lexington School District Two. He returned to BSD45 in 2015, serving in various roles, including teacher, coach, CPI trainer, and assistant principal at both Barnwell Elementary School (BES) and BHS.

Working alongside Thrasher will be current assistant principal Dr. Vickie Carter-Blocker and a new face to BPS, Kara Bolen.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working alongside a great administrative team and outstanding educators. Each stage in a child's educational path is unique and equally important, and I am delighted to be a part of the early years of our BPS students," said Bolen.

Bolen has been a literacy coach at BES for many years, but has also been an assistant principal at BES.

## Kelly Edwards Elementary School Principal



**Krystle Speller is the new principal of Kelly Edwards Elementary School.**

Krystle Speller, previously assistant principal and MTSS specialist at Kelly Edwards Elementary School in Williston during the 2023-2024 school year, will be stepping into the role of principal.

"Speller has a rich background in teaching and instructional coaching, and she is enthusiastic about her new position," said Stapleton. Acknowledging how deeply appreciative she is of the collaborative spirit at Kelly Edwards, Speller said, "Kelly Edwards is amazing because of how the community of Williston and school staff work together to build and educate future leaders for the community, state, and world. I am excited and honored to take part in this great legacy and work."

Speller takes over for Monique Smalls who will be a district transformation coach for the S.C. Department of Education. Smalls will work with schools taken over by the state.

## Williston-Elko Middle School Principal



**Patricia Ulmer is the new principal of Williston-Elko Middle School.**

Patricia Ulmer, who has been part of the Williston-Elko Middle School (WEMS) staff since 2000, will take on the role of principal.

Ulmer has served the school in various capacities, including as a teacher, an MTSS specialist, and assistant principal.

Stapleton said Ulmer has a "deep connection to the school and commitment to its success."

"I am filled with such gratitude for the work that is already being done by

the WEMS team. I look forward to serving as the school's leader as we continue on a path towards success for all students. I will serve with my whole heart - because my heart is already invested there," said Ulmer.

Ulmer takes over for Dr. Austrai Bradley.

## Moving Forward

As Barnwell County School District prepares for the new academic year, the district looks forward to the fresh perspectives and dynamic leadership that these new principals will bring to their schools.

"We are so fortunate to have such highly qualified and passionate educators moving into these leadership roles. We are so grateful for the work the current principals have done within each of these schools, and we look forward to the newly hired administrators continuing the great work happening throughout Barnwell County," said Stapleton.

The district now seeks to fill the positions left vacant after these new approvals.

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<b>2020 Lincoln Nautilus Reserve</b>  <b>SPECIAL</b>	<b>2020 Lincoln Nautilus Reserve</b>  <b>SPECIAL</b>	<b>2019 Ford Fusion SE</b>  <b>SPECIAL</b>	<b>2023 Ford Escape Active</b>  <b>SPECIAL</b>
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# STATE CHAMPIONS

## Barnwell Ponytails bound for World Series after state championship win

Jonathan Vickery  
Publisher  
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

For the third year in a row, the Barnwell Ponytails All-Stars are headed to the World Series.

The team of 12 girls and three coaches will head to Louisiana in July after winning the district and state championships on June 16. They competed against Saluda, a team Barnwell has battled for the past three or four years.

"We are both really evenly matched and both very good softball teams," said coach Brad Whitehead.

Saluda is the team that Barnwell barely beat two years ago at the state championship in Iva. However, Barnwell won that game—their first state championship—in 2022 with a score of 2-1.

Normally, 7-8 teams compete in the district, but Whitehead said the journey was shortened this year as the Diamond Youth Baseball organization adding a softball division caused some teams to leave the Dixie Youth Softball organization.

"Honestly this win feels more deserving than the others. With our pitching depth, we usually have an advantage in bigger tournaments, but with a two-team tournament against a really good Saluda team is a tough thing to do. We had to play our best softball. We had to combine some hits, throw the strikes when needed, and make the plays when it came to us," said Whitehead.

Between the three games, the Barnwell Ponytails lost 1-0 in the first game, won the second game 7-6, and won the championship game 12-8. Games were played in Saluda.

"Neither team ever had a big lead. It was back and forth every inning of every game. Each girl came in the clutch when their name was called," said Whitehead.

The 2024 Barnwell Ponytails team consists of Harper Still, Rekeya Roberts, Kensley Terrapin, Shalayah Badger, Genesis Walker, Sadie Whitehead, Mckaylee Padgett, Mary Sanders Reece, Emily Vanacore, Brinkley Taylor, Ashby Heltibridle, and Kensley Bridges. Coach Whitehead is assisted by Reggie Walker and Michael Terrapin.

Although a coach, Whitehead is also a father, though he's never shown favoritism.

"If you're the best, you play the spot. I've never given Sadie the credit to be a clutch pitcher and for two years she's proved me wrong, pulling us through on the mound every year. She earned her spot," said Whitehead.

Speaking of the rest of his team, he said Kensley Terrapin "year



The Barnwell Ponytails All-Stars celebrate their state championship win on June 16 after defeating Saluda.

Photo Contributed



The Barnwell Ponytails All-Stars hold their state championship trophy high in the air after the win.

Photo Contributed

end and year out contributes tirelessly on the mound for us and has pitched these girls to some great victories. Mary Sanders Reece also came in the clutch in the championship game closing us out in the last two innings. Shalayah was also a pitcher going three innings holding (Saluda) to 3 runs. Keke laid down some amazing bunts, Brinkley had some great hits and caught most of the tournament (12 of 14 innings) for us. Shalayah, Genesis, Kinsley Bridges, Harper

Still, Emily Vanacore and Ashby Heltibridle also made amazing plate appearances and had some great plays."

Mckaylee Padgett has been with Whitehead for four years and she "always ran really fast and can catch fly balls. I've always placed her in centerfield even when balls weren't hit there. I've preached to her one day you're going to see why you're out here. This tournament she has 4-5 catches that were huge run-saving catches out in

centerfield. She played out there for me for four years and never once doubted me nor complained. When her time came to shine, she did," said Whitehead.

This team is special because Whitehead said he's made each player learn three different positions. "This has helped with pitching changes. I can put any girl in any position and feel confident they can make the play," he said.

Eleven of the 12 players have traveled to the World Series either the first or second year. Brinkley Taylor is the only newbie.

"It's been a long, hot weekend, but it's been well worth the experience with our girl. These athletes and their families are awesome. It's been a joy to come alongside them, and they've welcomed us with open arms," said Brooke Taylor, Brinkley's mother.

The Barnwell Ponytails head to Monroe, La. for the World Series on July 28 through August 3.

"Athletically, we are just working on the small things. We know the game. We're good at the game, but I've preached to

get the small things right and victories will come. Keep your emotions intact, field the ball cleanly before thinking about the throw, know your situation at all times, run bases aggressively, two-hand catches on fly balls, give 110 percent, and play with the mentality that you're the best player on the field and prove it when your time is called," said Whitehead.

After coming in second place in 2022 and third place in 2023, Whitehead said they are hoping to bring home the first place Dixie Youth World Series trophy this year.

The team will be doing fundraisers to help defray costs of the trip, which is expensive with travel and lodging. They plan to hold their annual Boston butt sale, waitress at restaurants, and sell watermelons. "You name it, we will work for it. We thank the community and surrounding areas for everything they have done for us the last two years. This is possibly our last year in the youth leagues, and we want to make it a memorable one," said Whitehead.



The Barnwell Ponytails All-Star team includes the top players from the regular recreational season.

Photo By: Donna Miley

## Barnwell Bombers win USSSA Memorial Day Meltdown tournament



2023-24 Barnwell Bombers 9U(AAA) travel baseball team.

The Barnwell Bombers 9U(AAA) travel baseball team put another championship ring in their case at the conclusion of the USSSA Memorial Day Meltdown Weekend Tournament going 4-0, bringing their 2023-2024 season to a close.

The Bombers have had another tremendously successful season playing in USSSA, Perfect Game, and Shipyard tournaments across SC and GA. Among these three organizations the team competed in 13 tournaments totaling 43 games. The seasonal record for the Bombers came to

30-12-1. The Barnwell Bombers are currently ranked in the top 10 in 9U(AAA) teams in SC and the top 75 in 9U(AAA) teams in the country under the USSSA organization.

"While these young men continue to prove themselves on the field, they are also taught other life lessons. These young men are also taught the importance of teamwork skills, a humble winning spirit, learning from a loss, spirituality lessons, and the process of being part of something bigger than themselves. They may be

growing in the game, but we also want them to grow up and succeed in the game of life," said Coach Michael Polk.

The 2023-2024 Bombers roster includes #1 Daniel Anastasia, #2 Maddox Ashby, #6 Breed Folk, #8 Sawyer Johnson, #10 Rylan Kearse, #94 Rylan Lacroix, #3 Axel Myers, #5 Kipper Polk, #14 Jackson Renew, and #7 Connor Still. Coaches include Dave Anastasia, Jamie Ashby, Ed Jones, Michael Polk, and Chris Yancey.

