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Old fire station torn down

The last wall of bay doors falls on June 19 as crews continued demolition of the old Barnwell city fire station in downtown Barnwell. The building, built in the early 1950s, originally housed the fire department, police department, city hall, and other offices, though in recent years it solely housed the Barnwell Fire Department. Firefighters recently moved into the new station just next door. Once the old building is completely torn down by the end of the week, a parking lot will be added.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Certifications of Blackville chief and lieutenant suspended

Alexandra Whitbeck
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The Criminal Justice Academy suspended law enforcement certifications for Blackville Police Chief Ray Crawford (left) and Lt. Brian Gray (right).

The Blackville Police Department is down to three officers after the certifications, and therefore law enforcement authority, of the chief and lieutenant have been suspended.

According to Mayor Ronnie Pernell, the department is left currently staffed with three certified officers and two non-certified officers, and has policing support from the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office and the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

On Thursday, June 20, the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) sent letters via certified

U.S. mail and email to Mayor Pernell, Chief Ray Crawford, attorney Glenn Walters, and Lieutenant Brian Gray notifying them of suspension and request of withdrawal of both officers' law enforcement certifications.

An investigation by CJA was

See SUSPENDED, 3A

What's a penny worth?

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The Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) referendum voters will see on the November ballot is a continuation of the penny tax that Barnwell County voters passed in 2016.

When the 2016 CPST was passed, numerous capital projects were funded in each municipality and in the county, such as the Splash Pad and restroom at Fuller Park in the City of Barnwell and the town hall in Kline.

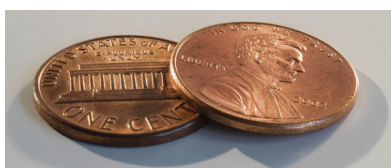
According to the CPST Act, a county governing body is authorized to create a six-member CPST commission made of three appointees from the county and three from the municipalities.

The Barnwell County CPST Commission was created in December 2023 consisting of Fonda Patrick, Don Alexander, David Deering, Jimbo Moody, Lloyd Ward, and Ken Frederick.

These commission members were responsible for selecting the priority in which the projects will be seen on the ballot and formulates the actual question for the Nov. ballot. The final list was approved by Barnwell County Council on June 13.

If passed, the projected total collection county-wide would be \$17,780,062. This total will be allocated between the county and municipalities based on population. Much of the funding will be bonded to the county and municipalities, allowing multiple projects in each area to begin simultaneously and mitigating the

See TAX, 6A



Retiring Barnwell Primary School Principal Donna Selvey (center, in car) was celebrated on May 24 with a "Grease" movie themed parade. Some of the faculty and staff dressed in 1950s pink attire. Pictured surrounding the car are: (left side) Amy Davis, Beverly Anderson, and Dionne Bennett-Scully; (back row) Ashley Tedder, Amy Bozard, Rachel Hair, and Stephanie Chestnut; (inside car) Selvey and driver Ashlee Lemon; and (right side) George McIntosh, Masey Mathias, Paige Black, and Susan Frazier.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Principal Selvey rides off into retirement in style

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For 30 years, Donna Selvey has been a full-time educator. Now she's ready to be a full-time grandma.

The Barnwell Primary School (BPS) principal is retiring after three decades in education. Twenty-seven years were in South Carolina, mostly in Barnwell and Williston, while the other three were in her home state of Tennessee.

"It won't really hit me until August when school starts. I'm used to being so busy," said Selvey of being retired.

Dream Job

Selvey always knew she wanted to be a teacher. Being a tutor in high school solidified that dream.

"I love the excitement of seeing people learn new things," she said.

Her first job was as a science lab teacher in Aiken. They did STEM-type activities of science, technology, engineering and math.



BPS teacher Chelsea Carroll and her students cheer on principal Donna Selvey during a parade on May 24.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

"Math is what I really wanted to teach. Back then it was very hard to find middle school math positions," said Selvey. Nowadays, she said it's hard to find teachers for those once hard-to-find positions.

An 8th grade math teacher opening at Williston-Elko Middle School (WEMS) led her to Barnwell County. She later moved home to Tennessee briefly before returning to

South Carolina to work at Millbrook Elementary in Aiken while she finished her master's degree in administration.

After completing her degree, Selvey got a call from Lexie Clamp, then-superintendent of Williston School District 29, about an opening for principal of Kelly Edwards Elementary School (KEES). The two previously worked together at WEMS when Clamp

was principal and Selvey was a teacher. Clamp was the one who encouraged Selvey to pursue her degree in administration.

"She is one of the best administrators and friends I have worked with in my career. Enjoy your retirement," said Clamp.

After approximately 10 years as principal of KEES, Selvey became principal of BPS in 2012.

"I love our little town. I prefer the small, community schools. I've worked in larger communities, but you don't get the same type of education in a bigger school. In a small town, the whole community is invested in your child. There's a deeper education for your child," she said.

That deeper connection is what always led Selvey back to Barnwell County.

Beloved Leader

In both Williston and Barnwell, Selvey tried to be the best leader possible.

"I wanted to always have that family feeling and give my teachers the support they

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- Willie Hagood - Barnwell**
- David Keene Nix - N.C.**
- Anthony Stewart Ray Sr. - Barnwell**
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- Tony Zorn - Barnwell**



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37 Circle Theatre campers journey to 'Wizard of Oz'

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The Circle Theatre summer camp production of "The Wizard of Oz" brought many new faces to the Academy Street stage.

With a record-breaking 37 participants, campers and directors worked together during the whirlwind week of June 16 to put on the sold out Friday, Saturday, and Sunday shows.

The opening night show came with a view fitting for the nearing rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," as a double rainbow appeared over the theatre serving as both a good omen and an uncanny coincidence.

Last year's production of "Into the Woods Jr." had 24 participants and was such a hit that many of the campers came back this year and brought a friend.

This is 10-year-old Sydney Jackson's second year at the camp, and her friend Eliana Cruikshank's first year.

"She did it, and they were talking about how fun it was, so I thought, 'You know what, this seems like fun, I'm going to try it,'" said Cruikshank, who is also 10. "It already is really fun!"

Caitlin Bell was excited to be cast as one of the show's iconic roles, Toto. This is the nine-year-old's third year at camp, and so far she is enjoying the show.

This year, the youngest camper to hit the stage was 5 years old acting alongside their oldest at 16 years old.

Director Kimberly Sanchelli is excited to share this classic show with the next generation and was looking forward to the parents seeing their children reenact a familiar tale.

With the increased number of campers, Sanchelli decided to double cast.

"We wanted to give all the kids more opportunities than just being on the stage one time, so they're playing



The cast of Circle Theatre's production of "The Wizard of Oz" included (not in order) Kiera Asmus, Sydney Asmus, Caitlyn Bell, Eliana Cruikshank, Neo Culp, Aviana Derisma, Olivia Derisma, Zehra Godhrawala, Shelby Jackson, Sydney Jackson, Sanaa Jenkins, Bryson Jones, Olivia Kaney, Summer Long, Annabelle Lowry, Noah Hutson, Avery Lowry, Hunter Phalen, Jasper Purewal-Fisk, Rayna Pureway-Fisk, Alexander Scully, Abigail Smith, Isabelle Snead, Rachel Stanbrook, Hartlyn Still, Brinkley Taylor, Alyssa Tedder, Stanzi Tolbert, Sylvaneas Tolbert, Freedom White, Charlee Wix, Chloe Wix, Anna Yates, Elizabeth Yates, and Reagan Lowry.

Photo Courtesy: Circle Theatre



Circle Theatre summer campers act out a scene from "The Wizard of Oz" for family, friends and community members.

Photo By: Amy Davis

multiple roles," she said.

This leads to a lot of prop and costume changes, as well as ample practicing to ensure everyone had time to learn their multiple roles.

On the last full day of practice before the Friday night show, Jackson was looking forward to having fun and being confident on

stage as a Munchkin and during the Jitterbug dance.

Cruikshank is also playing multiple roles as a Munchkin, a Winkie Guard Leader, and performs in the Jitterbug dance. She also simulates the tornado with ribbons.

Another first-time camper is nine-year-old Annabelle Lowry, who is

playing a member of the Winkie Guard, a Munchkin, features as a cat, and says the iconic line, "Follow the yellow brick road!"

"I kind of just have it in my mind," said Lowry of her multiple roles.

She was looking forward to the dance routines, the costumes, and having fun on stage.



Photos By: Trina Wix

Campers at Circle Theatre act out scenes from "The Wizard of Oz" during performances at the end of their weeklong camp.



Drum majors attend symposium before new season

Seth Dorn (left) of Williston-Elko High School and Nicholas Elko (right) of Barnwell High School attended the Carolina Lead Drum Major Symposium June 20-22 in Columbia. Seth and Nick will be the drum majors for the Bands of Barnwell County this fall. Both Seth and Nick are rising seniors.

New S.C. Department of Public Health announces July 1 launch

Contributed

S.C. Department of Public Health

COLUMBIA — On July 1, 2024, the new South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) will officially begin serving the people of South Carolina.

Formed by Act 60, DPH will be the health component of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DPH's mission is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of everyone in South Carolina.

"Our name may change, but our commitment to serving and improving the lives of everyone in South Carolina is stronger than ever," said Dr. Edward Simmer, interim agency director. "DPH will build on DHEC's legacy, continuously innovating to achieve best practices that help improve our state's overall health rankings to achieve our goal of becoming the healthiest state in our nation."

With more than 2,900 employees working in approximately 90 locations across the state, DPH instills a people-first



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

approach to all that we do. This includes working with our partners, communities, and others to help every South Carolinian have the access, resources, and information they need to make decisions that enhance their health and have access to the highest quality, safe health care.

DPH consists of two core divisions: Health Promotion and Services and Healthcare Quality. In addition, Administration provides our divisions and teams with the necessary support to ensure the successful accomplishment of our mission and vision.

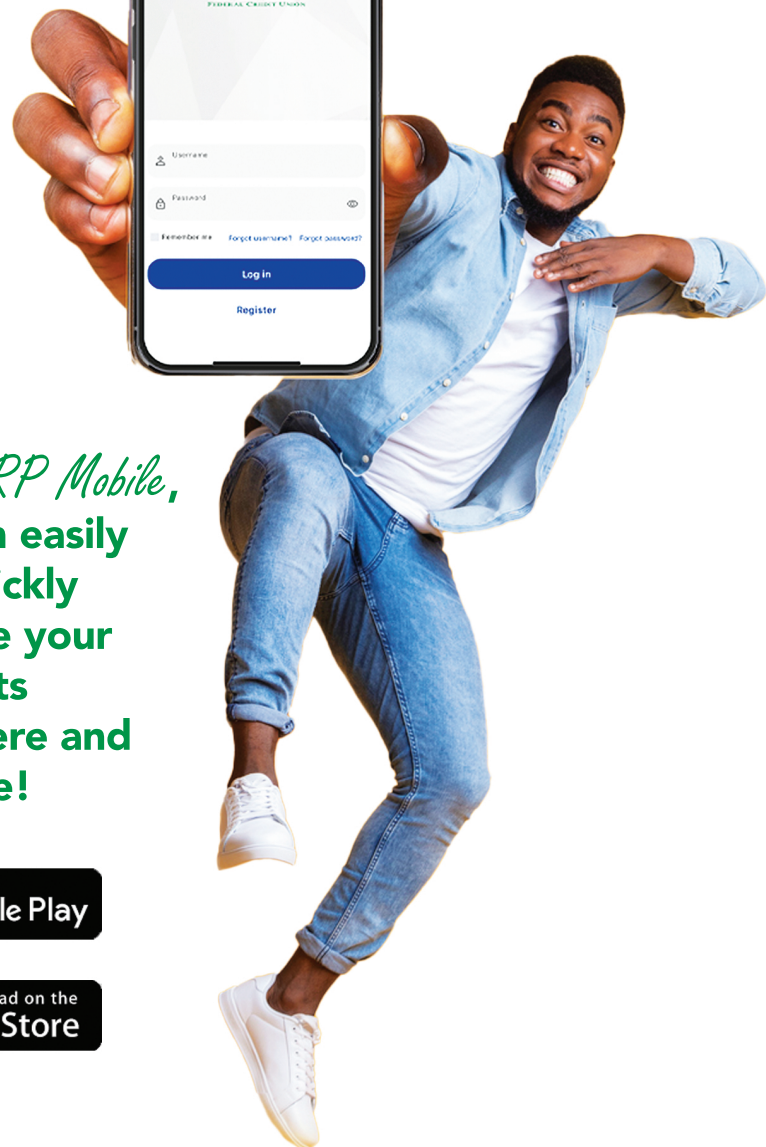
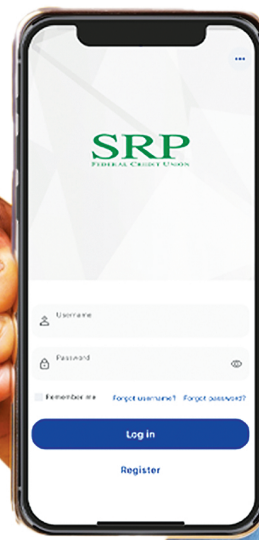
Health Promotion and Services promotes community health and well-being by protecting people from disease, illness and injury as well as providing access to quality care. It includes all public health departments and programs in South Carolina including community engagement and health collaboration.

