



**BHS Prom
rolls out
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2 SECTIONS / 16 PAGES / \$1

Court held in Barnwell County

Murderer faints at 40-year sentence

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D'Angelo Tyrone Moffite

D'Angelo Tyrone Moffite, 18, fainted in the Barnwell County Courthouse when he was sentenced to 40 years for murder. Moffite pleaded guilty to the June 2021 murder of Alfonzo Green, 48, of Hephzibah, Ga., on Ballpark Road in Barnwell. Moffite, who was 17 at the time of the crime, will be incarcerated until 2061. Green was reported missing by his fiancé to the Richland County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdiction in Hephzibah, on June 28, 2021 after he did not return home the night before. According to the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) incident report, Green's fiancé was able to determine the last known location of his cellphone before he went missing. This led the search for Green to Barnwell County. During the nearly three-

month long investigation by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), both Green's vehicle and body were located in a field off Ellis Road in Allendale County. His 2014 Cadillac Escalade was found burnt with his body inside. Barnwell County Coroner Denise Gibson later confirmed Green was shot in the upper left forehead, which corroborated with witness statements. Four other individuals were charged with murder and con-

spiracy to commit a crime for their alleged roles in Green's death:
-Joseph Keyshawn Freeman, 23, of Rock Hill.
-Terrionna Marie Hartwell, 21, of Gaston.
-Christopher Hezzy Croney, 30, of North Charleston.
-Aubra Maurice "AJ" Dunbar Jr., 30, of Barnwell.
The charges for Freeman, Hartwell, Croney, and Dunbar are still pending and will be resolved now that Moffite was sentenced. According to Deputy Solicitor David Miller, all were prepared to testify in Moffite's trial to a jury before he pleaded guilty. "[Moffite] was the person, based upon all of the evidence, that was the actual shooter that shot Mr. Green. That's why he was going to trial first," said Miller. BCSO's incident report states Hartwell had been talking to Green via a dating app for a

See COURT, 3A

Defendant absent at court

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Maurice Donelle Williams

The Barnwell County Courtroom was ready to try Maurice Donelle Williams, 31, of Barnwell, for April 2021 drug trafficking charges on March 29, 2023; however, Williams was a no-show. When a defendant is absent from their appointed court date, the judge can take one of two routes – issue a bench warrant or try the individual in their absence. "The judge had the option to either let us try him in his absence, or issue a bench warrant for his immediate arrest so that law enforcement could go look for him, and the judge decided to issue the bench warrant," said Miller, who notes the bench warrant is the more typical route. Presiding Circuit 10 court judge R. Scott Sprouse decided on the first route for Williams who was facing charges for possession

See ABSENT, 3A

Effort underway to help man living in charred remains of home

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Alfred Smith, 70, has been sleeping amongst the charred remains of his home for nearly a year after a devastating structure fire. "It's unfixable," said Smith. "It's just gone." Smith and his best friend, John Henry Ingram, were returning from scouting for fish at the Savannah River on May 26, 2022. Smith remembers a friend calling to inform him of the sirens racing toward his road – at the time he did not know it was his home they were responding to. "When we got to the end of that road, the deputy sheriff said, 'Y'all can't go up there,'" said Smith. "I saw all the fire trucks, I asked if it was [my house], and they said it was. I started crying right there." "The only thing that was left on me... see what I have on now?"

said Smith. According to the fire report, responders were there for over two hours trying to contain the flames. Smith has lived in his Plum Road home since 2014. His mother, Magdalene Smith, had bought the home in the early 1960s when she moved from New York. When she passed seven years ago, she left it to her only son. "That was her home, she left it to me," said Smith. Smith graduated from Barnwell High School in 1970 and worked in Daytona, Fla., before moving home when his mother died. Now living in the rubble of his familial home, Smith is using his monthly Social Security check to buy food and necessities. He pushes aside ash, broken wood, and pries open blackened doors to access the couch and quilts he sleeps on. "Just have to get up the

covers, and make the best of it," said Smith. "I was taught, when things really, really seem bad, keep going. There is always someone in worse shape than you." "Like a Timex watch, take a licking and keep on kicking," said Smith, referencing a line from a 1950s-60s commercial series for Timex watches about endurance and durability. In February 2023, Peggy Gadsen Kirkland of the South Carolina Regional Housing Authority #3 (SCRHA) heard of Smith's situation. Kirkland coordinated with organizations like Brown Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, SCRHA, Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Agency, Barnwell Department of Social Services, and multiple individuals to fund Smith's stay in the Winton Inn in Barnwell.