# 2024 JDA athletic banquet honors student achievement

Photos By: Kathy Googe



**JV CHEERLEADING**  
Coaches Award - Olivia Smith  
Leadership Award - Cindi Creech



**VARSITY CHEERLEADING**  
Coaches Award - Carrie Lynn Loadholt  
Most Spirited - Rynn Fickling  
Kathy Love Ott Award - Kallie Abbott



**B-TEAM VOLLEYBALL**  
Offensive MVP - Kelsey Croft, Defensive MVP -  
Olivia Reitenour, Most Improved - Savannah Carrigg  
Coaches Award - Chloe Jackson



**JV VOLLEYBALL**  
Most Improved - Jillian Johnson, Coaches Award -  
Raleigh York, Offensive MVP - Abby Deering  
Defensive MVP - Riley Williams



**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL:** Coaches Award - Mattie Morris, Most Improved - Kinslie Carson, Co- MVP - Carrie Lynn Loadholt, Co- MVP - Sydney Owens, Region P.O.Y - Sydney Owens, All-Region - Gylan Googe, Carrie Lynn Loadholt, Rynn Fickling, Mattie Morris, North-South All Star - Sydney Owens, Carrie Lynn Loadholt



**JV FOOTBALL**  
Defensive MVP - Colton Still, Most Improved- Jay Lancaster, Offensive MVP - Jake Harrington



**VARSITY FOOTBALL:** MVP - Colson Loadholt, Offensive Player of the Year - Nasir Void, Defensive Player of the Year - Payton Payne, Lineman of the Year - Tollie Fickling, Coaches Award - Hunter Zorn, Region Lineman of the Year - Tollie Fickling All-Region - Colson Loadholt, Payton Payne, Nasir Void, North-South All Star - Payton Payne, Landon Williams, Connor Loadholt, Carter Loadholt, Tollie Fickling, Keaton Crouch, Paxton Wall, Nasir Void, Tucker Fields, Hunter Zorn



**B-TEAM GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Most Improved - McKaylee Padgett  
Best Offense - Anna Lott  
Best Defense - Raelynn Youngblood



**JV GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Best Offense - Raleigh York  
Best Defense - Esme Montejano



**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
MVP - Peyton Hutto, Most Improved - Reece Brown  
All-Region - Peyton Hutto, Gylan Googe,  
Reece Brown\*\*, North-South All Star - Peyton Hutto,  
Gylan Googe



**B-TEAM BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Co - MVP - Ben Hutto  
Co - MVP - Bryson Myers



**JV BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Offensive MVP - Stanse Youngblood  
Defensive MVP - Landon Williams  
Coaches Award - Cash Creech



**SHOTGUN RAIDERS**  
Most Improved - Jillian Johnson, Coaches Award - Trevor Nobles, Highest Overall - Dalton Nix



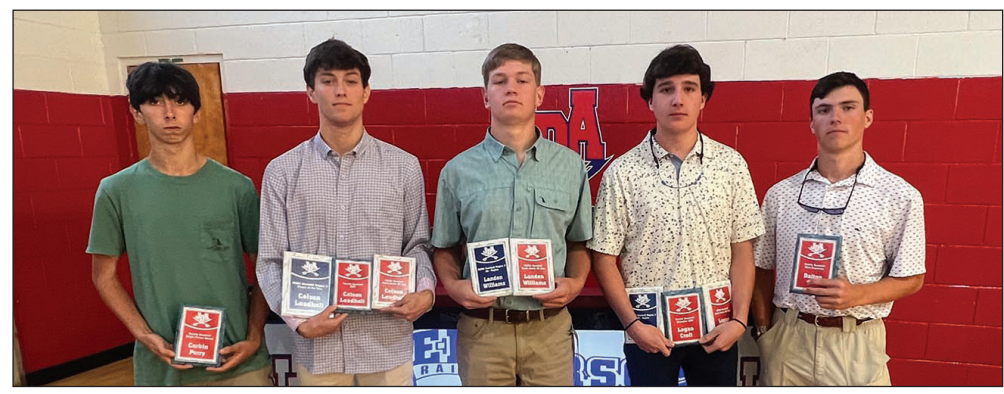
**JV SOFTBALL:** Offensive MVP - Raleigh York, Defensive MVP - Abby Deering, Coaches Award - Esme Montejano, Most Improved - Chloe Jackson



**VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL:** Offensive Player of the Year - Colson Loadholt, Defensive Player of the Year - Nasir Void, Most Improved - Reece Still, Coaches 100% Award - Payton Payne, All-Region - Colson Loadholt, Nasir Void



**VARSITY SOFTBALL:** Coaches Award - Kinlee Ray, Most Improved - Madelynn Respass, Offensive MVP - Rynn Fickling, Defensive MVP - Reagan Still, Hustle Award - Carrie Lynn Loadholt, Region P.O.Y. - Reagan Still, All-Region - Carrie Lynn Loadholt, Kinlee Ray, Sydney Owens, Rynn Fickling, North-South All Star - Kinlee Ray, Carrie Lynn Loadholt, Regan Still, Rynn Fickling, Sydney Owens



**VARSITY BASEBALL:** MVP - Colson Loadholt, Offensive MVP - Logan Croft, Defensive MVP - Carter Loadholt, Most Improved - Dalton Nix, Bright Future Award - Corbin Perry, Region P.O.Y - Colson Loadholt, All-Region - Landon Williams, Logan Croft, North - South All Star - Colson Loadholt, Logan Croft, Landon Williams



**JV BASEBALL**  
MVP - Will Stillinger  
Offensive MVP - Landon Williams  
Most Improved - Jack Jackson



**JOHN WESLEY DEER AWARD**  
Gylan Googe



**WB RUSHTON AWARD**  
Hunter Zorn

## 140 students complete programs at Career Center

Contributed by  
BCCC

The Barnwell County Career Center held its annual completer's ceremony on Monday, May 2, 2024. There were two sessions. The first session was held at 8 a.m., and the second session was held at 12 p.m.

A completer is a Career and Technology Education (CTE) concentrator who has earned all of the required units in a state recognized CTE program.

The speaker for the occasion was Barnwell County Sheriff's Office First Sergeant John Holston.

These 140 students are either currently attending or have graduated from Barnwell High School, Blackville-Hilda High School, Williston-Elko High school, or are homeschooled.

**Agriculture:** Ben Adams, John Whitner Bedingfield, Kylie Bell, Tanner Cato, Reese Collins, Kayden DeFreest, Jakyia Mack, Kaleb McCormack, Tatum Miller, Aiden Moses, Kaitlyn Redd, Audrey Sanders, Jikira Simmons, Garyn Still, Emerson Turner, Cindy Vasquez-Najera, Mattie Waller, Grant Whitman, and Landon Williams.

**Automotive Technology:** Noah Baxley, Jaylen Creech, Fabian Davis, Carlos Flores Moreno,

DeOntae Holman, Daveon Hutto, Alayna Mitchell, Isaiah Priestler, William Robinson, Clifford Still, and Xavier Williams.

**Building Construction:** Shaelyn Badger, Ta'naja Brant, Landon Brown, Hayden Duty, Joshua Felty, and Austin Guzman.

**Cosmetology:** De'Aysia Britton, Makenna Campbell, Traveonna McCreary, Emily Wall, and Alexis Youmans.

**Cybersecurity:** Ke'Avian Drake-Childs, James Gonzalez, Matthew Moore, Erich Mulbah, Kenyon Odom, and Grayson Thompson.

**Health Science:** Janeli Allen, Zoe Bodiford, Ta'Naria Brant, Zane Campbell, Jondalyn Dunbar, Brooklyn Gordon, Emily Harvey, J'Naisha Hayward, Abigale Joyce, Kyndal Kennedy, NaKiya Mercado, Briseyda Morales Saavedra, Makayla Noonan, Kajah Orr, Sarah Rudd, Vivian Sheppard, Tyra Stroman, Caitlyn Walker, Amaika Adi, Bre' Anna Buckmon, Taylor Croft, Laney Fox, Amiya Johnson, Diya Patel, Brianna Robinson, Kah'Miyah Williams, Britney Wood, Eriana Abney, Isabelle Ayer, Anastasia Beaver, Jada Creech, Kailyn Gibson, Jalayah Harley, Kayleigh Heath, Isabel Heltibridle, Rebecca Richardson, Adeniyah Robinson,



First Sergeant John Holston (bottom left) and BCCC Director David Augustine (bottom right) both spoke at the Barnwell County Career Center's Completer Ceremony.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Shanese Samuels, Sa'Bryanna Smalls, Chelsea Walker, and Jada Wilson.

**Law Enforcement Services:** Zanavia O'Berry, Skylar Pacheco, Haley Padgett, Aubrey Johnson, Khirston Robinson, Katelynn Ryan, Zania Williams, and Robert Wright.

**Marketing Communications:** Raini Blankenship, Joseph Branton, Kamryn Cave, Jakeran Cuthbertson, Cedric Hart, Malayisha Hayward, Dalton Hightower, Tyler Houston, Elonda Ingram, Jamarion Kirkland, Tylan Parker, Nytavia Price, Kareem Riddle, Harmoni Rivers, Skyler Santos,



Kaniece Smith, Trinity Washington, and Crystaisha Williams.