Healthcare Quality enhances patient safety and the quality of care by leading efforts to make health care in South Carolina safer, more accessible, equitable and of higher quality. This division includes community care and provider services, drug control and medical and emergency support.

"On Day One, those we serve will not see any disruptions to the services that they depend on for good health and peace of mind thanks to our dedicated staff," Simmer said. "Our employees have gone above and beyond to ready us for this transition and ensure that absolutely no one – not those we serve or our employees – falls through the cracks before, during and after this agency transition."

On July 1, the new agency can be found online at dph.sc.gov, and the main phone number will be (803) 898-3300.

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Town of Kline recognizes individuals for service

Jonathan Vickery
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The Town of Kline recognized several individuals who've served the town over the years.

On March 29, a celebration was held at the Kline Town Hall. In attendance were current and former town council members, the mayor, employees, and others who've served in one way or another.

"The purpose of this gathering is to honor service," said Mayor William Cave.

Wilbur Cave, a relative of the mayor, served as guest speaker for the occasion. Though he is now retired and lives in Columbia, the former state representative for District 91 grew up in Kline.

"Service is one of the greatest things we can give," said Wilbur Cave.

In addition to serving as state representative, Cave worked in Barnwell schools as a substance abuse and transportation coordinator, was administrator for the Town of Allendale, and founded Allendale County ALIVE, an organization that helps people with housing.

"When I hear my council members in this great city don't get paid, that is truly a sacrifice and a volunteering of service to your community," said Wilbur Cave. "There has to be a love for our family, friends and community in order to give that service."

He said God calls everyone to serve. "All of us can serve differently. He gave us different talents and gifts so we can serve in a way to make our community great and meet the needs of those we serve," said Wilbur Cave.

Program Committee
 Mayor Cave first recognized the town's program committee, including Beverly Rimes, Tara Keel, Karen Kissiah, Samantha Ortiz, Judy Arnold, Jesse Ortiz, Rodger Arnold, Rick Kissiah, and William Cave.

Rimes and Tara Keel started the committee, along with the late Audrey Halford and the late Hazel Powell.

"Those four women could get things done," said Mayor Cave.

Originally called the tree lighting committee, it later was renamed the programming committee as more people and initiatives were added.

"All of you have been doing a beautiful job," said Mayor Cave. "I pray God will continue to bless you all as you continue to bless the Town of Kline."

Rimes thanked the younger people who have stepped in to help take over duties.

Town Employees
 Charlie Kirby was recognized for providing more than 30 years of service by cutting the grass. "You've done a tremendous job," said Mayor Cave to Kirby.

Former town clerk Shekinah Washington Williams was recognized for the 10 years of service she provided. She recently stepped down.

"She's done a dynamic job. All the councilmen just fell in love with her because her work was professional," said Mayor Cave.

Williams is the one who started the town's annual back-to-school where backpacks and other school supplies are given to local children in August.

"Thank you to everyone for accepting me and welcoming me right on in. I looked at it as an honor,"



Current and former members of the Town of Kline's program committee were recognized, including (from left) Tara Keel, Judy Arnold, Karen Kissiah, Rick Kissiah, Samantha Ortiz, Jesus "Jessie" Ortiz, and Mayor William Cave. Also recognized was Charlie Kirby (right) for his service to keeping the town's grass cut.

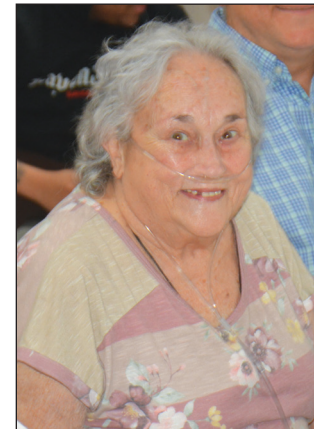
Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Mayor William Cave (left) with Wilbur Cave, the guest speaker for the March 29 celebration.



Kline Mayor William Cave presents a plaque to Shekinah Williams, former town clerk, for her 10 years of service.



Beverly Rimes was recognized for her service on the program committee.

said Williams.

Council Members
 Mayor Cave recognized former town council members Milton Harden and Jesus "Jessie" Ortiz who stepped down in recent



Former town council members Milton Harden (left) and Jesus "Jessie" Ortiz (right) were recognized for their years of service to the town. They recently left their positions on council. Mayor William Cave (center) was recognized for his service on the program committee.

months. Harden served on council for 10 years until recently moving to Barnwell.

"Kline will always have a place in my heart. I've lived most of my life here," said

Ortiz has served on the council for approximately 15 years.

"It has been a challenge, but I've met a lot of people. There's been a lot of

planning to get things done. The town hall is the biggest thing we did together," said Ortiz of the new town hall that was built in recent years using capital projects sales tax funds.

SUSPENDED: Blackville police chief, lieutenant lose law enforcement authority as S.C. Criminal Justice Academy recommends termination of certification

FROM PAGE 1A

initiated against Crawford on June 6 pertaining to willfully falsifying material information provided to CJA - an occurrence that requires the withdrawal of law enforcement certifications.

"Your client provided false statements to a CJA investigator and provided false documents to the investigator as well as submitting false documents to CJA's certification unit," states the June 20 letter to Crawford's attorney, Glenn Walters of Orangeburg. "After obtaining witness statements and collecting evidence it has been determined that your client willfully falsified material

information to CJA...and willfully provided false information to CJA or the Law Enforcement Training Council."

CJA found Gray to have "provided false statements to a CJA investigator and provided false documents to the investigator as well as submitting false documents to CJA's certification unit," states the June 20 letter addressed to Gray.

Witness statements and evidence collected by CJA determined Gray too "wilfully falsified material information to CJA...and willfully provided false information to CJA or the Law Enforcement Training

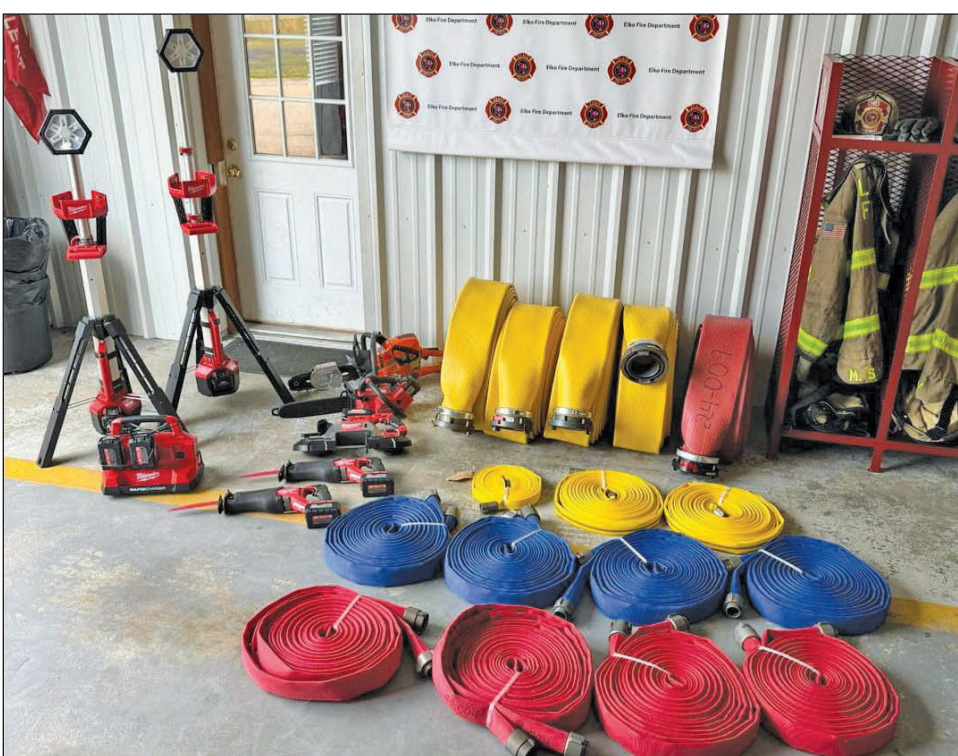
Council," states the letter.

A Law Enforcement Training Council meeting will be held on July 24, 2024 regarding the certifications where Crawford and Gray are encouraged to attend.

This comes after Gray and the entire department were under investigation in late May. Gray for the claims pertaining to false documents, and the department for non-compliance with hiring forms for new officers.

The Blackville PD is now on the search for an interim chief, according to Mayor Pennell, and Captain L. Huggins is currently the highest ranking officer at the department.

Elko Fire Department receives \$13,000 worth of new equipment



Some of the new equipment the Elko Fire Department purchased using S.C. State Fire Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment program funds.

The Elko Fire Department was able to purchase equipment through the South Carolina State Fire Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment program (V-Safe). In total this is over \$13,000 worth of equipment that will aid in operations from water supply, ventilation, extrication, and rescue. Special consideration was taken to buy battery operated tools that interchange with neighboring mutual aid departments tools in the event they are working together on a scene.

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AWARD



GIVING YOUR BEST
EARNESTINE GLOSTER
AWARD WINNER

Earnestine Gloster won the "Giving Your Best" award from WJBF for April.

Earnestine Gloster recognized by TV station for giving her best

Earnestine Gloster won the "Giving Your Best" award for April 2024 from WJBF News Channel 6 in Augusta, Ga.

"I am filled with joy, gratitude, and humility. It was truly a surprise and honor to receive this recognition and I will cherish it forever," said Gloster.

From teaching four weekly exercise classes and walking four miles nearly every morning to helping with the HEALing Partners Coalition, is on a mission to make Barnwell County healthier.

"My goals are to keep them out of the doctor's office and to stay healthy and to keep coming to exercise, because at our lovely age -and they are much older than me, however!- but at our age, once we start we have to keep going cause if we stop- we're gonna lose everything we've gained," she told WJBF.

She was nominated by Pam Rush, executive director of the Axis I Center of Barnwell.

"This achievement is not mine alone. I could not have achieved this award without the help and support of the community. It is a testament to the love, support, dedication and inspiration from my family and community partners. I give a very special thank you to Pam Rush, Pamela McKnight, Axis 1, HEALing Partners and The Well. All of you have guided me with your wisdom and eagerness to help the community. This has been a wonderful experience and I am more knowledgeable and richer in so many aspects of life because of it," said Gloster.

"We are so proud of this wonderful lady! There is no one more deserving! We are so thankful to have her giving heart and talents here at the Y," said Chantsie Pickelsimer, director of the Barnwell County Family YMCA.

Gloster thanks WJBF Channel 6 News for shining the spotlight on her as a community leader. "I am just trying to impress upon a community how important it is to keep moving, eat better, and live a healthier life. This recognition will be etched in my heart forever," she said.

BIRTH



Royce Jamar Singleton was born on June 6, 2024.

Royce Jamar Singleton

D'eShawn Singleton and Lauren Thomas of Columbia are proud to announce the birth of their son, Royce Jamar Singleton.

He was born at 5:17 p.m. on June 6, 2024 at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital in Tampa, Florida. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Takeshia Anderson and the late Marion Singleton of Williston and Allendale, respectively.

Maternal grandparents are Jeffrey and Jan Thomas of Tampa, Florida.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Dietreach Anderson and Larry Dukes of Williston.

Maternal great-grandparents are Oscar and Rosie and Oscar and Marilyn of Mississippi.

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Allendale County school board approves \$18 million budget for 2024-25 school year

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
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and capital costs, and fiscal responsibility.

"The majority of the money is actually in people," Grant said. "We've budgeted for teachers and additional staff to come in and work with students who are falling behind for six days [additional] on the calendar [year]."

The 2024-25 budget is aimed at addressing ACSD's major staffing shortage. The elementary school is currently seeking applicants for art, music, physical education and early childhood teachers, while the middle school is seeking applicants for English, math and social studies teachers, and the high school is seeking



The Allendale County School District's 2024-25 \$18 million budget includes raises, bonuses and incentives for the district's teachers and employees.

Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

applicants for business education, English, math, band, science, social studies and spanish teachers. The district is also hiring instructors for different trade-related courses, like

auto mechanics and construction. In addition to teachers, the school district is in need of coaches, food service workers and bus drivers.

ACSD's staffing shortage is part of a nationwide shortage of public school teachers that has occurred since the pandemic. Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics find that 300,000 public school teachers left the profession between February 2020 and May 2022. Low pay, burnout and poor working conditions are among the top reasons teachers are leaving the workforce, the National School Boards Association finds, with rural communities struggling most to retain current employees and hire qualified teachers.

To attract new teachers, the ACSD has budgeted a \$15,000 sign-on bonus for new teachers into the 2024-25 budget (international teachers are not included in the sign-

on bonus initiative). The 2024-25 budget also includes \$200,000 for teacher performance pay. In May, the South Carolina Department of Education funded \$100,000 in payouts to high-performing teachers in the district as part of an effort to improve teacher retention and appreciation, as previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*.

The budget also anticipates the end of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), a \$190 billion federal program passed by Congress during the pandemic to help public schools. The end of ESSER's final funding round will be September 30, 2024.

Although the ACSD's 2024-25 budget is an increase over the 2023-24 budget, the school board anticipates that cuts will be made to the 2025-26 budget due to falling enrollment; in 2015, ACSD had 1243 students, while in 2024, ACSD will have 866 students, according to ACSD enrollment data. This decrease has occurred concurrently with the declining population of Allendale County.

"This is very important and it's going to be very difficult but it's something that we're going to have to do," Grant said. "We're going to have to make a \$3 million cut to the overall budget for 2025-26. We're going to make these cuts in order to better align our

enrollments."

The sign-on bonus initiative will not be budgeted for the 2025-26 year, ACSD Superintendent Dr. Vallerie Cave said, and discussions surrounding the 2025-26 budget will begin in October.

"The easiest way to do it [is to] cut vacancies first," Cave said, noting that the district is prepared to increase class sizes to up to 21 students in the future. "Then we'll look at other positions that have not been filled. My goal will be to save as many people their jobs without cutting those current employees that we have."

At the end of the meeting, board member Hazel Perry raised concerns about the board's level of involvement in decision making.

"Everything has been presented [to us], but there are some things we've had questions about," Perry said, expressing her concern that the board has not been involved enough in ongoing ACSD projects. "To speak for myself, it's somewhat embarrassing because the people in the community know that we're like a figurehead and nothing more. ... I'm not trying to be funny or disrespectful, but I'm just saying usually boards play a different role."

Before going into effect, the 2024-25 budget must be approved by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Fairfax Town Council votes to establish 'good government practices'

Elijah de Castro
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At the Fairfax Town Council's June 17 meeting, the council voted in favor of the first readings of three ordinances to establish "good government practices."

The three ordinances were regarding the attendance of town council members at meetings, abandoned vehicles and the inauguration of elected officials in town.

Mayor Butch Sauls said he wants to see increased cooperation between the town's committees. For too long, Sauls said, the town council and government have been reactive to Fairfax's issues, rather than proactive.

"It's important for me that [council members] work, that they meet, because you can't take an office and do nothing except meet once a month," Sauls said. "You need to be



The Fairfax Town Council has approved the first readings of three ordinances regarding "good government practices."

Photo By: Elijah de Castro / Report for America

involved in making a difference, in helping make things better."

The first reading of an ordinance to handle abandoned vehicles was approved. The ordinance declares abandoned vehicles a nuisance that "creates a hazard to health and safety." Abandoned vehicles can be a fire hazard and can interfere with local traffic.

During the finance report, Sauls announced that the town's general fund has \$78,310.40, while the town's payroll account has \$5,871. The town also has \$300,000 in unpaid invoice-

es, an amount Sauls said has built up over years and will take time to pay off.

"That's a lot of money," Sauls said. "We are getting a system set up, we're paying [the] bills, but we can't pay them all."

Sauls said the town is currently swapping between making payroll and paying back invoices every other week. In May, the town hired Wanda Mulligan as a financial director to help organize the town's paperwork, an issue that has prevented the town from forming a budget, as previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*.

Allendale County Council votes to extend 2023-24 budget

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

At its June 20 meeting, the Allendale County council voted to extend its 2023-24 budget until the 2024-25 budget is finalized.

Council chair Matthew Connelly said the extension of the 2023-24 budget will be indefinite, but the

council hopes to have completed the 2024-25 budget by the end of July. Connelly declined to comment further on the contents of the 2024-25 budget.

"We're not going to have [the budget] done by July 1st, so we're extending the budget until we get it passed," Connelly said. "We did not put an end date on it, but our hopes are to be done within 35 to

40 days."

The council also voted to approve the use of \$245,000 in Savannah River Site settlement funds to allow Sheriff James Freeman to purchase five new cars for the Allendale County Sheriff's Department. The county was allotted \$2.5 million in settlement funds.

2023 Water Quality Report Allendale Industrial Park DHEC System # 0320002

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The source of our water is Ground Water.

A Source Water Assessment Plan has been prepared for our system. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Alan Stanley at (803) 584-2853. We want you, our neighbors and valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. Feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings on the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM at the James Brandt Building, 398 Barnwell Hwy, Allendale, SC 29810.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. Allendale Industrial Park routinely monitors constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes and chemicals. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. In this table you will find the following terms and abbreviations:

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Bacteriological Contaminants						
Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Highest No. of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation (Y/N)	Typical Source
Coliform Bacteria	0	1.00		0	N	Naturally present in the environment

LEAD and COPPER TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	90th Percentile	Units	MCLG	Action Level	No. of Sites Over AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper 2021	N	0.46	ppm	1.3	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead 2021	N	2.50	ppb	0	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	RAA.0	0.0-0.42	MRDL.4	MRDLG.4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Inorganic Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2021	0.072	0.072 - 0.072	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling waste, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	0.067	0.067 - 0.067	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2021	1.0	1.0 - 1.0	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS		
NAME	REPORTED LEVEL	RANGE Low - High
Sodium (2021)	11.0 ppm	11.0 - 11.0

If you have special health needs Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Allendale Industrial Park is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Tony Glento Zorn



BARNWELL - Tony Glento Zorn, 74, passed away at his home on June 20th, 2024.

He was born on October 24th, 1949 in Barnwell, S.C. to the late Sallie M. and Stanley B. Zorn. He was a very loving father, grandfather, and brother

to his family, and enjoyed many things in life including hunting, fishing, golfing, and being in the mountains or at the beach.

He is survived by his daughter, Missy (Joey) Rutland of Barnwell, S.C.; sons, Tony Zorn Jr. of Barnwell, S.C. and George Zorn of Barnwell, S.C.; grandchildren Aden Rutland, Izzy Rutland, Cassidy Zorn, Trey Croft, and Dawson Zorn; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Leon (Sallie) Zorn and Hank (Patty) Zorn; sisters, Iris Still, Vangie Elkins, Lois (Richard) Rudd, and Ann (Steve) Pitsos.

He is preceded in death

by his brothers, Jerry Stanley Zorn Sr., Charles Perry Zorn Sr., Aubrey Hazel Zorn, Donnie Michael Zorn, Oscar Zorn, and John Jackson Zorn Sr.

A visitation was held on Monday, June 24th, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Mole Funeral Home. Funeral services followed in the Mole Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m. with Steve Pitsos officiating. Graveside was held at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

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Wayne Renew



BARNWELL - Wayne Renew, 78, of Barnwell, passed away June 17, 2024 at the home of his brother, Donnie, surrounded by his loving family.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Wallace & Elizabeth Renew, and brother, Ronnie Renew. Wayne served 6 years in

the South Carolina National Guard. He retired from construction work several years ago. He worked for several different companies, throughout Georgia and South Carolina. He was retired from the carpenter's local union 225 in Atlanta, Ga. Wayne was an avid fisherman and spent many hours on the lakes, the sea, and rivers. He enjoyed playing golf, cooking, and entertaining family and friends.

Wayne is survived by brothers Donnie (Suzanne) Renew & Danny (Terri) Renew. He is also survived by Johnnie Hunter (Renew) and numerous loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, and

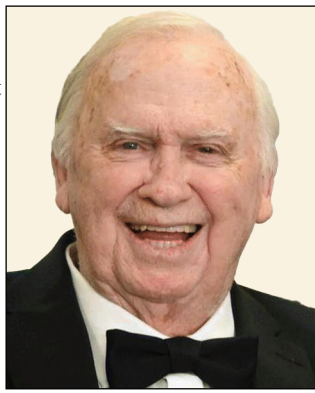
great nephews, as well as many cousins and friends.

Visitation was held on Wednesday evening, June 19, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. at Mole Funeral Home and the funeral service followed Thursday morning, June 20 at 10 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church with Rev. Rommie Martin officiating. Graveside followed in the Barnwell County Memory Gardens Cemetery.

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

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David Keene Nix



WILMINGTON, N.C. - David Keene Nix, 94, died peacefully on June 20, 2024 in Wilmington, N.C.

He was born in Hilda, S.C., on December 27, 1929. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a business degree and served three years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a Staff Sergeant. He worked 30 years with DuPont in Kinston, N.C., where he was Production Control Manager. He had

a second career as a real estate agent in Lexington, S.C., where he moved to be close to family. He was the son of the late Ottie Breland Nix and Corrie Mae Chitty Nix of Hilda, S.C.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Carolyn Steverson Nix of Wilmington, N.C.; two daughters, Becky Nix High (Les) of Whiteville, N.C. and Angie Nix Morales (Bob) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.; and five grandchildren, Carly High McElwee (Nathan) of Raleigh, N.C., Margaret High of Chicago, Ill., Breland Morales Duderstadt (Michael) of Key West, Fla., Grace Morales of Tampa, Fla., and David Morales of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. He is also survived by a sister, Joyce Baxley of Beech Island, S.C.; brothers

John Nix (Sandra) of North Charleston, S.C., Gene Nix (Nell) of Elko, S.C.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Effie Mae Nix Delk of Williston, S.C., and brothers, Russell W. Nix of Williston, S.C., and Ottie Clifford Nix of Lexington, S.C.

A funeral service was held on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Whiteville United Methodist Church (902 Pinckney St., Whiteville, N.C. 28472).

Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org, Lower Cape Fear Life Care at www.lifecare.org, or Elko Baptist Church, 7467 Bay St., Elko, S.C., 29826.

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Anthony Stewart Ray Sr.

BARNWELL - Anthony Stewart Ray Sr., 71, passed away on June 16th, 2024.

He was born on August 18th, 1952 in Barnwell, S.C. to the late James Ernest Ray and Mary Elizabeth Cope Ray. He was a caring man, and always provided for his family. He worked as a Supervisor at Carolina Eastman for 40 years, and served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his sons,

Anthony Stewart Ray Jr. and Johnathan David (Holly) Ray; brothers, Graham Ray, Ernest Albert Ray, Farrell Ray, and Wayne Ray; as well as many grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Timothy Cope Ray Sr., James Robert Ray, and Murrell Ray; sister, Anna Sue Cavelo; and nephews, Stan Ray and Timothy Cope Ray Jr.

A visitation was held on

Sunday, June 23rd, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Allen's Chapel, with a memorial service following at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Farrell Ray officiating.

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

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Willie Hagood



BARNWELL - Mr. Willie James Hagood, affectionately known to some as "Get" and "Snooks", was born Saturday, October 13, 1935, to the late Gideon Hagood and the late Leila Beatrice Dorsey Hagood, in Blackville, Barnwell County, South Carolina.

On Friday, May 24, 2024, the gates of Heaven swung open as God called Willie home to rest while at his residence in Barnwell, South Carolina at the age of 88.

Willie James's education was provided by teachers and mentors of the Barnwell County Public school system in Blackville, South Carolina, and was a graduate of the former Macedonia High School in Blackville, South Carolina. He was employed as a custodian for many years at Palm Beach

County schools and was a newspaper carrier for Palm Beach Coast Times for about 30 years.

Seeking God's direction and guidance, at an early age, he joined and became a baptized member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Blackville, South Carolina, and later joined the Brown Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Barnwell, South Carolina where he served as a member of the Trustee Board and sang in the Senior Men's Choir.

Although Willie's presence will be no more, he leaves loving memories that will remain embedded in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death and is now resting with his loving parents, Gideon and Leila B. Dorsey Hagood; beloved wife of 67 years, Ura Lee Phoenix Hagood; grandparents, Annie Donaldson and Cornelius Donaldson; four sisters, Georgia Dorsey, Gladys Dorsey, LouMisher Coleman, and Vina B. Hagood; and four brothers,

Charlie Donaldson, Mallie Donaldson, Big Willie Donaldson, and Cornelius Donaldson.