See HELP, 3A



Seventy-year-old Alfred Smith has been living in the charred remains of his home for nearly a year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Licensed childcare center coming to Williston

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Williston is currently a "desert" when it comes to licensed child development centers, but that will soon change. "Williston is in dire need of a childcare center. Currently, there is not a licensed childcare center available for residents or people that work in Williston," said Tricia Gordon, executive director of Barnwell County First Steps (BCFS).

While there are unregistered in-home childcare facilities that provide "valuable service", Gordon said the community needs more. BCFS has a waiting list of families seeking childcare because slots are currently full at their four childcare center partners. After Gordon was

hired to lead BCFS in October 2021, the need for a licensed childcare center in Williston became "abundantly clear." For just over a year, BCFS has been working with the Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD) to open a licensed child development center. Many meetings have been held after a committee was formed in March 2022. The former transitional board for the BCCSD gave their blessing in May 2022. This center, which is expected to open by the end of 2023, will provide services to

children of BCCSD employees, BCCSD students, BCFS scholarship families, and residents of Williston and surrounding areas. "I see this as a win-win for the community," said Dr. Marcella Shaw, BCCSD interim superintendent. Like Gordon, she also noticed the need for quality childcare after she was hired as superintendent of the former Williston School District 29 in 2018. Though it's been talked about for a while, Shaw credits Gordon's "tenacity" with getting

this project this far. Gordon helped secure \$100,000 in funding from the James & Miriam Darnell Committee, a local organization that seeks to help education-related causes. Using some of these funds, BCFS has already hired a director for the new center, which Shaw said is a "huge step." Funds will also be used for all materials needed to open the center. LaTonya Connelly, owner of Heavenly Angels daycare in Blackville for the past 15 years,

See CHILDCARE, 3A



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- Annette Creech Delk - Sleytown**
- Randall Charles Martin - Barnwell**

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The crowd at the Blackville Town Council meeting applauds the hard work of the Macedonia Elementary-Middle School JR Beta Club. Pictured are JR Beta Club members, Front row, from left to right: Rainey Priester, Maurice Holman, Bryson Jones, Sanaa Jenkins, Faith Washington, and Bralen Coleman; and Back row, from left to right: Doris Sanders, Councilmember Allen Harrison, Councilmember Frenchie Smalls, Mayor Ronnie Pernell, Councilmember Ann Pernell, Councilmember Enterick Lee, Councilmember Kelvin Isaac.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Blackville Town Council welcomes new town clerk, JR Beta Club at monthly meeting

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The Blackville Town Council welcomed its new town clerk, met with members of the JR Beta Club and discussed construction updates at a recent town council meeting.

The council members gathered at the Blackville Community Center on March 20 for its regular monthly meeting.

New Town Clerk

Regina S. Ashba was appointed as the town clerk of Blackville. Ashba previously served as the town’s administrative assistant and is stepping into this position after former clerk, Morgan Lightsey.

“She is one of the most dedicated, hardworking women that I’ve ever seen, that I’ve ever worked with,” said Mayor Ronnie Pernell of Ashba.

“It is an honor to continue my career and efforts at the town hall as the newly appointed Town Clerk,” said Ashba. “I look forward to offering professional and efficient service to the Town of Blackville.”

Ashba will begin in this position immediately.

Beta Club

The JR Beta Club is celebrating 30 years of promot-

ing the ideals of character, service, and leadership at Macedonia Elementary-Middle School (MEMS).

Founded in October 1993 by Sybrenda Holiday, the club currently has a membership of 42 scholars and 10 prospective scholars in fourth through eighth grades.

JR Beta Club scholars attended the town council meeting to share the creed of the club with the community. The student speakers were Maurice Holman, Rainey Priester, Faith Washington, Bryson Jones, and Sanaa Jenkins.

“It’s an honor to have so many faces here tonight that are doing well in school,” said Mayor Pernell.