**Mechanical Design:** Rashaun Buckmon, Fabian Davis, Kinsey Lewis, Cody Padgett, Markasia Reed, Joc'Quise Washington, and Gracyn Williams.

**Mechatronics:** Jelisea Ruth-Hudson, Avery Trottie, Cesar Villalobos,

and Evan Williams. **Welding:** Noah Baxley, Caleb Beard, Kristopher Bennett, Cristopher Camarillo-Morales, Brian Croft, Ayden Curtis, Seth Dorn, Neil Fields, Travis Johnson, Stevie Jones, Quaide Overton, Hayden Rowell, Leighton Ruehmer, Jaevin Santos, and Clifford Still.

### WEHS 2023-2024 second semester honor roll

#### Principal's List (All As):

Samelea Baxley  
Kylie Bell  
Z'Naira Brabham  
Jaretzy Cortez  
Grace Dorn  
Blake Garrett  
Christopher Hodges  
Faith Irons  
Zykeia Johnson  
Sidney Mason  
Na'Kiya Mercado  
Aiden Moses  
Yug Patel  
Ian Pearce  
Kaitlyn Redd  
Landon Still  
Michael Tishchenko  
Crystaisha Williams  
Gracyn Williams  
Madison Wright

Lucas Creech  
Ayden Curtis  
Emily Dodson  
Seth Dorn  
Jondalyn Dunbar  
Makenzie Harmon  
Connor Harvey  
Emily Harvey  
Dalton Hightower  
Alyah Holmes  
Jaida Houston  
Rasan Houston  
Rayshawn James  
Tra'Niya Josey  
Abigale Joyce  
Kyndal Kennedy  
Damaiya Mayes  
Ja'Zhara O'Neal  
Quaide Overton  
Tylan Parker  
Peyton Rimes  
I'Yana Robinson  
Jelisea Ruth-Hudson

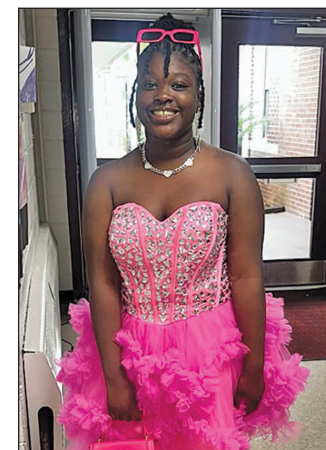
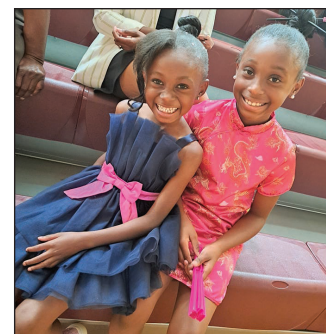
#### A/B Honor Roll:

Da'Montray Allen  
Janeli Allen  
Jonah Baker  
George Barrett  
Mattilyn Bell  
Ky'Reona Brabham  
Nathan Causey  
A'nyla Chavous  
Laila Chavous

Landyn Sims  
Adeja Snelling  
Clifford Still  
Tyra Stroman  
Avery Trottie  
Emerson Turner  
Ikeiah Tyler  
Sindy Vasques-Najera  
Grant Whitman

### Macedonia Elementary-Middle School Sneaker Ball

Students at Macedonia Elementary-Middle School enjoyed a Sneaker Ball on either May 16 and 17, depending on their grade level.



### Carowinds Day brings fun through STEAM

Yata Tobin  
Contributed  
Voorhees University

Approximately 2,000 highly ambitious Voorhees University GEAR UP scholars happily exited their buses at the adventurous Carowinds on March 28, 2024. They anticipated a day full of STEAM activities! They could not wait to accept the challenge of participating in the activities and actively listening to the instructors as they demonstrated hands-on experiments.

We watched in amazement as the students were engaged in the activities and we witnessed their enlightenment. It is evident that GEAR UP plays a significant role in motivating students towards continuous learning.

"My staff and I wanted to let you know that we had a wonderful day with the students. This is our fourth year at Carowinds, and we have never had students that were so polite and nice. They



really seemed to enjoy the activities at all the stations, and we hope they have gained some knowledge today. Keep up the amazing work that you are doing for these kids," according to Atomz Lab founder Dawn Ballway.

While at the park the students were able to apply the knowledge they have learned while showing relevance to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Not only did the weather turn out to be spectacular, but the students were also incredible as they enjoyed a delicious lunch to help get them refueled for the remainder of their venturous day. As the students ate their lunch and

talked amongst their peers, you could overhear the chatter about the STEAM activities and the operation of the rides.

They were very appreciative of the \$10 spending card as they purchased treats, souvenirs and played games. They walked away winners with numerous prizes as they boasted about the fun they were having. Every special moment was captured by the photographer, Gerald Espinal of 1031 Productions.

From this spectacular experience the students took away how calculation, measurement, and experimentation can be used in everyday life and turned into a career. What the schol-

ars learn will enhance their creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills. These students walked away from Carowinds with a plethora of memories, an abundance of exposure from VUGU that encouraged them to always dream big. It is experiences like these that the students will forever cherish because it teaches them the value of education, exposure, and life skills.

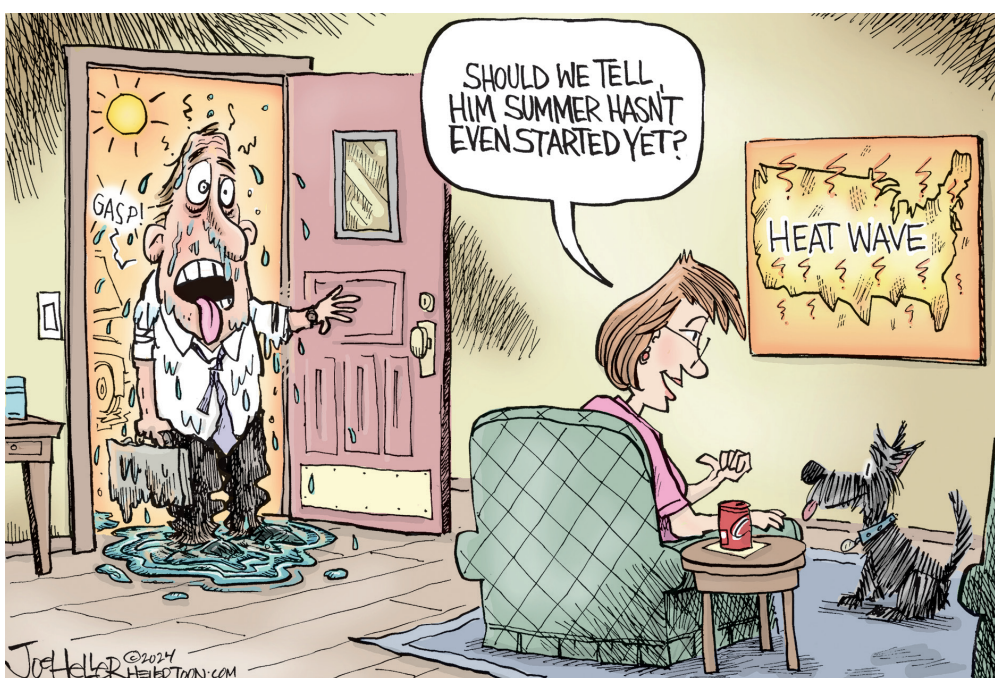
Undoubtedly, Voorhees University GEAR UP is preparing its scholars through STEAM and other partnerships for postsecondary education and career readiness with fun and stimulating learning adventures.

### BHS junior marshals



Left to right: Cameron Austin, Neveah Tisdale, Shanese Samuels, Nicolas Jones, Head marshal - Josiah Johnson.

Photo By: Pam Priestler



## Letter to the Editor

### BCSD superintendent looks forward to “strong, successful future together” as districts consolidate

**To Our Communities,**  
The past few weeks have been an emotional journey for many across our county. As the 2023-2024 school year draws to a close, we are bidding farewell to the beloved Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD) and Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45). While this transition is difficult, it is also an opportunity to honor our shared legacy and look forward to a united future.

Our separate districts have held their final staff gatherings, and the Boards of Trustees for BCCSD, BSD45, and the Barnwell County Career Center have concluded their last meetings to officially close the current districts. Change is never easy, and saying goodbye can be heart-wrenching, but we have an incredible opportunity ahead of us. On July 1st, we will officially become Barnwell County School District. It is my hope that any previous feelings about consolidation will now transform into a shared passion to make our countywide school district as strong as possible. Our schools, staff, and children deserve nothing less.

I am thrilled about the positive changes happening throughout our county's schools. This is a wonderful occasion to embrace new opportunities, celebrate our strengths and achievements, and address challenges with actionable steps. Our dedicated and talented employees are crucial to this endeavor, and I look forward to working alongside each of them to ensure our success. We are fortunate to have strong, supportive communities throughout Barnwell County, and as we face this unique consolidation, we will rely on this support while also forming stronger partnerships.