Those remaining to cherish his fond memories are: two daughters, Barbara (Gary) Scott and Blonice (Frantz) Legrand, both of Aiken, South Carolina; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; six godchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and loving friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church (10620 Dunbarton Boulevard, Barnwell) with Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Cave serving as eulogist.

The pallbearers were Walter Hicks, Daniel Hicks, Jerramy Scott, Aaron Adams, Najee Perry and Daniel Metayer.

Following the service, he was laid to rest at Hope Memorial Park in Barnwell. B.F. Cave Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements.

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Mr. Leon Ashley Jr.



ELKO - Mr. Leon Ashley Jr. entered into eternal rest on Friday, June 21, 2024, at Aiken Regional Medical Center, Aiken, S.C.

Leon is survived by two brothers, Johnny (Margie) Ashley of Chesapeake, Va., Chad Ashley of Williston, S.C.; two sisters, Verger Ashley of Elko, S.C., Melva Kennedy of Columbia, S.C.; one aunt, Minnie Lee Ashley of Ft. Myers, Fla.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services in loving memory for Mr. Leon Ashley Jr. were conducted on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Crema-

tion Service with Reverend Dr. Feddie L. Bush and Reverend Norman O'Neal officiating. Burial was in Elko Cemetery.

Family and friends may call Simmons Funeral Home of Williston, Inc. & Cremation Service (13188 Main Street, Williston, S.C. 29853; 803-266-7808). Sign the online guestbook at www.simmonsfuneralhomeofwilliston.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Barnwell, South Carolina, will hold a public hearing at 5:30 pm on Monday, July 22, 2024, at City Hall in Barnwell on the following appeal:

Appeal No. 2024-2 by Peter Palmer for a special exception pursuant to Section 4-115 of the City of Barnwell Zoning Ordinance to allow property at 674 Jackson St. to be used as a Restaurant. Documents relating to the appeals are available for public inspection in the office of the Zoning Official at 130 Main Street, Barnwell, South Carolina.

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What's buzzing in Kline?

Growing honey bee farm helps local pollinators

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople sentinel.com



Ronnie and Cassie Moore, owners of R&C Low Country Bees in Kline, attend events and festivals to share about the importance of pollinators. They are pictured here at the Blackville Music & Arts Festival.

A beekeeper and his allergic-to-bees wife make the perfect pair. Ronald and Cassandra Moore, or Ronnie and Cassie, are growing their passion into a business.

R&C Low Country Bees was born out of Ronnie's two-decades long interest in honeybees and all the benefits they bring to the local environment.

When he first met Cassie and told her about what he did outside of being a certified master carpenter, she knew her EpiPen and an ice pack would have to be kept within close reach. Thankfully she isn't severely allergic, and is more attuned to handling the business side of the company rather than dealing directly with the bees themselves.

Cassie has her PhD in educational psychology and used to own a private practice. While she operated her business and grew her passion, Ronnie stood right beside her.

"When he gets excited, I get excited. He's my best friend. And he helped me with my private practice and it's only fair that I support him and his passion. So that's what I do. I support my husband 100 percent, but I don't go out to the bees!" said Cassie.

As the couple began to build their business, their home in North, S.C. caught fire and family members became ill, requiring them to put a hold on honeybees and shift focus.

They restarted on a property with a lot of pollinating trees in Kline and built up their hives again to give R&C Low Country Bees another shot.

Ronnie began growing a sustainable stock of bees, establishing hives, and continuously learning how to better care for his winged-friends; Cassie developed a website, an Etsy storefront, procured a business license, and learned to work with beeswax.

By early 2024, the couple was gearing up for the local market season to showcase their services, supplies, and a wide variety of honey products such as soap, wax tarts, candles, and of course, honey.

R&C Low Country Bees also offers honey bee removal, on-site wax dipping for bee hives, and pollination services to local farmers.

However, none of these products or services would be possible without the passion Ronnie has for seeing the honeybee population thrive in this region.

"As a beekeeper, we call the bees our friends, our girls, our compadres, family, because we've got so much time and love invested into them," said Ronnie.

Ronnie visits his 'girls' numerous times a day, rarely with a beekeeper's suit or veil for protection from stings. He has worked with honeybees long enough to know the intricacies of their behavior, doubled with the research he has done into how they operate.

"You can tell their temperament once you open the boxes," said Ronnie. "As a beekeeper, you don't go at certain times of the day, you don't go in certain weather."

Ronnie explained how sensitive bees are to barometric pressure. When the pressure drops, it means rain is near and the bees get much more aggressive.

"As you progress and mess with them over the years, you kind of learn the tricks of what and what not to do," he said.

During two decades of beekeeping, Ronnie believes he has gotten stung



Honey-sticks are one of the many products sold by R&C Low Country Bees.

"probably more times than we breathe," but it has never deterred him from continuing to care for each and every bee in his hives.

He first got interested in beekeeping through a friend. Ronnie remembers asking him: "How do I get into this?" He said, 'Have lots of money and patience.' So, I don't have lots of money, but I've got a lot of patience."

Ronnie is now a certified beekeeper through the S.C. Mid-State Beekeepers Association, and the couple are both members of the South Carolina State Beekeepers Association.

They find that one of the best ways to understand the evolving world of beekeeping is to make friends within the field and always be willing to learn. Attending conferences and seminars are only some of the ways they have

educating the community on the importance of honeybees.

Pollinators can be thanked for the majority of our food and sustaining a strong agricultural base in many states which leads to economic sustainability. Many consider it to be a daunting thought what humans would do without insects like honeybees.

According to Clemson Extension, the annual contribution of honeybees to U.S. food production is estimated to be \$10 billion, pollinating crops like apples, blueberries, cantaloupes, watermelon, squash, and much more. In South Carolina alone, annual cash receipts for commercially grown apples, cantaloupes, cucumbers, and watermelons are estimated at \$25 million.

However, maintaining honeybee populations comes with challenges far outside of their own hives.

"With society keeping the manicured lawns and the manicured highways, you're killing all of the bees' food," said Ronnie. "So that puts back on the beekeeper to constantly feed them and give them the proteins and stuff that they normally would get from nature."

It is a costly practice for

colonies are constantly facing the plight of a manicured lawn.

Ronnie encourages up and coming beekeepers to learn their environment, seasons for different pollen, and what grows when. For example, the blooms of a red leaf maple are a large pollen and nectar source for bees.

Combining his passion for honeybees and skills as a master carpenter, Ronnie can also provide bee-removal services in the Barnwell, Allendale, Aiken, Columbia, and Augusta, Ga., areas.

With a bee-vacuum in hand, Ronnie can gently remove large colonies from attics, chimneys, and just about anywhere. As an added bonus, he can then repair any damage he left trying to access and remove the bees.

"He can make it look like nothing ever happened," said Cassie.

Once the bees are safely removed, Ronnie brings them back to Kline under his care.

"A lot of times where I remove them is out of people's houses and old buildings," said Ronnie. "I'll get the comb and the honey and the bees and I'll bring it back here. I'll save the comb. I'll cut it out right away so I can reuse it, and I'll put it in empty frames. I'll make the box up and I'll put them right back on their original comb, and let them start generating again."

After each removal, R&C Low Country Bees gain a new hive and a colony of bees have a safe place to land. Often, Ronnie's services can take the place of an exterminator when dealing with honeybee-specific issues.

Ronnie is also one of the few certified to dip hives in wax on-site. This maintains the boxes and frames much longer than any other type of treatment, and comes with a surplus of other benefits.

To learn more about the services offered by R&C Low Country Bees, visit <https://randclowcountrybees.godaddysites.com/> or call (803) 604-6254.

met with some prominent figures across the country and discussed new ways to tend to their hives.

In April 2024, 20 colonies of honeybees made the move to their new home in Kline and Ronnie got to work stabilizing and showing Cassie how to graft queens.

"Queens are the heart of the colony, and whenever you are able to graft queens

and make your own queens, you become a sustainable entity," said Ronnie.

According to Ronnie, once a beekeeper has a good stock of bees, they can graft their eggs to create more queens of the same stock.

Another aspect of R&C Low Country Bees that Ronnie and Cassie are passionate about is

the roughly 2,500 beekeepers in South Carolina. When beekeepers are forced to supplement food that could be provided by naturally growing wildflowers, the cost only increases.

Wild colonies of honeybees do not have beekeepers like Ronnie working to keep them fed, and are forced to rely on what nature provides. These



Making beeswax melts, candles, and other items have become a passion for Cassie.



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EARLY DEADLINE

The edition for July 3rd has an early ad deadline of Friday, June 28th at noon. Announcements, Regular & Classifieds included.

The People Sentinel Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th and will reopen at 9:00 am on Friday, July 5th. Have a safe July 4th Holiday.

Staff at The People-Sentinel

The People-Sentinel

22 Burr Street, Barnwell, SC 29812

(803) 259-3501 | 803-259-2703 (FAX)

Barnwell 45 recognizes educators & staff at final celebration

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Wearing shirts indicative of their Warhorse pride, Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45) administrators and educators joined together to celebrate the completion of another school year – their last as a district before the county’s final school consolidation on July 1.

“This is a tough day, it is the last time we are all coming together as Barnwell School District 45, it’s the end of an era,” said Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

This year was a bit different than previous; the district teacher of the year was not announced, and is being held until the fall term when Barnwell County school districts officially consolidate. However, teachers of the year at each of the four BSD45 schools were still honored and celebrated.

“While this year seems like the end of an era for Barnwell School District 45 and sometimes change can be scary, I want to share a quote from Abraham Maslow. He said, ‘In any given moment, we have two options, to step forward in growth, or step back into safety.’ So while the unknown can give us all a little bit of anxiety, we can’t grow without a little change,” said last year’s teacher of the year Deanna Grubbs.

The theme of the event was ‘Here We Grow Again’ and it was planned by the district’s teacher forum. Plants lined the stage and seed packets were strewn across tables as raffle items and giveaways. All planters were painted by Barnwell Primary School (BPS) gardeners, and the seeds and pots were donated by the Barnwell Walmart.

At BPS, the teacher of the year is Kawanna Ford. The school’s supervisor of speech has been with the district for 10 years.

“She is one of the people who can keep me focused, she’s very professional with what she does,” said retiring BPS principal Donna Selvey. “I am always amazed too because when I go into her room to do an observation or hang out or ask a question, she still gets so excited about what her children are doing in the classroom and how they are moving forward.”

Ford is described as a teacher who is always ready to answer questions and give tips on how to



Barnwell School District 45 board members recognize the district's retirees during the May 2024 board meeting. Pictured from left: (top row) board members Felicia Devore, Rhett Richardson and Rosey Anderson; (middle row) retirees Michael Highsmith, Sandra Mintz, Catherine McCurry, Burnell Creech, Karen Brown; (bottom row) retirees Lisa Collins, Donna Selvey, Melissa Moore, Elizabeth Holloway, Denise Sharpe, and Ann Marie Hebbard. Not pictured: Tammy Briggs, Susan Gardner, James Hammonds, Shirley Jones, Cathy Tucker, and Rachel Wall.

Contributed



Kames Furtick (right) was named the Barnwell High School teacher of the year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Kawanna Ford (right) was named the Barnwell Elementary School teacher of the year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Melissa Easterling (right) was named the Guinyard Butler Middle School teacher of the year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



Sumita Sinha (left) was named the Barnwell Elementary School teacher of the year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

better serve the students. Barnwell Elementary School (BES) principal Kay Gooding describes her school’s teacher of the year as “a hard worker who is willing to take on new challenges every day to impart instruction and create an excellent classroom environment for her students,” she said.

“She has a strong command of the classroom and sets obtainable goals for all of her students...I have never met anyone who



All Barnwell District 45 employees wore shirts to the end-of-the-year breakfast that read “So many stories. So many memories. Such a legacy! Warhorse Pride.”

is more concerned with the wellbeing and academic success of students,” said Gooding.

Sumita Sinha is an academic coach in the special education department at BES, and is said to always have great energy, enthusiasm, a positive attitude, and goes above and beyond to give her best.

“I can honestly say that she is a woman of strong moral character and integrity,” said Gooding of

Sinha. Guinyard-Butler Middle School (GBMS) principal Henrietta Williams put the spotlight on an educator who prefers to stay behind the scenes, but works tirelessly for the wellbeing of the school.

“She will do anything asked for our students and our schools behind closed doors, but in the crowd she takes a step back,” said Williams.