Principles promoted in the JR Beta Club are honesty, justice, service, cooperation, responsibility, industriousness, humility, and charity.

Sponsors of the JR Beta Club are MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls and Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun alongside educators, Barbara Glover, Bridget Brown, Kimberly Williams, Joshua Saxton, Doris Sanders, and Rhonda Brown.

Construction Updates

Town council members and Blackville Downtown Development Association members are currently scouting locations for

the new town hall building. The vacant Edwards Heat/A.C. repair building located on Solomon Blatt Avenue is under discussion.

According to Mayor Pernell, architects are already on board and making plans regarding layout.

Bids have been received to renovate the Blackville Community Center. The town has plans to redo the fascia board on the exterior, redo the floors, bathrooms, and repaint the inside, fix the stage, and update the kitchen for catering opportunities.

Due to these renovations, Mayor Pernell explained the cost to rent the facility will rise.

Renovations are set to tentatively start the first week of April and end in late May.

The town’s bid for a new trash service is still outstanding.

Public Comment

Neil Khatod is a new resident of Blackville and asked the council why the financial packet and previous meeting minutes are not given out alongside the agenda, as both were approved by the council.

Mayor Pernell explained the public can access financial documents or reports by visiting town hall located at 5983 Lartigue Street. Previous agendas,

minutes, and newsletters can be found at the town’s website: <https://townofblackville.com/>.

Mayor Pernell and council members expressed their appreciation for Khatod’s comments.

Steve Jowers, the Blackville representative on the Barnwell County Economic Development Commission (EDC), gave an update to council on their most recent industry.

According to Jowers, TIVA Building Products has hired local employees who are in training and production has begun.

Akaashi Khan, Director of Sales & People at TIVA Building Products, said 18 people have been hired with more to come.

“We are still hiring and will continue to hire for the foreseeable future,” said Khan.

TIVA Building Products currently has one operational line, and three more will be operational by the end of April.

Jowers also suggested residents keep their community clean; “I urge you to look at Blackville like your house.”

Mayor Pernell suggested the town coordinate a clean-up effort as seen in other areas throughout the county.

Events

The Blackville Community Forum was held on March 28 at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. This forum was intended to provide community organizations with the opportunity to meet citizens and talk about the services they offer. Different facets of the town and county were present.

A plethora of community organizations came together on Sunday, April 2 for Literacy and Arts in the Park. Food, free giveaways, and activities were brought to the Blackville Community Center from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

On April 22, the First Baptist Church in Blackville is holding a free soccer day camp. Read more about this free camp on Page B1.

The Blackville Music & Arts Festival will be held on May 19 and 20.

Grant Application Up-

date The town applied for a \$10 million grant through the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)’s South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) to renovate its wastewater systems.

The SCIIP program is a “major one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater systems throughout the state,” according to their website. This is made possible using federal funds allocated by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“SCIIP offers a unique opportunity to make long-term capital improvements that will strengthen critical services to residents and businesses across the state, create more resilient communities and build the capacity to support future opportunities for growth and economic development,” states the site.

Town of Blackville officials will find out on May 2 if the town has been awarded the grant, according to Mayor Pernell.

For more information on the RIA’s SCIIP grants, visit ria.sc.gov/sciip/.

New MEMS principal is not a stranger to Blackville

Jonathan Vickery
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Macedonia Elementary-Middle School will have a new principal next school year, though she’s not a stranger. Following the March 27 board meeting, the Barnwell County Consolidated School District announced that Mrs. Chelsea Calhoun will be the principal of MEMS

for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 1.

“She is a native daughter of the Blackville-Hilda schools, and she has a strong and personal desire to move the academic needle at MEMS,” states a press release from BCCSD.