As we embark on our first year as one school district, collaboration will continue to be key. We will plan and combine resources to enhance educational opportunities for our students. Stakeholder meetings for the

2024-2025 school year will allow key district leaders to share updates with important community groups. District teams and advisory groups are being finalized for the new school year, and our district-level leaders are eager to work with all our schools. In July, our first month as a new district, we have our Vision and Mission meeting planned with stakeholders across the county invited to come together and help us create the foundation for the unified strategic plan we will be developing during the 2024-2025 school year.

I have been inspired by the collaborative spirit displayed by teams preparing for this consolidation. Whether deciding on a countywide assessment platform, creating a district calendar, choosing a parent communication system, analyzing technology infrastructure, addressing budget and facility needs with each school leader, or the many other aspects of district operations, teams with representation across the county have worked together with such a sense of purpose and unity. Since the last day of school, many more staff members have volunteered to serve on district committees this summer. This dedication embodies the way our schools are embracing the new district.

We understand that there are now new decisions facing our Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees, and there are many opinions of what decisions should be made. I hope our communities can remember that these individuals did not ask to be on this Board, but instead they were called to represent our county because of their leadership experience and passion for children. Upon accepting the call to serve, they were presented with a monumental task to not only consolidate the district-level operations as we have done throughout this year, but also to put into effect a plan to have one countywide high school and career center. This is different than other

consolidations that have occurred before us - where they didn't face the immediate task of planning to close schools and making plans for one new comprehensive high school. The Board of Trustees for the new district wasn't posed with a choice of whether to have a countywide high school or not, but instead tasked with determining how to be the best stewards of the funding provided to make it happen in the first years of consolidation. This is not a task they have taken lightly. It is remarkable the endless hours they have put into meetings, work sessions, and full-day facility studies. While I know not everyone will agree with every decision made in regard to a new high school, I can say without a doubt that every individual on the Board truly cares about the children within Barnwell County.

It is my hope that, no matter what decisions are made in regard to a new high school and career center, that we do not let the different views regarding a countywide high school overshadow the great work and collaboration that have been happening thus far and will continue to happen within our schools. The path to consolidating our high schools and career center is not easy, but the rewards will be significant.

The work of our countywide staff members inspires me for the future. Education is truly a work of the heart, and everyone who sees it as their calling believes in its transformative power. We must believe in the future and support each other as we move forward. It is my hope that we channel the passion we had for BCCSD, BSD45, and the Barnwell County Career Center into building and embracing Barnwell County School District.

Looking forward to a strong and successful future together,  
**Dr. Crissie Stapleton,**  
Superintendent  
Barnwell County School District

## Editorial

### Consolidation is here. It's time to move forward

School district consolidation is a “scary” topic for many. It evokes many emotions and fears.

Perhaps the greatest fear is that of “change.” Change is scary due to the uncertainties of what’s to come. It can be uncomfortable as you leave the security of what you know and love.

The talk of school district consolidation has been brought up in Barnwell County time after time over the past 20-plus years. Following some varying opinions – and a few heated discussions – the topic would eventually fall to the wayside.

In August 2014, a committee was formed by Senator Brad Hutto to discuss the possibility of consolidating Barnwell County’s three schools. The nine members talked. They crunched numbers. They asked questions.

In 2015, a public forum was held where the question was asked of those attending if they wanted consolidation.

The resounding answer was “No.”

At that time, the committee found no direct correlation between consolidation and money because some consolidated districts spend more per student than others. They said consolidating Barnwell County’s district could save \$1.2 million by eliminating duplicate positions, but would cost \$800,000 to equalize teacher pay. This led to Barnwell County’s (at the time) three public school districts working together to find common ground and save money when services and opportunities can be shared.

The topic went away for a while, but consolidation seemed inevitable as our neighbors in Bamberg and Hampton counties each went through the process.

Consolidation talk was resurrected again in 2019 as the S.C. State Department of Education was incentivizing

districts with less than 1,500 students to consolidate with another district. The boards for Barnwell District 19 (Blackville-Hilda Public Schools) and Williston District 29 started working together to explore consolidation. COVID-19 delayed this process, but the county’s smallest two districts officially combined on July 1, 2022, becoming the Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD).

Now, two years later, full county-wide consolidation is no longer a question. It’s here as the state mandates complete consolidation of the BCCSD, Barnwell County Career Center, and Barnwell School District 45 into the new Barnwell County School District.

Though some in our community were in denial about the looming reality, consolidation is here whether we like it or not. So, let’s make the best of it.

We’ve noticed some alumni and employees of the current districts state that consolidation means they are losing a family. However, we don’t see it that way. Consolidation really means that the school family is growing as faculty, staff, alumni, students, and other stakeholders from across Barnwell County now become one.

While the name is changing, the legacies of the BCCC, BCCSD, and BSD45 will carry on regardless of what the district is called. The new Barnwell County School District will still include many of the same dedicated educators who have worked in the other districts. They will continue their mission of educating our community’s students some they can be college and career ready once they leave high school.

At the BSD45 end-of-the-year employee breakfast, past teacher of the year Deanna Grubbs quoted American

psychologist Abraham Maslow who said, “In any given moment, we have two options, to step forward in growth, or step back into safety.”

Consolidation will bring changes, which, as we stated earlier, can be scary. However, we can’t grow without a little change.

Just as the consolidation of the former Blackville-Hilda and Williston-Elko districts brought some positive opportunities for students, we believe the same will be true once all Barnwell County students are united together. It’s more than being under one name. It’s about being one family. After all, we are all Barnwell County.

The scariest part about consolidation is the topic of a new county-wide high school and career center. That’s been evident on social media and was on full display last week at a BCCSD meeting where options for a new school were presented.

We know there are pros and cons to each option, but we believe a new state-of-the-art CATE-focused high school will be a huge benefit to all students throughout Barnwell County. Ultimately, it’s not about what’s best for the adults, but it should be about what’s best for our young people – who are our future.

We need to invest our time and resources into what will help prepare them to be well prepared for the future.

While it’s not about the wishes of adults, we do encourage every parent, family member, school employee and other adult who cares about the students to be active and involved. This includes attending school board meetings, keeping on top of your child’s grades, having open communication with your child’s teacher, and using your voice to stand up for our children – all children, regardless of their zip code.

### Mrs. Mansfield touched many lives during her 36-year career in education



Jonathan Vickery

Publisher

left behind will forever live on in the lives of the students she touched during her 36-year career.

She dedicated 36 years to education, first as a teacher in Allendale and Williston and later as a school administrator in Barnwell.

**DEAN MANSFIELD** (noun) – *A tough yet compassionate educator who dedicated her career to helping children in Allendale and Barnwell counties.*

While that entry may not be in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, that’s how the retired educator will be remembered. She passed away last week, but the impact she

I was one of the countless students she impacted during her career. She was my principal at Barnwell Elementary School in the late 1990s. I also went to church with her at Barnwell First Baptist.

One thing I remember about Mrs. Mansfield is that she loved all her students. Sometimes this involved a tough love, but you always knew she cared, even when she had to be strict.

My classmate Tiffany Holloway said Mrs. Mansfield “enforced good manners and the best behavior.”

Another classmate, Courtney Buckmon, remembers “how well put together and graceful she was.”

Corrie Herron Duffie said Mrs. Mansfield was one of her favorite teachers and “was always supportive of her students.” Mrs. Mansfield is also one of the reasons Duffie decided to become a teacher.

My former pastor, Rev. Billy Vaughn, summed it up best: “She loved the children and was fair to them, but at the same time she expected

the best from them. She also inspired the teachers to give of their best.” His wife Brenda taught at BES when Mrs. Mansfield was principal. They also became friends.

Mrs. Mansfield possessed two qualities of a strong leader. For her students, she maintained high expectations of learning and manners, but made sure the students felt loved. To her staff, she was a respected boss who motivated her team in a family atmosphere while ensuring the school operations ran effectively and efficiently.

I also remember how classy, professional and well-dressed she was. This was a sentiment many other former students shared as well.

In addition to being a dedicated educator and caring colleague, Mrs. Mansfield was a loving wife and mother. She loved her family.

However, her most important role was being a Christian and faithful servant of God. Her love for God shined through in everything she did, including her job.

One of my favorite quotes about teachers is: “To teach is to touch a life forever.” Mrs. Mansfield certainly lived that out in her 36 years in education.

Mrs. Mansfield was a true example of what all educators should strive to be.

## DEAR EDITOR

Do you have a question or concern about Barnwell or Allendale counties?

Mail to: Attn: Editor, P.O. Box 1255, Barnwell, SC 29812

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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### The People-Sentinel STAFF

PUBLISHER/OWNER:  
Jonathan Vickery  
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

REPORTER:  
Alexandra Whitbeck, reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

REPORTER:  
Elijah de Castro, elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVES:  
Jana Schroeder, advertsing@thepeoplesentinel.com  
Kathy Googe, kathy@thepeoplesentinel.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN:  
Debi Richardson, drichardson@thepeoplesentinel.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE/CIRCULATION:  
Shirley Elmore, selmore@thepeoplesentinel.com

OFFICE MANAGER:  
Diane Bodiford, dbodiford@thepeoplesentinel.com

ACCOUNTS MANAGER:  
Beth Miller, bmiller@thepeoplesentinel.com

DISTRIBUTION: Ed Crouch

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Events

**Ongoing**  
**Local firefighter Missy Cato is collecting aluminum cans for the Southeastern Firefighter's Burn Foundation.** The money they receive for these cans goes toward helping with lodging for families of patients in the burn unit, transportation, medications, anti-scarring garments, and more. For more information, contact Cato at 803-671-4973 to make arrangements to pick them up.