Melissa Easterling “is one that welcomes her students everyday at the door with the biggest smile and a heart full of love for her content and her children,” said Williams.

Easterling was named the GBMS 2024-25 teacher of the year.

At Barnwell High School (BHS), head volleyball coach and computer science teacher Kames Furtick was named the teacher of the year.

“We interviewed this young lady, and the composure she had was unbelievable for anybody, much less a first-year teacher,” said BHS principal Franklin McCormack. “It was apparent from day one that she was indeed a gem.”

Furtick is described as an asset to the students she serves, setting high expectations both inside and outside of the classroom.

RETIREES

Each school’s principal recognized retirees, many of which were in attendance. According to Dr. Stapleton, the time all the retirees across the district have served totals 447 years.

The retirees include:

Barnwell Primary:

Lisa Collins, James Hammonds, Melissa Moore, and principal Donna Selvey

Barnwell Elementary:

Karen Brown, Susan Gardner, Ann Marie Hebbard, Elizabeth Holloway, Denise Sharpe

Guinyard-Butler Middle:

Tammy Briggs, Cathy McCurry

Barnwell High:

Mike Highsmith, Cathy Tucker

Transportation:

Burnell Creech, Shirley Jones

Food Service:

Sandra Mintz

District Office:

assistant superintendent Dr. Rachel Wall

“We are so grateful for all you’ve done for our students, and just know you are always a part of our family,” said Dr. Stapleton. The breakfast ended with a documentary video highlighting teachers, staff, board members, community members, and other stakeholder who all share a piece of their heart with BSD45.

BCCSD employees recognized during end-of-the-year lunch

The Barnwell County Consolidated School District recognized employees for years of service during the May 30 end-of-the-year celebration.

5 Years of Service: Sheila Bongcawel, Kristine Bottorff, Rena Creech, Sharika Cunningham, Cynthia Dunbar, Darolyn Jackson, Cassie Govan, Paula Mason, Brandon Marshall, Dalton Mundy, Julie Parker, Shironn Parker, Jessica Pym, Kathy Simmons, Ciera Smith, Elaina Smith, LaTasha Timms, Robert Turner, Dr. Cynthia Walden

10 Years of Service: Tammy Allen, Katrina Burt, Thomas Edwards, Lila Smith, Lisa Smith

15 Years of Service: Michael Davis, Herbert Dowling, Kizzy Joyner, Yolande Thompson

20 Years of Service: Leah Bias, Cathy Smith, Kimberly Richardson

25 Years of Service: Alison Brady, Christina Snider, Patricia Ulmer

30 Years of Service: Mae Ruth Reed



Barnwell County Consolidated School District retirees Bridget Brown, Deborah Edwards, Jackie Horner, Geneva Mack, Ronnie Neville, Eartha Holmes, Valerie Tobin, and Stacey Salley were recognized at the May 30 end-of-the-year celebration.

Photos By: Jonathan Vickers / Publisher



Leah Bias, BCCSD director of special services, is hugged by interim superintendent David Corder. Bias has served for 20 years.



Teachers of the year and support staff of the year were recognized during the May 30 celebration. Pictured from left: Horace Lamback (Kelly Edwards Elementary School Support Staff of the Year), Vernon Williams (KEES Teacher of the Year), Hermean Williams (Macedonia Elementary-Middle School Support Staff of the Year), Quintin Salichs (MEMS Teacher of the Year), Lisa Phillips (Williston-Elko Middle School Teacher of the Year), Darlene Birt (Blackville-Hilda High School Support Staff of the Year), Paris Mason (BHHS Teacher of the Year), Tammy Still (Williston-Elko High School Support Staff of the Year), Jessica Pym (WEHS Teacher of the Year), and Chantane Tobin (District Support Staff of the Year). Not pictured is WEMS Support Staff of the Year Jessica Dukes.

RETIRED: Donna Selvey retires after 30 years in education, 21 as principal

FROM PAGE 1A



Retiring Barnwell Primary School principal Donna Selvey (left) was surprised as she exited the school on May 24, the last day of school, because colleagues had prepared a "Grease"-themed day of festivities, including a parade.



One of the days during the last week of school was "Star Wars" themed. "Star Wars" is one of Barnwell Primary School principal Donna Selvey's (center) favorite movies. She's pictured with teachers Rachel Hair (dressed as Chewbacca) and Satin Robinson (dressed as Princess Leia).

needed. I want input from everyone," said Selvey.

Much of her relationship-centered leadership style comes from Clamp, who she considers one of her greatest mentors.

"She always valued everyone's input. She set high expectations but wanted us to have fun," said Selvey of Clamp.

Clamp taught her team to leave their personal lives at the door once they got to school. This was so they could be the most effective teachers possible.

"Smile and bring a positive attitude. Commit your day to these children," said Selvey.

Doing what was right for the students remained her top priority. While academics are very important, Selvey said it's also important to support the whole child.

"Every child comes in here wanting to be loved and heard. If you do those things for a child, the education can follow," said Selvey.

Even middle schoolers love a hug and being heard. When she was a WEMS teacher, she would eat lunch with 8th graders to build a relationship. While other teachers struggled to have those same students complete their work, she said the students always completed her assignments because they knew she cared.

Selvey tried to instill those same principles in her teams over her two decades in leadership.

It was appreciated and accepted.

"Selvey has been a great principal. She has always been open-minded and fair, yet willing to make the tough calls needed to make sure the teachers and students were taken care of at all times," said BPS teacher Heather Chambers.

BPS teacher Rachel Hair said Selvey has taken care of her since she started eight years ago.

"She has done all the things a principal is supposed to do like give me guidance when needed, handle situations that were beyond my ability, showed appreciation for me, supported me, and allowed me to do my job. She also became a friend who supported me through hard times like when my dad had cancer or when I went through great loss. She always says, 'I'm here for ya girl.' I know she means that and she would check on me through each situation. I am thankful I was able to have her as a boss that I admire and respect. However, I am even more thankful to have her as a friend that I have so much love for as well," said Hair.

That sentiment was echoed by other teachers as well, including Masey Mathias.

"Ms. Selvey was there for the kids as well as the teachers. I felt very supported by her and that can't be said of every administrator. I feel very fortunate that I was able

"She is one of those rare individuals born to be a leader and called to touch the lives of countless children."

- Barnwell School District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton, on Donna Selvey

to work for her for 8 years. She became more than a boss in that time, she is a friend," said Mathias.

BPS teacher Dionne Bennett-Scully has had four principals during her career, but said Selvey surpassed them all.

"As a teacher from a different country (Jamaica), I witnessed firsthand Ms. Selvey's love and dedication to her staff and the students. She always made me feel comfortable. I was always terrified whenever the time came around for teachers to be assessed. However, I never felt that way when Ms. Selvey came into my room. Sometimes she would even join in the lesson being taught," said Bennett-Scully, who will miss Selvey's smile and jokes.

Barnwell School District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton has known Selvey for nearly 20 years. The two worked together at Kees when Selvey was principal and Stapleton was a teacher.

"She is a true legend in education. She is one of those rare individuals born to be a leader and called to touch the lives of countless children. I have no doubt

this was her calling, and I thank God for bringing her into my life and the lives of all of the staff members, students, and families she has touched throughout the course of her career," said Stapleton, who will lead the new Barnwell County School District once consolidation takes effect July 1.

In fact, Stapleton credits Selvey with leading her to pursue administration, leading her to become assistant principal, assistant superintendent and now superintendent. Just as Clamp was a role model and mentor to Selvey, Selvey became the same thing for Stapleton.

"Her leadership has made a lasting mark on all of us who have had the honor of working with her, and her legacy will continue to inspire all of those who have been impacted by her guidance," said Stapleton.

Like many of her colleagues, BPS teacher Beverly Anderson said she will miss Selvey as a boss because she's been the best principal she's ever had. However, she's also been a good friend, which will continue after retirement.

Retiring in Style

The staff of BPS celebrated their leader during the last week of school.

Each day featured food, costumes, music, decorations, and fun themed around one of Selvey's favorite movies, such as "The Lion King", "Toy Story", and "Star Wars".

"She is a 6-year-old at heart, so we themed our days with some of her favorite movies. It has been a blast!" said Amy Bozard, Save the Children program coordinator.

"I appreciate the effort they put in to make that last week really special. Each day was a surprise," said Selvey.

Prior to each day, Selvey had to guess which movie would be featured the next day based on a clue. The staff also gave her a package to open each night that contained the attire she needed to wear.

On May 24, the last day of school, a "Grease"-themed parade was held. Music from the movie played as guidance counselor Ashlee Lemon chauffeured Selvey in a yellow Thunderbird convertible along the road behind the school. Selvey was greeted by students and staff who lined up outside of the school with signs, festive hats, pom-poms, and other festive items to show their appreciation to Selvey. Several teachers dressed up as characters from "Grease" and followed behind the

car in the parade.

New Chapter

Though Selvey will miss the staff, students and parents from her BPS family, she is ready to spend more time with her own family, particularly her seven grandkids.

Retirement will also end a long daily commute for Selvey, who sold her house in Barnwell nearly two years ago. She's since had a three-hour roundtrip commute from Leesville, where she's living with her daughter and three of her grandkids.

"I'm ready to be a full-time grandma. You miss a lot when you are working," said Selvey.

On one of her final workdays, she wore a shirt that read: "Retired: Under new management. See grandchildren for schedule."


Though leadership changes can make staff nervous, Selvey said she's confident the school is in good hands with new principal Jared Thrasher. He comes to BPS from Barnwell High School where he's served as assistant principal.

"He is a very caring, Christian guy. I think it's going to be an easy transition," said Selvey.

The two have spent the last few weeks working together to prepare for the transition.

As she enters her new chapter of retirement, Selvey said Barnwell County will always hold a special place in her heart.

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Blackville-Hilda's Jaquell Holman commits to Gamecock football

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

Blackville-Hilda star athlete Jaquell Holman announced his commitment to play football for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks on Saturday, June 8.

Jaquell is the 2023 Region 4-A Player of the Year and was named to several All-Region and All-State teams. In addition to his football success, Jaquell was the 2024 single A State Champion in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and the 4x100-meter relay.

Jaquell announced his commitment on social media saying, "I want to thank all the colleges and coaches that recruited me. The decision was not easy, as all the programs that offered me are great. After a lot of thought and talks with my parents, I am happy to announce my commitment to the University of South Carolina! #GoCocks."

When asked about what he likes about the Gamecocks, Jaquell said, "I love the environment and I also love the amazing coaching staff."

Jaquell made an unofficial visit last fall, but he plans on taking an official visit during this coming season to have the full recruiting experience. South Carolina is recruiting Holman as an athlete so "they can play me wherever they need me," said Holman. Answers like that say a lot about Jaquell and help explain why this young man is, and will continue to be, successful.

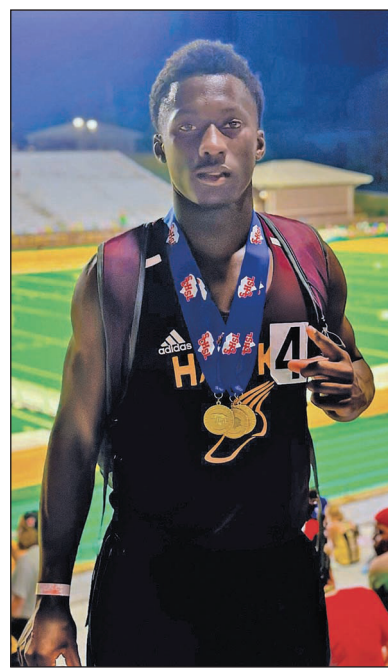
When asked about any advice he might give younger athletes that hope to play collegiate athletics, he said, "My advice to the youth is to never stop working. I say that because my recruitment started later than usual. I never gave up. Now look what happened. Always believe in God. He will make a way. I have no doubt about that."

Blackville-Hilda head football coach Kevin Jones was asked about the commitment and said, "We are really happy for Jaquell



Blackville-Hilda's star athlete Jaquell Holman committed to the University of South Carolina Gamecocks football program and coach Shane Beamer on Saturday, June 8.

Photo By: Kelley Wood



The Gamecocks will welcome the State Championship speed of Jaquell Holman next year. Jaquell won gold medals in the 100m, 200m, and the 4x100m relay at the State Championships this year.

Photo By: Kailyn Gibson

and his opportunity to play at South Carolina. He was obviously heavily recruited and even

after his commitment, several schools continue to pursue him. However, USC had been on him

the longest and most consistent. Other SEC and ACC schools have thrown their hats in the ring for



Jaquell Holman and the Hawks look to improve on a very good 2023 football season before he heads to the University of South Carolina.