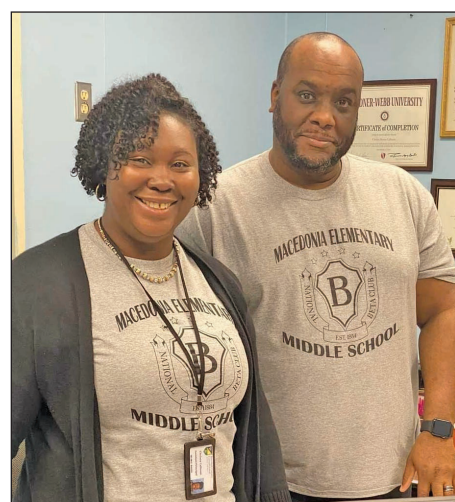
A resident of Barnwell, Calhoun is currently the assistant principal at MEMS. She replaces Mr. Eryl Smalls, who is leaving the principalship to spend more time with his new family. Smalls will move to the assistant principal’s position.

“We are excited that he has decided to remain with our district family in a new capacity,” states the press release.

Calhoun has 26 years of educational experience as a classroom teacher and administrator.

Upon acceptance of her new position, Calhoun stated, “I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and lead in a place that has been so dear to me during my childhood and my entire career.”

Dr. Marcella Shaw, BCCSD interim superintendent, said, “Mrs. Calhoun’s interest in Macedonia is sincere. She has an extensive background in teaching and learning, and I am certain that Mrs. Calhoun will work alongside the MEMS faculty, staff, scholars, parents, and community to advance MEMS to the highest level of academic excellence. Her interest and focus on developing each student as a whole person is commendable. She will continue to bring out the best in our scholars! Please join me in congratulating this talented education administrator!”



MEMS Principal for the 2023-24 School Year will be Mrs. Chelsea Calhoun (left), replacing Mr. Eryl Smalls (right), who will be the Assistant Principal.

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COURT: Moffite sentenced to 40 years; four other defendants still to be tried in murder case

month prior to his murder. He came to Ballpark Road to pay her \$200 for sex.

"Hartwell stated that the plan was for her to get in the vehicle with Green and distract him while D'Angelo opened the door, pistol-whip Green, and take the money," states the incident report.

Freeman and Croney were knowledgeable about robbing Green, according to the incident report, and the four of them were going to split the money.

According to the incident report and witness statements, Dunbar became involved when transporting Green's car and body to Allendale County.

While investigating, officers learned Moffite had a burn injury. At first Moffite

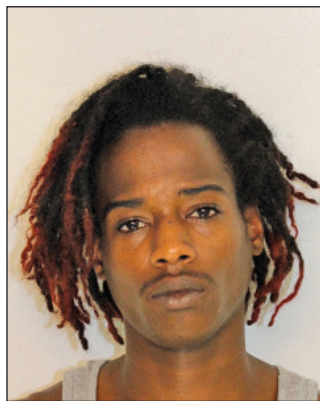


Terrionna Marie Hartwell told investigators it was from burning trash in the yard at his Ballpark Road home. He later told investigators he actually burned garbage in a nearby field, but lied about the location initially to avoid consequence for illegally burning trash.



Aubra Maurice "AJ" Dunbar Jr. Investigators, with the help of firefighters from the Snelling Fire Department, disproved this burn theory based on no signs of a recent fire at either location.

A Barnwell magistrate judge was presented with the evidence and investi-



Christopher Hezzy Croney gators were able to issue warrants for the arrest of Moffite, Dunbar, and Croney on July 9, 2021. Warrants for Hartwell and Freeman were obtained on July 13, 2021.

The search for Green was heightened when his 18-year-old son, Shondell



Joseph Keyshawn Freeman Green, allegedly fatally shot Ballpark Road resident Eddie Mathis. According to the incident report, Green's family was in the area where his phone last pinged looking for their loved one when Mathis informed Shondell of how his father died-

shot and then burned.

After this incident occurred, BCSO requested the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to assist with looking for Green's vehicle via helicopter.

All involved but Moffite were granted bond. According to Miller, Moffite was denied bond after his arrest and again in March of 2022 when he requested another bond hearing.

Moffite served 628 days previous to being sentenced which will be deducted from his total 40-year incarceration. Although Moffite was 17 years old at the time of the murder, he was tried as an adult due to the nature of the crime.

HELP: Locals assist man left homeless after devastating fire

Kirkland with SCHRA and Sunil Tch, owner of restaurant Eat Street and manager at the Winton Inn, often work together to provide temporary lodging for those in need.

Smith hopes to stay on his property once the funding for his stay at the Winton Inn runs out. He is reaching out to the community to ask for help breaking down and hauling off the remnants.