**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**

**Mondays thru July 1**  
**Faith @ the Fountain**  
 15 minute kids' praise & devotion on the Circle in Barnwell **10am**

**Wed., June 19**  
**Juneteenth Celebration**  
 Sponsored by the Bamberg County Branch NAACP.  
 Veterans Memorial Park, Main Highway Downtown, Bamberg.  
 Commemorate! Educate! Celebrate! For more information Nina Hayes, 803-535-9946.  
**11am-3pm**

**Thurs., June 20**  
**Allendale County Council Regular Meeting**  
 Allendale County Courthouse, J.W.Wall, Jr. Council Chambers.  
 292 Barnwell Hwy., Allendale  
**6pm**

**Fri., June 21**  
**Screen on the Green Movie Night**  
 Second Baptist Church Barnwell.  
 Refreshments will be served and the movie will start at dusk. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and hang out with us, under the stars. This event is being hosted by our Impact Youth Ministry.  
**8-11pm**

**Fri. & Sat., June 21-22**  
**Traveling Stars of Blackville**  
 will host a 2-night old time **Gospel Explosion program** Holy Ghost Headquarters (1452 Sunshine Road, Blackville). Groups and choirs will be coming from Richmond, VA, Fayetteville, NC, and different parts of Georgia and SC. Join in on the high time of giving God all praises, honor and glory. For

more information, call JoAnn Wiggins at 803-300-9180. **6pm**

**Sat., June 22**  
**The Daughters of the King will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary.** Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Barnwell. Contact any member of the group for tickets.  
**Doors open 3pm**  
**Program starts 4pm**

**Sat.-Sun., June 22-23**  
**Amateur Radio Field Day**  
 Salkehatchie Amateur Radio Society will hold its annual ARRL Field Day communications contest. The goal of the contest is to make as many world-wide radio contacts as possible. The club will operate several radios from the Barnwell County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will have a radio station in operation for public display on the grounds beside the Courthouse. Anyone interested in amateur radio, or just curious about how this form of emergency communications works, is welcome to stop by.  
**Contest 2pm Sat.-2pm Sun.**

**Sun., June 23**  
**97th Usher's Anniversary**  
**Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church**  
 Guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Cave, Pastor of Greater Sweet Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Olar  
 We look forward to celebrating with each of you. If you are unable to attend, we solicit your prayers. **1pm**

**135th Anniversary New Home Missionary Baptist Church** of Red Oak Community, Barnwell. Rev. Dr. Floyd Hughes Sr. and Macedonia Baptist Church of Blackville will be the guests. **2pm**

**150th Church Anniversary**  
**St. Mary Baptist Church**  
 474 Highway 125, Martin  
 Guest speaker will be Rev. Christopher Holley, pastor of Four Mile Baptist Church, New Ellenton. For more info, call 803-584-4254. **11am**

**Tues., June 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**

**Thurs., June 27**  
**Generations Unlimited Board Meeting**  
 Administration Office, 10915 Ellenton St., Barnwell **5:30pm**

**Fri., June 28**  
**The City of Barnwell's Independence Day**  
 celebration with fireworks.  
**6-9pm**

**Sat., June 29**  
**FREE! Clothing and Shoes Giveaway**  
 Maurice's Heart of Love, LLC.  
 Contact Maurice Austin, Cashapp: \$REESEBABY50  
 All items will be FREE to Barnwell residents only. First come first serve. All kids MUST have an adult with them at all times. Ned Branch Church, 10620 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell  
**10am-2pm**

**Sun., June 30**  
**First Baptist Church of Williston Independence Day celebration**  
 Academy Street Field, Williston  
**Starts at dark**

**Tues.-Thurs., July 9-11**  
**Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church Summer Revival Services**  
 Come and be revived and refueled with the Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church Family!  
 Tuesday Night – Rev. Desmond Antley, Pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church, Allendale, SC  
 Wednesday Night – Rev. James Holiday, Pastor of Bushy Pond Baptist Church, Norway, SC  
 Thursday Night – Rev. Dr. Floyd Hughes, Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Blackville, SC  
 Everyone is invited to worship and praise the Lord with us!  
**The Nightly Services will begin at 7pm.**

**Fri., June 21**  
**Screen on the Green Movie Night**  
 Second Baptist Church Barnwell.  
 Refreshments will be served and the movie will start at dusk. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and hang out with us, under the stars. This event is being hosted by our Impact Youth Ministry.  
**8-11pm**

**Fri. & Sat., June 21-22**  
**Traveling Stars of Blackville**  
 will host a 2-night old time **Gospel Explosion program** Holy Ghost Headquarters (1452 Sunshine Road, Blackville). Groups and choirs will be coming from Richmond, VA, Fayetteville, NC, and different parts of Georgia and SC. Join in on the high time of giving God all praises, honor and glory. For

**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**

**Mon.-Wed., July 15-17**  
**Annual Revival Services, Silver Spring Missionary Baptist Church**  
 347 Woodrow Doby Road, Williston, SC  
 Rev. Raford W. Roundtree, Jr., pastor at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson, SC & Second Hopeful Missionary Baptist Church, Hephzibah, GA.  
**7pm nightly**

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



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 17-21**  
**Long Branch Baptist Church**  
 3223 SC Hwy. 37, Williston  
 Classes for Nursery to Adults.  
 Theme is Breaker Rock Beach.  
**6pm**

**June 24-26**  
**Ned Branch Church**  
 Monday-Wednesday  
**6-8pm**

**June 29**  
**Edisto Baptist Church**  
**Williston Town park shelter**  
 There will be crafts, lunch, Bible stories, snow cones, a fire truck hose-down, and much more. The event is free and open to all children school age and younger.  
**10am-1pm**

**July 15-17**  
**Ashleigh Baptist Church**  
 Highway 3 Blackville, SC  
 VBS Theme: Christmas In July  
 Supper will be provided.  
**6-7:30**

**July 15-19**  
**Hilda First Baptist Church**  
 145 Church Street, Hilda  
 "SCUBA...diving into friendship with God"  
 Ages Toddlers to Teen  
**6-8:30pm**

**July 15-19**  
**Second Baptist Church**  
 181 Church St., Barnwell  
 Hosted by SBC's Impact Youth Ministry. Classes for all ages. "Leading Out Loud" is the theme. Refreshments will be served.  
**6-8pm**

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

### Barnwell Library Events

**MyPlate**  
**Wed., June 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**

**Cooking Matters**  
**Tues., June 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**

**STORY TIME**  
**Thurs., 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**

**Porkchop Productions**  
**Mon., June 24**  
 "The Totally Twisted Tale of the Three Little Pigs"  
 Live theater in your hometown! When Stanley (the cool pig on the block) is encouraged to invite Ralphie (the new sheep on the block) to his backyard camp-out, hilarity and chaos ensues! For rising 5k to 5th grade. **10:30am**

**STEM for Kids**  
**Wed., 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 required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. **4pm**

**Adult Craft Night**  
**Thurs., June 27**  
 Make and decorate wooden block firecrackers. These wooden blocks will look like patriotic fireworks—each one with a squiggly "fuse" on top. Registration required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. **5:30-7pm**

**Super Awesome Puppet Show**  
**Mon., July 8**  
 Hilarity ensues with puppets and stories. For rising 5k to 5th grade. **10:30am**

**Chalk the Walk and Bubble Party**  
**Mon., July 15**  
 Meet us outside for a fun bubble dance party, sidewalk decorating and of course popsicles. Registration requested call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. For Preschoolers. **10:30am**

**Bookend Painting**  
**Mon., July 29**  
 "END" Summer Reading with a bookend paint party. Paint a bookend with your favorite character, super hero or book. Bookends will be displayed throughout the library. **10:30am**

**From Garden to Jar: Community Garden Field Trip and Pickling Demonstration**  
**Tues., July 30**  
 Family program  
 Join us for an interactive and educational exploration of the Veggie Cupboard Community Garden. Harvest fresh grown herbs and produce and Participate in a quick refrigerator method pickling activity showcasing how to preserve garden produce for later enjoyment. We will be walking from the Library to the Community Garden for the event. Registration required call 803-259-3612 or stop by the front desk to register. **3:30pm**



**Blackville Library Events**  
**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**  
**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**  
 Discussing *Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil* by John Berendt. **6pm**

**Barnwell County Sheriff's Office GRITS PROGRAM**  
 (Great Reading Influences Total Success)  
 presents  
**Story Time**  
**Tuesday, June 25**  
**9:00am - 10:00am**  
**McDonalds, Barnwell**  
 Come out for story time and an activity!