Photo By: Kelley Wood

his services since the spring. The interesting aspect of his recruitment is that the schools have differing opinions on which side of the ball he will play on at the next level. Several like him at running back and others like him on defense. South Carolina initially liked him for defense but after seeing him recently at a 7-on-7 at their facility, they have started to seriously look at him for offense. Jaquell and his family have handled the process really well. They have asked great questions of the schools and really know what they consider important for his future."

Holman isn't the only Hawk getting attention. "We are very lucky to have so many kids getting looks for the next level. We are working hard to help all the young men find the best place for them to continue their education and playing careers," said Coach Jones.

Coach Jones and the Hawks will have one last season with Holman, who was the 2023 Region 4-A Player of the Year and was named to several All-State teams. The Hawks have Holman and several other highly-skilled athletes returning to a Blackville-Hilda team that had a great season and playoff run last year. Jaquell rushed for more than 1,600 yards on 153 carries, averaging more than 10 yards per carry. He scored 26 touchdowns for Blackville-Hilda and contributed 76 tackles playing defense. This could be another very special season for the Hawks.

Before committing to South Carolina, Holman had offers from Pittsburgh, Old Dominion, Liberty, Gardner-Webb, and The Citadel. He has also had interest from several other ACC and SEC schools, but Jaquell chose to play at the school he watched and cheered for as he grew up. The same school he visited last year and the same school he went to football camp is where he will play.

Jaquell Holman will be a Gamecock in 2025. Go Gamecocks!

Barnwell Coaches Pitch All-Stars head to state championship July 6

The Barnwell Coaches Pitch (7- & 8-year-olds) All-Stars won the S.C. Dixie Youth Baseball District 6 championship game after beating North Augusta and Greg Park during the tournament held June 15-18 at Midland

Valley Howard Field in Beech Island. They finished undefeated and are headed to the state championship game on July 6 at the Ace Basin Sports Complex in Walterboro.



Front row: Kylan Still, Knox Bolen, Finn Carroll, Lenox Grubbs, Christian Sumpter, Peyton Curtis; Second row: Dawson Abbott, Corbin Schumpert, Beau Johnson, Connor Still, Jase Pickelsimer, Mason Proctor; Coaches: Chassidy Still, Bradford Still, Baile Bolen, Stew Carroll.

Barnwell Minor All-Stars are runners-up for district title



From left to right: (bottom row) Rylan LaCroix, Maddox Ashby, Kipper Polk, Malachi Altman, Levi Givens, Alex Nguyen; (middle row) Daniel Anastasia, Rylan Kearse, Brogan Gunnells, Konnor Carter, Axel Myers, Davis Thrasher; (top row) coaches Jared Thrasher, Carlos Carter, Josh Givens.

The Barnwell Minor League All-Stars competed for the district championship on June 19.

They played Orangeburg for the championship game at Lemon Park in Barnwell, but were defeated. Prior to that game, they were 3-1.

"It's moments like these that make coaching special. The interactions with the players, inside jokes, good and bad times, and the battles you and your team

go through on the field," said Carlos Carter, one of the coaches.

While they didn't win first place, the kids had moments that they'll remember forever. "The double plays, the bombs to home plate for outs, the hits, strikeouts, laughter and fun. That's a win in itself," said Carter, who congratulated his players and thanked his fellow coaches, Jared Thrasher and Josh Givens.

Career Center students & administrator win regional awards



Kah'miyah Williams
Lower Savannah Technology Champion

Kah'miyah Williams was named the Lower Savannah Technology Champion. Williams is a Health Science student at the Barnwell County Career Center (BCCC). Her teacher is Dawn Wilbanks.

The selection criteria for this award included awards and honors, attendance, community service, and career ready qualifying work based learning experiences. Students also have to be graduating high school seniors who are career and technical education completers.

She is the daughter of Katina Williams, and she is a 2024 graduate of Barnwell High School.



Clifford Still - Lower Savannah Work Based Learning Student of the Year

Clifford Still was named the Lower Savannah Work Based Learning Student of the Year. Still is an agriculture, automotive technology, and welding student at BCCC. His teachers are Christle Tindall-Gleaton, Mark Epperson, and Lewis Fulmer.

To be eligible for this award, a student must be nominated by the work-based learning coordinator, or faculty member who supervised the student. The student must exemplify representation while applying academia to real life, real work, and real world situations in the business/industry environment.

Still is the son of Christopher and Lisa Still, and he is a 2024 graduate of Williston-Elko High School.



Mercedes Walker
Lower Savannah Counselor of the Year

Mercedes Walker was recognized as the Lower Savannah Counselor of the Year.

The SC CTE School Counselor of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding school counselor who exemplifies outstanding achievement in building and delivering a high-quality career guidance program that elevates the academic and employability skill sets needed in high demand for 21st century students.

DIG campers learn about safety, law enforcement from sheriff's office

On June 18, Barnwell County Sheriff Steve Griffith, Lt. Eric Kirkland, and other investigators and detectives visited DIG Summer Camp in Williston.

"It was an open forum with the panel where our Dreamers were able to ask questions and engage with law enforcement," said Shon Crawford, director of programs and projects for DIG (Dreams, Imagination & Gift Development Program).

Subjects covered included safety, how to ask for help and hand gesture if kidnapped or abducted, and classroom safety ("Run, Hide, Fight").

In light of the questions, one of the Dreamers asked the officers if they preferred Krispy Kreme or Dunkin Donuts.

"We all had an exciting time listening and engaging with the youth who all was given a badge and bracelet," said Sheriff Griffith.

This event was part of the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office's commitment to public relations.



Sheriff Steve Griffith smiles with DIG Director of Programs Shon Crawford (left) after teaching DIG Dreamers about safety alongside other BCSO personnel (right).



Sheriff Griffith visited DIG Dreamers at their summer camp on June 18.



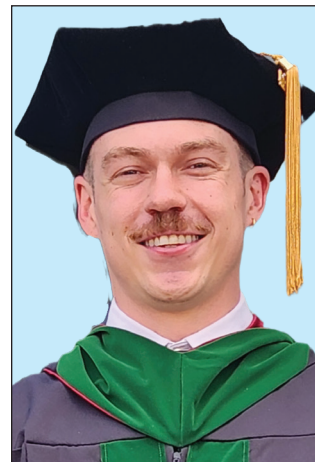
Inv. Gunnells and Inv. Galarza smile with DIG Dreamers.

Schatzer graduates med school

Dr. Erik Von Schatzer completed his medical studies at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on May 21, 2024.

For high school, he attended the S.C. Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, earning his diploma in 2012. Following his undergraduate studies, Erik pursued further education at Clemson University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering in 2016, and his master's in Bioengineering in 2018.

Dr. Erik is set to begin his residency in Emergency Medicine at Kaiser Permanente San Diego Medical Center in San Diego, CA.



Dr. Erik Von Schatzer

Erik is the son of Tim Schatzer and Sandy Cochran, both of Barnwell.

Williston student recognized by S.C. Department of Education and Dominion Energy for award-winning essay

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and Dominion Energy recognized Williston-Elko High School student Madison Wright and four other students from across the state recently for their outstanding submissions in the fourth annual Strong Men & Women in S.C. History student writing contest. Winners were selected from each of South Carolina's five regions: Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), Lowcountry, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Upstate.

literacy has made a lasting impact on individuals across the Palmetto State. Bethune once said, "The whole world opened to me when I learned to read." Students were asked to write about an African American from South Carolina who has positively impacted their educational journey.

Wright's essay describes the impact Steven Brown, a fellow native of Williston, had on her educational journey. Wright writes, "The impact of Steven Brown's vision extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. His mantra, 'Big dreams come from small places,' serves as a rallying cry for students like me, propelling us towards the realization of our full potential. Inspired by his unwavering commitment to our community, I am fueled by a fervent desire to pay it forward."



Left to right: Dominion Energy South Carolina President Keller Kissam, Williston-Elko High School student and writing contest winner Madison Wright and South Carolina Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver.

Education Ellen Weaver and Dominion Energy South Carolina President Keller Kissam presented each student with an Apple MacBook Air. Their schools will receive \$1,000. "We are proud to celebrate these five young writers and the noteworthy South Carolinians who have made a lasting impact on their lives," said Superintendent Weaver. "Thank you, Madison, Tristan, Karma, Chandler, and Morgan, for

taking this initiative to recount your personal stories. With your impressive work ethic and inspiring writing talents, I'm confident your greatest chapters are yet to be penned!"

Kissam said, "As I read each essay authored by our honorees today, I developed an even greater appreciation for the contributions of these strong men and women who continue to inspire South Carolinians. I give thanks for these essayists who, through their own words, portray true strength as character that fuels action in service to others."

The 2024 Strong Men & Women in S.C. History student writing contest winners:

Madison Wright – Williston-Elko High School (CSRA)

Tristan Moeller – Beaufort High School (Lowcountry)

Karma Robinson – Spring Valley High School (Midlands)

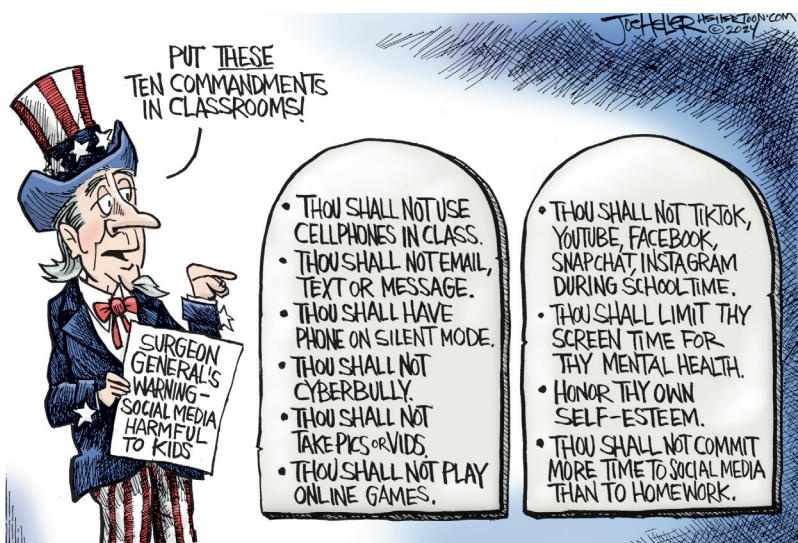
Chandler Brandon – J. Paul Truluck Magnet (Pee Dee)

Morgan Henderson – Mauldin High School (Upstate)

View the winning essays: <https://scafricanamerican.com/2024-student-writing-contest-winners/>

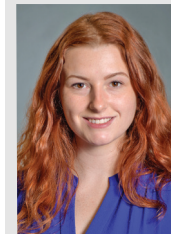
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Editorial

Owning an animal is not a right, it is a privilege



Alexandra Whitbeck

Reporter

When it comes to animal welfare, Barnwell County is in a state of emergency.

Rescues across the nation are at capacity and are barely accepting dogs from regions in the rural south, solely because there are just too many. The impact of this on our local shelter is dire - a facility with 24 kennels holding sometimes upwards of 60 dogs, constant intake, foster families keeping dogs in their care for years, and high rates of euthanasia.

Encouraging the community to spay and neuter their animals does not seem to be working, resulting in dogs running the streets or winding up at the shelter to be cared for or killed with taxpayer dollars.

At municipal meetings throughout 2024, residents have expressed concerns about stray dogs, unleashed dogs, or packs of loose dogs running on their property, chasing their cats, and making them feel uneasy.

I understand the frustration, especially when it boils down to owner negligence. These dogs are not asking to be bred and forgotten, left to their own devices and surviving off the street. A person's poor decision making left them there, and now they are labeled as the problem for merely trying to exist.

Local laws and codes are in place for a reason to hold these people accountable—however, they are rarely strong enough to actually get to the root of the issue and curb some of these community concerns. A lack of these laws does not only impact the animals who have no voice in the matter, but it allows negligent owners to get away with what they want like letting their animals run wild and terrorize the neighborhood.

Some think the solution is to just shoot the loose or stray dogs. However, aside from being illegal, all that does is create a pile of dead dogs and owners who will just breed more to replace them.

Breeding registrations, general licensing, and mandatory rabies vaccines are all requirements to own animals in northern states. I had to register my dog with the county and town, and show proof that he was vaccinated, neutered, and received veterinarian care when we lived on

Long Island, N.Y. You cannot breed dogs solely for profit or just for fun, because counties and towns want to avoid the evident toll overpopulation takes on a community.