Once the land is cleared, he hopes to purchase a mobile home. According to Kirkland, Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Agency will pay to hook up water and electricity services.

There is currently a GoFundMe to help Smith. When *The People-Sentinel* went to speak with Smith at his home, Shawn Cabbagestalk with WJBF News Channel 6 was also interviewing Smith.

Before Cabbagestalk aired the story, Smith's GoFundMe was at \$100, which was donated by a co-worker of Kirkland. Now it has climbed to \$5,690 at the time of publication.

He asks anyone able to help to contact him at (803) 946-3043 or donate through his GoFundMe page:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://gofund.me/2b234086>



The Aiken/Barnwell Counties Community Action Agency, a local inn owner, and area donors are helping Alfred Smith after it was discovered he had been living in the burned-out shell of his home for over a year.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

ABSENT: Judge issues bench warrant

proceeds similarly to as it would if the defendant was present.

According to Miller, it appears this is the first time Williams has not shown up to court based on his criminal records viewable to the public via a case search at www.scourts.org.

Williams was out on bond for February 2020 charges of resisting arrest, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license and being deemed a habitual offender by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, when he was charged with drug trafficking.

CHILDCARE: Williston center expected to serve 30 children at Kelly Edwards Elementary

began working as the director of the new Williston childcare center in January. Gordon said the Department of Social Services (DSS) requires a director to be in place before they can apply for a license. Since her hiring, Conelly

has worked to complete the extensive application, which was mailed last week.

The BCCSD agreed to provide the classroom spaces, plus things like utilities, custodial services, maintenance, tech-

nology. After looking at various spaces, it was decided to use two classrooms at Kelly Edwards Elementary that meet DSS requirements, such as having doors that open to the outside and having their own bathroom. This was

previously used as a childcare center years ago, but the license ran out, said Gordon, who previously managed the Barnwell County Public Library for several years.

Once DSS inspects and approves the space, the

S.C. Department of Education's Office of School Facilities will also need to sign off on the usage of those rooms. BCFS will then work as efficiently as possible in the hopes of opening the center by the end of the year.

"I hope we can make this a model for other small communities. This shows what we can do when we come together," said Gordon.

The center is expected to serve approximately 30 children (ages six weeks to 30 months old), though DSS will determine the final number.

"We will need more space over time," said Gordon, who eventually wants a standalone building on school property.

This new center is just part of the work BCFS is doing to give more opportunities to families with young children.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the County Council of Allendale County that a public hearing for the rezoning of property located at:

150 Walker Road, Fairfax, SC 29827

will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm** in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the County Council.

The property will be rezoned from RUD (Rural District) to IND (Industrial District).



Songs that you love performed by Various Artists

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Officers join together at BCSO worship event



Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Charles Austin leads the way for his fellow law enforcement officers at the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office Community Worship event. Chief Austin also provided the main message at the event.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office deputies were some of the many recognized at the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office Community Worship event.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck

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'Communities that pray together, stay together,' was the theme of the inaugural First Responder Community Worship Service held by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO).

The youth-focused service invited law enforcement professionals and aspiring young officers from South Carolina and Georgia to worship alongside one another.

"For centuries, the faith community in unison with law enforcement has played a key role in the value base, service providing, and formation of key beliefs that create positive social change in communities," said BCSO Lt. Eric Kirkland.

Proverbs 27:17 captured the essence of the event – "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Former Blackville Police Department Chief and current BCSO Deputy John Holston served as the Master of Ceremonies and welcomed top state officials such as South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Chief Mark Keel, a Barnwell native.

Although the March 19 services were not held in an official church but at the Barnwell Elementary School, Deputy Holston

explained, "Where the spirit of God is, there is unity."

"This is well needed. This is what you call unity," said Hampton County Sheriff Anthony Russell, who provided the response to Barnwell County Sheriff Steve Griffith's welcome.

"Let's relax, let's reflect, let's recharge, and then we will go back to our duties," said Sheriff Griffith.

City of Columbia Police Department Captain Kellie Yates read scripture, and the prayer was led by Chief JJ Jones, director of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Songs of praise were performed by BCSO Deputy Lisa Carrigg, BCSO Victim's Advocate Susan Wright, and BCSO Sergeant Donald Danner.