## 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 8B

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

## Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 8B

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

# Sourdough from Scratch



## 4 variations of friendship breads



Chocolate Loaf

### Chocolate Loaf

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- Medium bowl
- Warm water
- Sourdough starter
- Salt
- Unbleached all-purpose flour
- Cocoa powder
- Sugar
- Silicone spoon
- Milk chocolate chips
- Sharp knife

In medium bowl, combine 350 grams warm water, 150 grams sourdough

starter and 10 grams salt. Stir well then add 500 grams flour, 50 grams cocoa powder and 50 grams sugar. Using silicone spoon, mix dough to sticky ball. Let rest, covered, about 45 minutes.

Pull dough from bottom and stretch to top of dough ball. Repeat around entirety of dough ball a few times, adding 1 1/2 cups milk chocolate chips during process, then cover. Repeat process four times then cover and let sit at room temperature at least 6 hours but no more than 14 hours. Dough should double.

Sprinkle flour on counter then spread dough flat on floured surface. Fold dough from sides then turn and roll into ball. Place on parchment paper and put back in bowl 1 hour.

Heat oven to 450 F with uncovered Dutch oven inside.

Using sharp knife, score dough then place parchment paper and dough in Dutch oven. Cover with lid and bake 40 minutes. Internal temperature should reach 195-205 F. Let rest at least 1 hour before cutting and serving.

### Plain Sourdough

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- Medium bowl
- Warm water
- Sourdough starter
- Salt
- Unbleached all-purpose flour
- Silicone spoon
- Sharp knife

In medium bowl, combine 330 grams warm water, 90 grams sourdough starter and 10 grams salt. Stir well then add 525 grams flour. Using silicone spoon, mix dough to sticky ball. Let rest, covered, about 45 minutes.

Pull dough from bottom and stretch to top of dough ball. Repeat around entirety of dough ball a few times then cover. Repeat process four times then cover and let sit at room temperature at least 6 hours but no more than 14 hours. Dough should double.

Sprinkle flour on counter then spread dough flat on floured surface. Fold dough from sides



Plain Sourdough

then turn and roll into ball. Place on parchment paper and put back in bowl 1 hour.

Heat oven to 500 F with uncovered Dutch oven inside.

Using sharp knife, score dough then place parchment paper and

dough in Dutch oven. Cover with lid and bake 20 minutes then remove lid and lower temperature to 475 F for 25 minutes. Internal temperature should reach 195-205 F. Let rest at least 1 hour before cutting and serving.

#### FAMILY FEATURES

What better way to celebrate friendship and camaraderie than with comforting foods all can enjoy. Sourdoughs and friendship breads may go in and out of fashion, but you can make them a staple of your inner circle with recipes that are easier than they appear.

Consider this Sourdough Starter, a 7-day process that may seem lengthy at first glance but requires just a few minutes in the kitchen each day. Without breaking the bank, this made-from-scratch solution includes just two ingredients – unbleached flour and warm water – so you can whip up favorites like Plain Sourdough, Everything Loaf, Cinnamon Brown Sugar Loaf and Chocolate Loaf.

Some are tempted to give up on a weeklong recipe, but if you can keep a houseplant alive, you can finish this simple starter and reap its delicious rewards.

Find more homemade favorites at Culinary.net.

### Sourdough Starter

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Total time: 7 days

- Digital kitchen scale
- Unbleached all-purpose flour
- Warm water
- Glass bowl
- Silicone spoon
- Mason jar

**Day 1:** In glass bowl, stir 50 grams flour and 50 grams warm water. Let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 2:** Add 50 grams flour and 50 grams warm water to bowl. Stir and let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 3:** Discard half the starter. Add 100 grams flour and 100 grams warm water. Stir and let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 4:** Discard half the starter. Add 150 grams flour and 150 grams warm water. Stir and let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 5:** Discard half the starter then pour remaining starter into Mason jar. Add 150 grams flour and 150 grams warm water. Stir and let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 6:** Discard half the starter. Add 200 grams flour and 200 grams warm water. Stir and let sit at room temperature, covered.

**Day 7:** Place warm water in bowl and add spoonful of starter to water. If it floats, it's ready to make bread. If it sinks, repeat Day 6 instructions. If not floating by Day 10, throw out and start over.

**Tips:** If making bread every day, starter will need fed every day. If not making bread every day, starter can stay at room temperature and be fed every other day. If starter can't be fed, it can be safely stored in refrigerator up to 10 days, covered, without feeding.

To measure correctly, place empty bowl on scale then clear to zero before each measurement.



Cinnamon Brown Sugar Loaf

### Cinnamon Brown Sugar Loaf

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- Medium bowl
- Warm water
- Sourdough starter
- Salt
- Unbleached all-purpose flour
- Silicone spoon
- Softened butter
- Brown sugar
- Cinnamon
- Sharp knife

In medium bowl, combine 330 grams warm water, 90 grams sourdough starter and 10 grams salt. Stir well then add 525 grams flour. Using silicone spoon, mix dough to sticky ball. Let rest, covered, about 45 minutes.

Pull dough from bottom and stretch to top of dough ball. Repeat around entirety of dough ball a few times then cover. Repeat process four times then cover and let sit at room temperature at least 6 hours but no more than 14 hours. Dough should double.

In bowl, mix 4 tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup brown sugar and 2 tablespoons cinnamon.

Sprinkle flour on counter then spread dough flat on floured surface. Spread cinnamon mixture on dough. Fold dough from sides, pinching to keep cinnamon inside, then turn and roll into ball. Place on parchment paper and put back in bowl 1 hour.

Heat oven to 475 F with uncovered Dutch oven inside.

Using sharp knife, score dough then place parchment paper and dough in Dutch oven lined with aluminum foil. Cover with lid and bake 20 minutes then remove lid and lower temperature to 450 F for 25 minutes. Internal temperature should reach 195-205 F. Let rest at least 1 hour before cutting and serving.

### Everything Loaf

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- Medium bowl
- Warm water
- Sourdough starter
- Salt
- Unbleached all-purpose flour
- Silicone spoon
- Everything bagel seasoning
- Sharp knife

In medium bowl, combine 330 grams warm water, 90 grams sourdough starter and 10 grams salt. Stir well then add 525 grams flour. Using silicone spoon, mix dough to sticky ball. Let rest, covered, about 45 minutes.

Pull dough from bottom and stretch to top of dough ball. Repeat around entirety of dough ball a few times then cover. Repeat process four times then cover and let sit at room temperature at least 6 hours but no more than 14 hours. Dough should double.

Sprinkle flour on counter then spread dough flat on floured surface. Sprinkle with everything bagel seasoning. Fold dough from sides then turn and roll into ball. Place on parchment paper and put back in bowl 1 hour. Heat oven to 500 F with uncovered Dutch oven inside.

Using sharp knife, score dough then place parchment paper and dough in Dutch oven. Cover with lid and bake 20 minutes then remove lid and lower temperature to 475 F for 25 minutes. Internal temperature should reach 195-205 F. Let rest at least 1 hour before sprinkling with everything bagel seasoning, cutting and serving.



Everything Loaf

## Guess Who?

I am a retired athlete born in Pennsylvania on June 11, 1956. I was a quarterback for the Ringgold High School Rams, and invited to Parade magazine's All-American team. I won a national championship for Notre Dame, and later led the 49ers to four Super Bowl victories.

Answer: Joe Montana

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fireworks.

S K R T E C O

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Rockets





**NOTICES**

**LEGALS**

Co-Personal Representative: Michael A. Carson  
 Address: 1289 Deering Road, Williston, S.C. 29853  
 2024-109 3tp 6-26-24

**NOTICES**

**LEGALS**

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: Eugene E. Darnell  
 Date of Death: May 8, 2024  
 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00113  
 Personal Representative: Jeanece C. Darnell  
 Address: P.O. Box 202, Barnwell, S.C. 29812  
 2024-111 3tp 7-3-24

**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: Henry H. Harris Sr.  
 Date of Death: April 24, 2024  
 Case Number: 2024 ES 03 00038  
 Personal Representative: Adele G. Harris

**NOTICES**

**LEGALS**

Address: 3507 Concord Church Road, Allendale, S.C. 29810  
 Attorney: J. Morgan Kearse – Kearse Law Firm  
 Address: P.O. Box 521, Allendale, S.C. 29810  
 2024-112 3tp 7-3-24

**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: Linda Etheredge Still  
 Date of Death: May 20, 2024  
 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00115  
 Personal Representative: James Kevin Still  
 Address: 132 Magnolia Drive, Barnwell, S.C. 29812  
 2024-113 3tp 7-3-24

**Notice of Application**

Notice is hereby given that PGB Petroleum, LLC 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 10160 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell, S.C. 29812. To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by July 5. 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. Submit the ABL-20 online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov, or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov.  
 2024-115 3tp 7-3-24

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5B

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF** **SPECIAL OFFER**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** **1-855-576-5653**