Road crews shouldn't have to spend their time picking up dead dogs from the side of the road, school buses shouldn't have to dodge stray dogs on the morning route, and kind-hearted volunteers shouldn't be constantly tasked with corralling malnourished puppies in parking lots.

It starts with local governments and councils hiring code enforcement officers and giving them codes they can actually enforce. Evidently fines, citations, and warnings for negligent owners and breeders are not doing the trick. That neighbor you have that will not pen up their dogs, or just keeps breeding them, might reconsider if the consequence is more than a piece of paper.

If you've been following my coverage over the past two years of animal welfare in the county, you'd remember the battle local advocates had with Barnwell County Council when revamping the county's animal ordinance, or when two women were attacked by a pack of loose dogs after months of community concerns being expressed. After this incident, an animal control officer was officially hired and animal welfare ordinances began to be taken seriously in the city - but it took a traumatic event and two women's lives being changed forever for it to happen.

Thankfully, things are shifting. The county now has a stronger ordinance, and, for the first time in a long time, the powers that be are understanding the benefits a functioning shelter and solid animal welfare laws have in the community. Benefits are not only safer streets, but better public health and a higher chance of economic growth.

Like everything, it starts with us. I urge you to speak up. Join the advocacy work already being done. Say something to that person you know whose dog runs wild, or that neighbor who won't stop breeding. Educate them about the importance of spay and neuter, tell them of the low-cost programs, and the laws already in place. Remind them that the shelter is constantly over capacity. Tell them puppies are being bred faster than they can ever be saved. If anything, ask them to think of the shelter employee who has to make that hard decision - what dogs are going to be killed today to make room for your unwanted litter?

STATE: S.C. Code of Laws, Title 47, Chapter 3: Animals, Livestock, & Poultry

COUNTY: Code of Ordinances, Ordinance 2022-11-398

CITY OF BARNWELL: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4: Animals

WILLISTON: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14: Animals

BLACKVILLE: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3: Animals

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Growing up in today's South may be harder than in past



Andy Brack

Statehouse Report

Ninety years ago, the red, sandy field in middle Georgia buzzed with agricultural activity as a grandfather worked the land to coax cotton out of 12 acres. It was hard work for a man who left school after seventh grade. After ginning a crop and paying back a government loan for seed and fertilizer, he pocketed about \$50. For the year.

For all of the talk these days in politics about going back to simpler times, people forget the sweat and toil across a South with no air-conditioning, few phones, little reliable electricity and the soul-numbing racism, misogyny and poverty that filled every rural crack and crevice throughout the region. It was a different time.

Fast forward to the post-World War II years when my father grew up - not on the farm, but in the big city of Macon, Ga., where the family eventually shifted from renters to owners of a small home. Communication and transportation got better. Prosperity bloomed as more people moved off the farm and sent their kids to decent public schools. Some even became the first in their families to get college degrees.

The family unit was still strong as in-town folk often returned to the country to visit, eat, attend church

services and generally commune. And while times were changing, the old bugaboo of race lurked in segregated schools, cafeterias, bus stations, theaters and daily interactions. "The good old days" still weren't all that good for too many people across the South.

Then came my generation where the late 1960s and 1970s saw huge changes with conflict among the old and young over civil rights, war, pollution and lifestyles. What emerged was an inward-focused culture that was more equal and diverse, but too comfortable with ego and greed. Too much of family got shoved aside for the all-important "me generation."

Again, communication and transportation got better. Technology surged with endless solutions to generational problems. But politics started getting more divisive, just as more people prospered. And in the South, lots of people started moving in, which changed things even more.

Now look at today's youths, with their high-speed internet and social media obsessions that shrink society to a mobile phone and often put families on the sidelines. Oh, they can move money instantly, Facetime with a friend in Romania or learn a language using an app. But too many seem lonelier than the poor Southerners in times of my grandparents and parents. Today's Southerners are connecting but getting more disconnected.

Florida-born humorist Sean Dietrich taps into this dichotomy as he plays banjo, piano and accordion to 200 audiences a year. Just this month in Charleston to a crowd of

more than 400, he sang everything from church spirituals to the theme from Beverly Hillbillies. The mostly older, white audience knew the words and sang along.

Dietrich, 41, tells stories of the disappearing South, the region of the country where I worry my children and generations beyond won't appreciate the Sunday church dinners on the grounds with tables laden with the best fried chicken, weird jello "salads" and desserts galore.

"These stories are mostly about growing up in this interesting and diverse hotbed we call the South and there are so many shared experiences that we have from growing up in this part of the world," he said in a recent interview. "And I fear that that way of life that we experienced when we came in - at least my generation - came in on the tail end of that way of life, and it's falling apart."

"Everybody's learning how to talk like Midwestern sports announcers. Everybody is learning how to be this global community instead of this rich, strong region that we used to experience."

It all worries me too - the disconnect with extended family, the technological onslaught that sends us deeper into personal holes, the polarized politics grasping at a past that's not going to come back.

And while society now is more diverse and has more knowledge, I don't think I'd want to grow up in the challenging world that kids encounter today. What about you?

Andy Brack is editor and publisher of Statehouse Report and the Charleston City Paper. Have a comment? Send to: feedback@statehousereport.com.

Seen a UFO?

Your fellow believers are meeting this weekend



Phil Hudgins

Columnist

believe in alien visitors or not. He says UFOs are out there, and their occupants are not natives of Earth. No doubt he has spoken to hundreds of people in this country who say they have seen a UFO, and they weren't drinking.

He saw his first one when he was in his last year of high school in Morganton, N.C., where he grew up. He and his parents were on their way home from a restaurant. It was about 8 o'clock at night. It was dark.

"I looked up and there was a green, cigar-shaped UFO," he says. "I said, 'Hey, there's a UFO.' My parents didn't say a word."

Later, sitting at their kitchen table, he asked, "'Daddy, what do you think about that UFO?' And he looked right through me and said, 'Son, we are never going to talk about that.'"

Stamey believes his father saw a UFO while serving in World War II, and he didn't want to discuss it, period.

Since then, John Stamey says he has spotted seven or eight other UFOs.

Stamey holds a doctorate—he calls himself Dr. John—in computer science, but now he's selling real estate and life insurance and holding his events around the nation. He plans 11 events for next year, including the Bigfoot conferences he organizes. He has put together annual Bigfoot conferences in Clayton and Dillard.

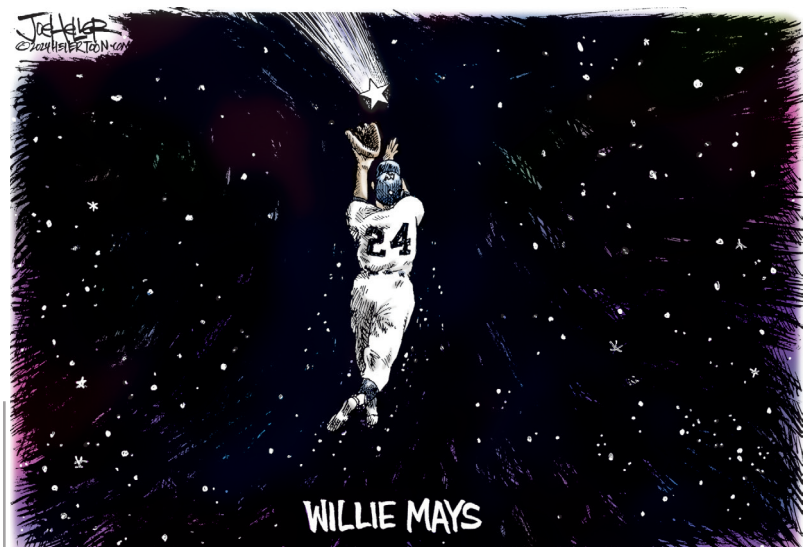
I ask him, "Have you had people in Rabun County who say they have seen Bigfoot?"

"Oh Lord yes, it's the magic spot," he says.

Saturday, Stamey's UFO event will move to the food bank in Clayton, and he's expecting a capacity crowd. A number of speakers are lined up for the eight-hour session.

We lived in Clayton back in the 1990s, and I never saw a UFO or Bigfoot. I'm not saying they don't exist. Even Pope Francis said years ago that if a Martian showed up at the Vatican, he would be willing to baptize him (or her, or it).

And Dr. John no doubt would invite the visitor to be a special guest at his event.



WILLIE MAYS

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 Letters to the Editor
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 by E-mail: news@thepeoplesentinel.com
 or by form e-mail on: www.thepeoplesentinel.com

All letters must be signed, and have an address and phone number (for verification only). Letters may be edited for grammar, length, good taste or legal purposes. The publisher retains the right to decline any letter. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper, its owners, employees or its advertising partners.

NOTICES

LEGALS

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 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

NOTICES

LEGALS

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NUMBER: 2023-ES-03-00081
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ALLENDALE
ESTATE OF CLARIES WASHINGTON WILLINGHAM, DECEDENT
DOROTHY GILCHRIST, PETITIONER V.
HEIRS-AT-LAW OF CLARIES

NOTICES

LEGALS

WASHINGTON WILLINGHAM INCLUDING DOROTHY GILCHRIST, JAMES WASHINGTON, ROOSEVELT WASHINGTON, OLIVER WASHINGTON, GEORGE WASHINGTON, ROBERT WASHINGTON, CAROLYN WATTS, FLOYD WASHINGTON, JOHN DOE AND MARY ROE FICTITIOUS NAMES REPRESENTING ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW, INCLUDING UNKNOWN PERSONS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ANY MINORS, PERSONS NON COMPOS MENTIS AND PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHO MIGHT CLAIM TO BE HEIRS-AT-LAW OF CLARIES WASHINGTON WILLINGHAM, RESPONDENTS. TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition in this action to determine the heirs-at-law of Claries Washington Willingham, which was filed in the office of the Probate Court for Allendale County, South Carolina, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Petition upon Petitioner's Attorney, at their office at 135 Chesterfield St. South Aiken, South Carolina 29801 within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such services, and if you fail to answer the Petition, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.
NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS, INCLUDING PERSONS UNKNOWN, MINORS, INCOMPETENTS, AND UNDER ANY OTHER DISABILITY
To the Respondents above-named: And to any thereof that may be residents or non-residents of South Carolina, and to the natural, general, testamentary or other guardians therefor, and to the persons with whom they reside or by whom they may be employed if any there be, and to all other Respondents whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained. TAKE NOTICE, that the Summons, Petition, Order of Publication, and Notice to Respondents were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Allendale County, South Carolina on June 12, 2024. Shalonda Wilburn, Esquire Wilburn Law Firm LLC. 135 Chesterfield St. South Aiken, SC 29801 Phone: 803-226-0479 Email: scwilburn@wilburnlawfirm.com www.wilburnlawfirm.com Attorney for Petitioner Aiken, South Carolina June 12, 2024 2024-117 2tc 7-3-24

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4B

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

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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**
- Unflinched hawk
 - The ___ Gala, haute couture fundraiser
 - Ballet step
 - Sasquatch's cousin
 - Prefix in levorotary
 - DVD player button
 - What Tylenol and xylololol have in common
 - Seaport in Yemen
 - With ample space
 - *Rumpelstiltskin's ___ wheel
 - Viking writing symbol
 - Musical finales
 - In favor of
 - Source of tapioca
 - Smith, e.g.
 - "Stand and Deliver" singer
 - Live-in helper (2 words)
 - Et alii, abbr.
 - Nephew's sister
 - Tire depression
 - Turkey's southern neighbor
 - Same as ayah
 - Engage in a pursuit (2 words)
 - Bed-and-breakfast, e.g.
 - Tibetan Buddhism
 - Pinched
 - Sing like Public Enemy
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Cripple
 - *Wheel in Vegas
 - Chocolate substitute
 - Egg on
 - Capri or Catalina
 - Olden days violin maker
 - Croaks
 - "Run Away to Mars" singer
 - Jump key
 - Corncob
 - Gaelic
- DOWN**
- *London ____, tourist attraction
 - Hankering
 - At the summit of
 - Glass ingredient
 - TV and radio
 - Not odds
 - Chinatown gang
 - Low-ranking worker
 - Pinnacle
 - Pig's digs
 - *Royal procession carriage
 - E in baseball box score
 - *"Wheel in the Sky" band
 - Star bursts
 - "___ Elise"
 - Suez or Panama
 - Carl Jung's inner self
 - *Type of locomotive
 - Surfer's stop
 - Like anchor aweigh
 - Easternmost state
 - Serengeti grazer
 - *Perambulator, for short
 - Black and white sea bird
 - *Ancient Greek ride
 - Top of a steeple
 - Kitchen meas.
 - Reunion attendees
 - Poets' feet
 - Smaller size than small
 - *a.k.a. water wheel
 - Hole-borer
 - Baby's first word?
 - Speedy steed
 - Boorish
 - Russian autocrat
 - 90-degree pipes, e.g.
 - "Peace Train" singer-songwriter
 - Increase

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: THINGS WITH WHEELS

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4B

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
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59								60			61	
62								63				64

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Add a Patriotic 'POP' to Fourth of July Parties

FAMILY FEATURES

Break out the red, white and blue and (safely) set off your favorite fireworks – it's time to honor America's birthday. Along with all the booms and blasts, make sure your crowd is satisfied with one of the country's most beloved snack foods and a true firecracker in the kitchen: popcorn. Celebrated for its seed-to-snack simplicity, popcorn's smell, taste and versatility mean it can enhance any occasion as a budget-friendly solution for family gatherings. As a timeless treat nationwide, it's an especially perfect partner for

Fourth of July get-togethers as it bursts while cooking and brings a thrill to the senses. Whether your gathering will take place poolside, in air-conditioned comfort or while watching spectacular fireworks shows among the backdrop of the night sky, tasty treats that honor the occasion allow you to show off your patriotic pride. These Peanut Butter Cups are an ideal summer snack that's easy to prepare with everyday ingredients. All you need to do is melt together peanut butter, butter and marshmallows then mix in popcorn, shredded wheat, peanuts and raisins. Bake in individual

paper liners for grab-and-go convenience then share with your nearest and dearest. For added flair, use American flag-themed liners or finish your creation with toothpicks connected to miniature American flags. Add a touch of heat to this year's celebrations with Cinnamon Candy Poppers that bring a real bang to the snack table. Inspired by those classic firecrackers that a Fourth of July party can't go without, these balls of ooey-goey goodness provide a truly patriotic spark. Find more popcorn-inspired snacks for your summer celebrations at Popcorn.org.