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

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

© StatePoint Media

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

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE CLUES**

- ACROSS**
- South American palm berry
  - Chi preceptor
  - Tatted cloth
  - \*"Knee high in July"?
  - Hole-making tools
  - Sign in (2 words)
  - Discharge
  - Violin's Renaissance predecessor
  - Nursemaid in India, pl.
  - \*On the grill on the 4th?
  - Tropical tuber
  - Propelled like Argo
  - "Fresh Prince of \_\_\_-Air"
  - \*#18 Across, picnics and such
  - Yellow ride
  - Not well
  - Heavy lifting injury
  - "Brave New World" drug
  - Feudal estates
  - Storm center
  - Rand McNally book
  - Singer-songwriter Amos
  - Deserving veneration
  - Giant "Master Melvin"
  - Y on Periodic Table
  - Unkind one, slangily
  - Clairvoyant's gift, acr.
  - "\_\_\_ under the rug"
  - Cry like a baby
  - \*Number of stripes on Old Glory
  - Birch bark vessel
  - Object of Frodo's obsession
  - Norse war god
  - Cut mission short
  - Fairy tale beginning
  - Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
  - MTV's "\_\_\_d" (2003-2015)
  - Like Willie Winkie
  - "Team" homophone
- DOWN**
- Fighter pilot
  - Toothy groomer
  - Operatic solo
  - Openings
  - Between once and thrice
  - Viva voce
  - Maroon's home
  - \*As opposed to Patriot
  - Lab culture
  - Type of salmon
  - Short for ensign
  - Not sympathetic
  - Potentially allergenic glove material
  - Tubs
  - Farm cry
  - \*Number of stars on Old Glory
  - "The Waste Land" poet
  - Heads-up
  - Wedding cake layer
  - 2-dotted mark
  - Stradivari competitor
  - Moisten, as in a turkey
  - 500 sheets
  - \*Largest Fourth of July pyrotechnics display loc.
  - \*Celebratory combustible
  - Highly skilled
  - Break bread
  - Come into view
  - Even smaller than #7 Down
  - Dined elsewhere (2 words)
  - Use a shoe polish
  - Grimace in pain
  - Hindu Mr.
  - Before long, to Shakespeare
  - Think, arch.
  - Part of a seat
  - World's longest river
  - Upper limit
  - Jodie Foster's "\_\_\_'s Island"

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**  
 THEME: THE 4TH OF JULY

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5B

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12					13				14					
15					16				17					
	18			19					20					
23	24	25					26				27	28	29	
30				31		32	33			34				
35				36			37			38				
39					40				41		42			
43					44				45		46			
					47			48	49					
					50	51			52			53	54	
55									56			57		58
59									60			61		
62									63			64		

**Town of Blackville Lawn Care Service Contract Scope of Work**

The Town of Blackville is seeking a qualified contractor to provide comprehensive lawn care services for various municipal properties. The purpose of this contract is to ensure that all specified areas are maintained in a neat, attractive, and healthy condition.

**2. Areas to be Serviced**  
 The following locations are to be included in the lawn care service contract:

- Town Hall
- Community Center/fountain area
- Public Library
- Municipal Sports Fields/Recreation
  - Grayson Court
  - Wakney Field
  - Martin Field
  - Middle School Basketball Court
- Other designated municipal properties as specified by the Town.
  - Main Street
  - Jones Bridge Road to farmer's market
  - Country Club Rd. from Islar to school
  - Hwy 3 (Dollar General to town entry)
  - Hwy 78 (Family Dollar to Hampton Street)

**3. Services to be Provided**  
 The contractor will provide the following lawn care services on a regular schedule as specified:

**3.1 Mowing and Trimming**

- The grass will be mowed to a height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches.
- All mowing equipment will be maintained to ensure a clean cut.
- Trimming around trees, fences, buildings, sidewalks, and other obstacles will be performed with each mowing.
- Clippings will be mulched or removed to prevent unsightly accumulation.

**3.2 Leaf and Debris Removal**

- Fallen leaves and other debris will be removed from lawns, sidewalks, and parking lots weekly during the fall.
- All collected debris will be disposed of off-site by the contractor.

**3.3 Seasonal Clean-Up**

- Spring and fall clean-up services include removal of debris, dead plant material, and general tidying of all serviced areas.

**4. Schedule and Frequency**  
 The contractor is expected to adhere to the following schedule:

- Mowing: Weekly from April to October, bi-weekly in March and November, and as needed from December to February.
- Trimming and Edging: With each mowing service.
- Fertilization and Weed Control: Four times per year.
- Aeration and Overseeding: Once per year in the fall.
- Leaf and Debris Removal: Weekly during the fall season.
- Irrigation System Maintenance: Monthly checks and as needed for repairs.

**5. Reporting and Communication**

- The contractor will provide a monthly report detailing the services performed, including dates and locations.
- Immediate communication is required for any issues or necessary repairs beyond regular maintenance.
- A designated point of contact from the Town of Blackville will be available for coordination and approval of additional services.

**6. Insurance and Licenses**

- The contractor must carry comprehensive liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and any other required licenses and permits.
- Proof of insurance and licenses must be submitted with the proposal and kept current throughout the contract term.

**7. Performance Standards**

- All work will be performed in a professional manner, ensuring the safety of the public and the contractor's employees.
- The contractor will use appropriate and well-maintained equipment.
- The Town of Blackville reserves the right to inspect and approve the quality of work performed.

**8. Payment Terms**

- The contractor will submit invoices on a monthly basis.
- Payment will be made within 30 days of receipt of an approved invoice.

**9. Contract Term**

- The initial contract term will be for one year, with the option to renew for additional years based on performance and mutual agreement.

**10. Termination Clause**

- The Town of Blackville reserves the right to terminate the contract with 30 days written notice for any reason, including unsatisfactory performance.

**11. Proposal Submission**

- Interested contractors must submit a detailed proposal outlining their qualifications, experience, and a detailed cost breakdown for the services described.

**Contact Information:**  
 For questions or additional information, please contact:  
 Fonda E. Patrick  
 Town Administrator Town of Blackville  
 (803) 634-3922  
 fpatrik@townofblackville.com

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# Quench Your Summer Cravings with Bold, Refreshing Beverages



blend of chili peppers, lime and sea salt – which are must-have ingredients to make the beverage. They combine to infuse the drink with a subtle kick, balancing the mango’s sweetness with a hint of spiciness that hits different.

This beloved beverage has captured the hearts and palates of people worldwide with its bold flavors and vibrant spirit to make summer deliciously unforgettable.

For another take on a classic drink, give this Tangy Chamoy Tropical Daiquiri a try at your next summer cookout. You can enjoy its cool, refreshing flavor with just the right touch of spice from Tajin Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce with the yellow cap, which is made with natural ingredients but offers a unique fruity and tangy flavor, ideal for pairing with sweet snacks like fruits, smoothies, manganadas and ice pops. With no added sugar or coloring, they’re perfect for the entire family all summer long.

There are thousands of ways to enjoy these unique flavors. To find more refreshing drinks that beat the summer heat, visit [tajin.com](http://tajin.com).

**Mangonada**  
Recipe courtesy of the National Mango Board

- 1 cup fresh mango cubes, plus 5-6 cubes for garnish, divided
- 2 ounces fresh mango nectar
- 1/2 ounce lime juice
- 2 cups ice
- 1/2 ounce agave nectar
- 2 tablespoons Tajin Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce, plus 2 ounces for garnish, divided
- 1 tablespoon Tajin Clásico Seasoning, for garnish
- 1 tamarind candy, for garnish (optional)

Measure 1 cup mango cubes, mango nectar, lime juice, ice and agave nectar into blender cup. Blend until smooth.

In separate small dishes, add 1 ounce hot sauce and 1 ounce seasoning.

Dip rim of 14-ounce Collins glass into hot sauce then seasoning to coat. Drizzle remaining hot sauce along inside of glass.

In glass, pour 1 tablespoon chamoy sauce followed by blended Mangonada. Top with remaining fresh mango cubes and sprinkle with additional seasoning. Add tamarind candy to glass, if desired.

**FAMILY FEATURES**

In between summer adventures and hot afternoons spent poolside, you’re likely looking to combat rising temperatures with a cool, refreshing beverage. This year, quench your thirst with drinks that play up the trendiness of bold flavors.

While many concoctions can help you beat the heat, some gems seem to hit the spot better than others. Consider one of the trendiest beverages that is increasingly becoming available at smoothie and juice bars nationwide but which you can also prepare at home: the tempting, bold taste of the Mangonada. With a harmonious fusion of sweet, spicy and tangy flavors, this thirst-quencher captures the essence of tropical indulgence with the majestic mango at the center of its symphony of flavors.

“Mango not only adds a burst of flavor but also brings a unique depth to the beverage,” said Dan Spellman, director of marketing for the National Mango Board.

Central to the Mangonada is Tajin Fruity Chamoy Sauce and Clásico Seasoning – a zesty



**Tangy Chamoy Tropical Daiquiri**

Total time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 2

- To Rim Glass:**
- 2 tablespoons Tajin Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce
  - 2 tablespoons Tajin Clásico Seasoning

- Drink:**
- 1/2 cup diced pineapple
  - 1/2 cup orange juice
  - 2 ice cubes
  - 2 tablespoons Tajin Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce
  - 1 slice pineapple, for garnish
- Rim two glasses in hot sauce then in seasoning.
- Blend diced pineapple with orange juice, ice and hot sauce; pour into glasses.
- Garnish with pineapple slice.

**Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!**



Vol. 23 No. 29 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

**My name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

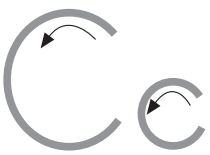
**Learning Buddies:** Spell your child’s first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

**Carrie Cat’s Vegetable Garden**

Carrie the cat grows large vegetables.  
Number the carrots from 1 to 6, from the smallest to the largest.  
Number the cabbages from 1 to 6, from the largest to the smallest.

**My Letters**

**C** is for Carrot  
**c** is for carrot



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

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

**My Numbers**

How many ?

How many ?

How many ?



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

**My Rhyme Time**

Cat ate the carrots.  
Cat ate the carrots.  
Momma stood by and cried, oh fie.  
Why did you eat the carrots? Why?

**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.

Carrots are



<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Letter Identification</b></p> <p>With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that have the same sound as the letter C in carrot.</p>	<p><b>Monday</b></p> <p><b>Math Play</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>Vegetable Pie</b></p> <p>Look through the newspaper grocery ads and cut out pictures of vegetables. Put them into a pie tin and pretend to make a vegetable pie. Count the vegetables in your pie. Sort them into groups that start or end with the same sound.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>Who Eats Veggies?</b></p> <p>Explain to your child that vegetables provide important vitamins that make us healthy and feel good. Look at pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child if he thinks each person eats vegetables. Discuss why or why not.</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>Smallest to Largest</b></p> <p>Look for newspaper pictures of 3 or more examples of different items, such as 3 cars, 3 faces, 3 of the same letter, 3 people, etc. Cut out the items and have your child put them in order from largest to smallest and smallest to largest.</p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>Shopping List</b></p> <p>Use the grocery store ads to make a shopping list with your child. Cut out pictures of things you need and glue them onto a shopping list. Write the word for each item next to each picture. Have your child check off each of the items purchased.</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>Catch It!</b></p> <p>Wad up a page of the newspaper and tape it to make a ball. Tell your child to listen to you say a list of words. One of the words should start with the letter C. When you say the C word, your child should throw the ball into the air and try to catch it!</p>
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**Learning Buddy Sign Here**

I have completed \_\_\_\_\_ activities with my Learning Buddy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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

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

# The People-Sentinel

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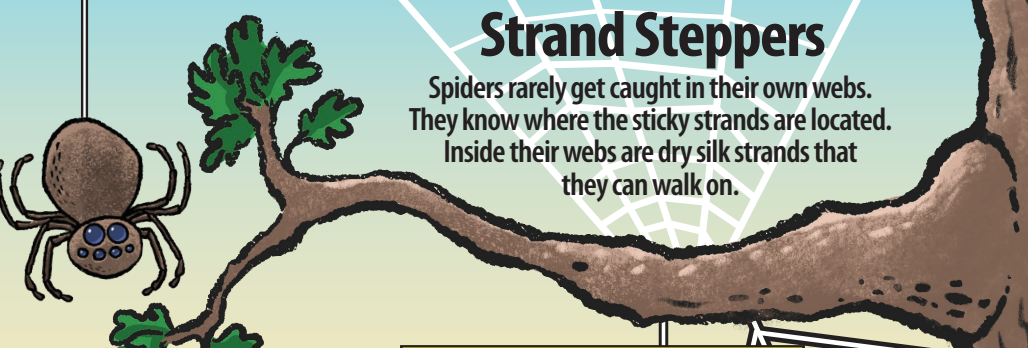
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## FANCY WEB WORK

Different spiders weave different kinds of webs. Web-spinning spiders spin webs to trap food—the flying and crawling insects they crave.



### Strand Steppers

Spiders rarely get caught in their own webs. They know where the sticky strands are located. Inside their webs are dry silk strands that they can walk on.

Follow each trail to find out which kind of web each of these spiders weave.

#### TANGLED WEB

Spun in quiet, dark corners, this is the most common kind of web.

#### ORB WEB

This web has spokes like bicycle wheels.

#### TRIANGLE WEB

The spider attaches two points of its web to twigs. It holds onto the third point and attaches itself to a third twig. When an insect lands on the web, the spider loosens the end it holds and the web pulls the insect inside.

#### Just how strong is spider silk?

A thread of spider silk is stronger than a thread of steel the same thickness. It is one of the strongest materials on earth.

Circle every third letter along the spider's drop line to find out what a rope of spider silk 1 inch thick (2.5 cm) could hold.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

S  
W  
F  
T  
P  
I  
R  
O  
F  
L  
U  
T  
N  
M  
Y  
A  
S  
C  
O  
H  
A  
Y  
R  
V  
S

#### How do spiders make silk?

Spiders have little finger-like spinnerets at the rear of their bodies. They squeeze liquid from a silk gland between the spinnerets. When the liquid hits the air, it hardens into a long, thin thread. Spiders can make the thread thick or thin, sticky or dry, smooth or bumpy.

#### The Making of an Orb Web

Number the pictures in order from 1 to 6 to show the making of an orb web. It takes a garden spider less than an hour to complete an orb web.

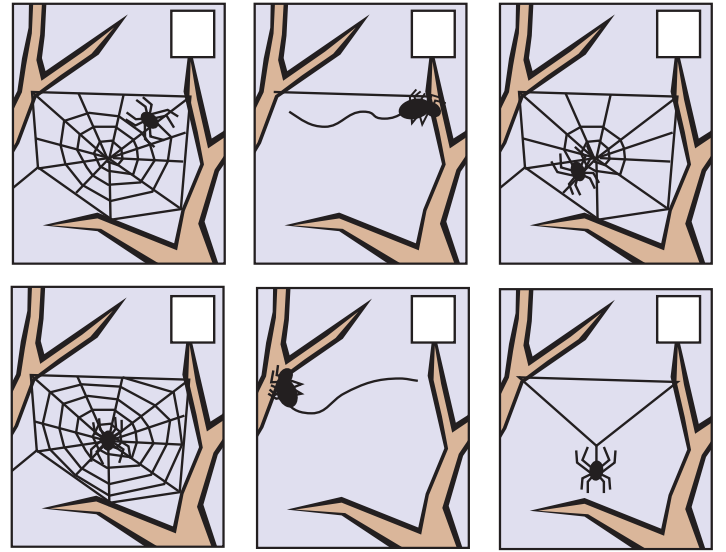
**Standards Link:** Animals have structures that aid in survival.



**Standards Link:** Animals have structures that aid in survival; there is variation within a species.

### How do spiders make silk?

Spiders have little finger-like spinnerets at the rear of their bodies. They squeeze liquid from a silk gland between the spinnerets. When the liquid hits the air, it hardens into a long, thin thread. Spiders can make the thread thick or thin, sticky or dry, smooth or bumpy.



**Extra! Extra!**  
**Spider Advertiser**  
 Read the ads in today's paper. Then, use crayons or markers to create an ad for spiders! It could be a "Web for Sale" ad or an ad for something spiders need.  
**Standards Link:** Follow simple written directions.

### The Making of an Orb Web

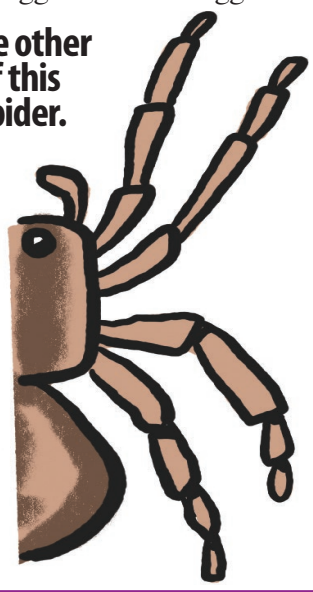
Number the pictures in order from 1 to 6 to show the making of an orb web. It takes a garden spider less than an hour to complete an orb web.

**Standards Link:** Animals have structures that aid in survival.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Many spiders spin webs around their eggs. The wolf spider does this as well, and then carries its egg sac until the eggs hatch!

Draw the other half of this wolf spider.



### Double Double Word Search

AIR  
 CORNERS  
 DRY  
 EARTH  
 HOLD  
 ORB  
 POINT  
 SILK  
 SPIDER  
 SPUN  
 STEEL  
 THREAD  
 TRIANGLE  
 WEB  
 WEAVE

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

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

### FREE Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!



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[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

**This week's word: ATTACH**  
 The verb **attach** means to connect one thing to another.  
 The spider can **attach** its web to twigs in bushes.  
 Try to use the word **attach** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Word Webs

Glue a noun from the newspaper onto the center of a piece of paper. Then cut out other words that go with that noun. Glue groups of words around the center noun. Connect the words that go in one group.

**Standards Link:** Grammar: Identify nouns.

### Why are spiders like bicycle wheels?

ANSWER: They're always spinning!

### Write On!

#### How I Helped

Write about a time you helped someone else. How did it feel?

**Standards Link:** Write descriptively using main idea and supporting details.



**Barnwell School District 45 thanks our families and community members for supporting our schools!**