Cinnamon Candy Poppers

Yield: 24 balls

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 quarts popped popcorn
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 cup cinnamon-flavored candies
- red and blue confection stars
- red licorice string

Spread large sheet of plastic wrap on work surface and spray with nonstick cooking spray.

Spray large mixing bowl lightly with nonstick cooking spray and place popcorn inside.

In medium saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stir in marshmallows until melted and mixture is smooth. Pour over popcorn. Add cinnamon candies and mix well until coated.

Spray hands with nonstick cooking spray and form mixture into 24 balls. Gently press red and blue stars onto each ball. Place piece of licorice string on top of each ball.

Peanut Butter Cups

Yield: 24 cups

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 package (10 1/2 ounces) miniature marshmallows
- 6 cups freshly popped popcorn
- 6 cups spoon-size shredded wheat
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 250 F.

In microwave on high heat using large, microwavable bowl, melt peanut butter and butter 1 minute.

Add marshmallows and microwave on high 1 minute, or until marshmallows puff; stir.

Add popcorn, shredded wheat, peanuts and raisins; stir gently.

Place paper liners in two 12-cup muffin pans. Divide mixture into 24 cups.

Bake 10 minutes.

Remove from oven and tore "cups" in airtight container.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!



Vol. 23 No. 30 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name:

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

Doggy Dot-to-Dot

Connect the dots to see what is in the dog's daydream.

ANSWER: A donut.

My Rhyme Time

Do diddle di do, poor Jim Jay,
Got stuck fast in yesterday.

My Letters

D is for Day
d is for day

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

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that have the sound that the letter D makes in the word day?

My Numbers

How many ?

How many ?

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

My Sentence

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

Left **During the day I** Right

<h4>Sunday</h4> <p>Letter Identification With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter D in day.</p>	<h4>Monday</h4> <p>Math Play Point to the number 7 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.</p>	<h4>Tuesday</h4> <p>Day or Night? Look at pictures in the newspaper and ask your child if it is day or night in each picture. After your child answers, ask why he or she thinks it is day or night.</p>	<h4>Wednesday</h4> <p>My Name Dot-to-Dot On one newspaper page, find the letters that spell your child's name. Make a dot next to each of the letters. Number the dots in the order that spells your child's name. Then let your child connect the dots!</p>	<h4>Thursday</h4> <p>Letter D Dot-to-Dot On one newspaper page, find the examples of an uppercase D and put a dot next to each one. Then find examples of a lowercase d and put a dot next to each of those. Have your child draw lines to connect a big D to a little d.</p>	<h4>Friday</h4> <p>Paper Pompoms Celebrate the weekend with newspaper pompoms! Roll up a sheet of newspaper and tape it shut at one end. Then cut or tear strips from the one end to about the middle of the row.</p>	<h4>Saturday</h4> <p>My Day Book Look through the newspaper for pictures that represent something your child does in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. Cut out each picture and make a picture book about what people do in a day.</p>
--	---	---	---	--	--	--



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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Does the Moon Change Shape?

It might look like the moon changes shape, but it really doesn't. Do the phases of the moon experiment to see why it seems to change shape.

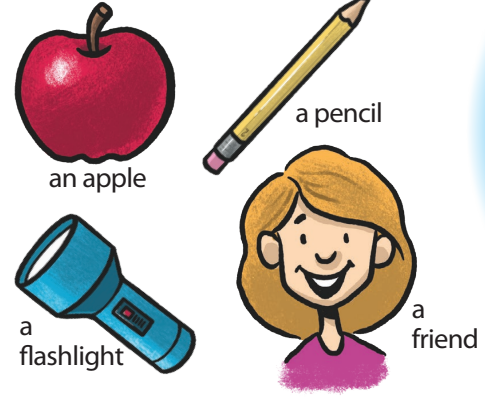
PHASES OF THE MOON



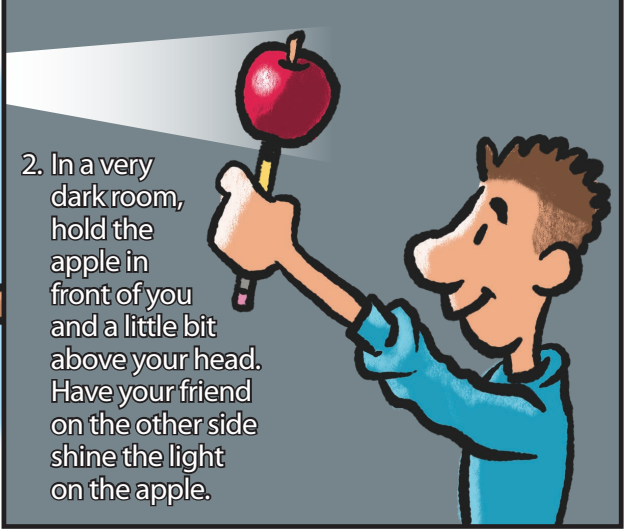
Standards Link: Science: Understand cyclical phases of moon.

Phases of the Moon Experiment

Stuff You'll Need:



1. Stick the apple on the pencil.
The apple is the moon, and your head is Earth. The flashlight is the sun.



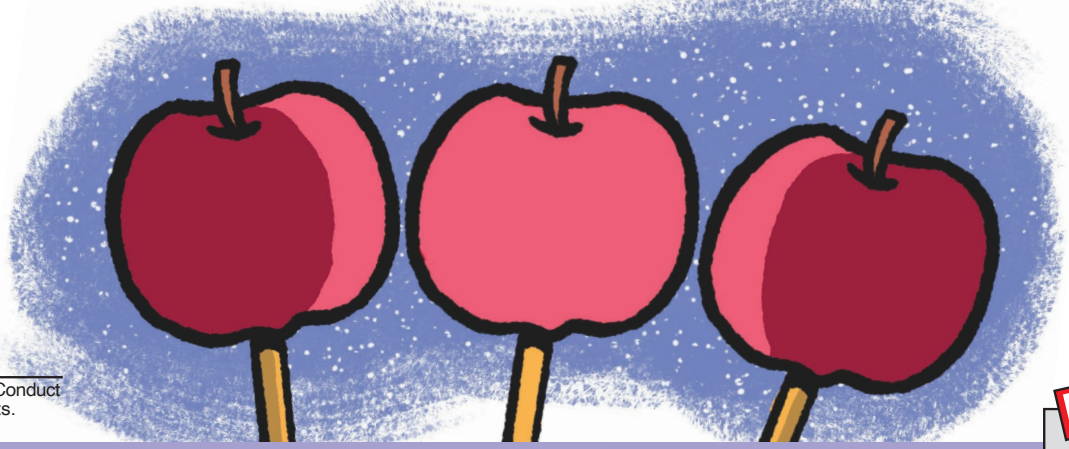
2. In a very dark room, hold the apple in front of you and a little bit above your head. Have your friend on the other side shine the light on the apple.

3. When you see only the dark side of the apple, this is like a new moon. When the sun is directly behind the moon and blocks the sunlight, that phase is called the new moon.

4. Stay in the same spot and turn your body slowly. Soon you will see a small part of the apple (moon) lit up. This is called a crescent moon.

5. Keep turning and you'll see more and more of the apple (moon) light up. At one point, one whole side of the apple will be in the light. This is the full moon phase.

6. Keep turning and you will see less and less of the apple (moon) lit up. When you can no longer see any of the apple (moon) lit up, you will have seen all the phases of the apple—er, moon!



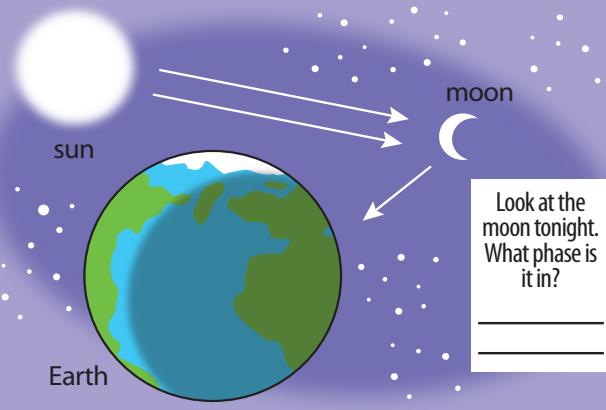
Standards Link: Science: Conduct simple science experiments.

Does the moon really shine?

To discover the answer, cross out all the words below that rhyme with STAR.

THE CAR MOON TAR DOES GUITAR ARE NOT RADAR ACTUALLY JAR SHINE. IT IS SCAR LIKE A FAR MIRROR AND AVATAR REFLECTS THE JAGUAR LIGHT OF PAR THE HANDLEBAR SUN.

Standards Link: Science: Understand cyclical phases of moon.



Look at the moon tonight. What phase is it in?

Extra! Extra! Pack for the Moon

What would you take if you were going to the moon? Look through the newspaper for five things you would pack.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

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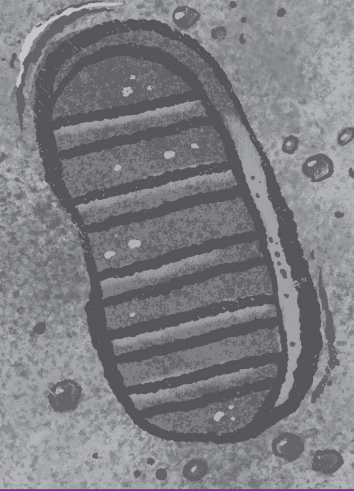
First on the Moon

On July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the moon. Use the code to find out what Armstrong's first words were when he set foot on the moon's surface.

CODE

A = 10	M = 5
E = 9	N = 4
G = 8	P = 3
I = 7	S = 2
L = 6	T = 1

"That's one _____
_____ for man,
one _____
_____ for mankind."
— NEIL ARMSTRONG



Standards Link: Follow written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- APPLE
- CRESCENT
- DARK
- EARTH
- HALF
- LESS
- MIRROR
- MOON
- SEE
- SHAPE
- SHINE
- SPOT
- SUN
- TURN
- UP

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



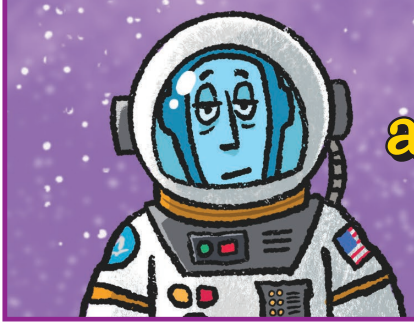
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Making Strides

Find a newspaper article about an advancement in science, education, art, the quality of life in your community, etc. Tell someone why you think this advancement will make life better for people.

Standards Link: Read from a variety of sources including newspapers.



What do astronauts do when they get hungry?

ANSWERS: They take a launch break.

Write On!

Cheese Moon

If the moon were made of cheese... Finish this story.

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



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