"We feel it is important for a community to see God in everyone, especially your law enforcement officers," said Lt. Kirkland.

Burke County, Ga., Sheriff Alfonzo Williams felt this was exemplified by all of those in attendance, and stated, "We're all in this together."

Sheriff Williams told the biblical story of ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. A leper is an antiquated term used to describe someone with leprosy, a chronic disease caused by bacteria.

After they were healed, only one individual re-

turned to Jesus to thank him. Sheriff Williams related this story to the event, explaining that it only takes one person with initiative to make change.

"The community is the police, the police is the community," said Sheriff Williams, paraphrasing a phrase quoted by many law enforcement officers.

This event, like many BCSO holds, was geared toward the aspiring generation of law enforcement in the crowd to show them

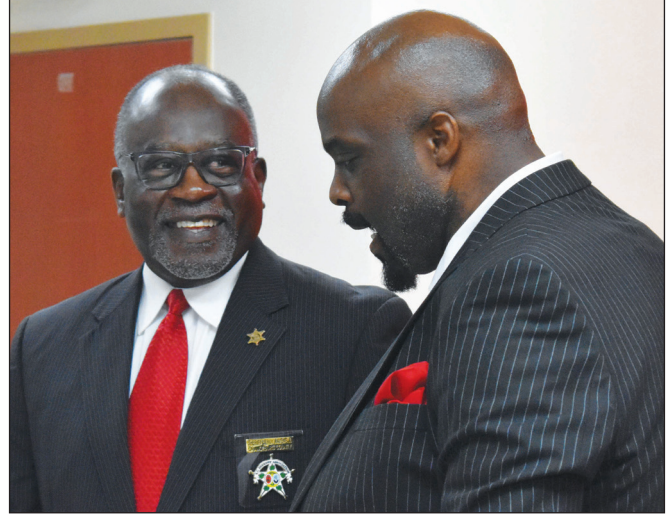
the worship community that cultivates from this profession.

SLED Major Stewart Robertson shared an experience with the crowd, but especially with SC Youth Challenge Academy cadets to remind them they can lean on their faith when facing challenges in their career. The SC Youth Challenge Academy was established in 1998 as a quasi-military structured educational program operated through the Office



Barnwell County Sheriff's Office Deputy Lisa Carrigg takes a picture with a fellow law enforcement officer. Deputy Carrigg sang 'Amazing Grace' at the Community Worship event.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell (left) speaks with Burke County Ga., Sheriff Alfonzo Williams (right).

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Barnwell County Sheriff Steve Griffith stands with a young citizen at the department's Community Worship.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Aspiring officers with The SC Youth Challenge Academy attended the Community Worship to fellowship with law enforcement from across the state.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Heads were bowed during moments of prayer at the Community Worship.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck



BCSO Lieutenant Eric Kirkland hugs Hampton County Sheriff Anthony Russell.

Photo By: Alexandra Whitbeck

of the Adjutant General under the National Guard Bureau.

Major Robertson reminded the youth in the crowd just how true that statement is when he shared the story of the late Nevaeh Adams. In 2019, Major Robertson was assigned to help the Sumter Police Department locate a missing two-year-old after her mother was murdered.

The assailant, who was later found to have murdered the child, disposed of her body in a dumpster which was then taken to the county landfill.

Every day of the five-week search mission, the over 400-person search party would stand together and pray that they would find the child. Throughout those five weeks, over 400 million pounds of garbage was removed, according to Major Robertson.

When the last day of the search came, Major Robertson walked his dog outside to use the bathroom near a patch of pine trees and was compelled to talk to God – really talk to God.

It was the first time in a long time he spoke candidly to God outside of the walls of a church, and asked Him to please guide the search party.

That same morning they located Adams, and were able to provide solace to her family and give her a proper burial.

SC Criminal Justice

Academy Major Florence McCants also shared a message to the youth encouraging them to find local role models rather than those on television.

"Those role models should be these people right here," said Major McCants.

Deputy Holston encouraged current officers to "take what you have inside of you, and share it with the future generation."

City of Columbia Police Department Chief Deputy Melron Kelly referred to Barnwell County as 'God's Country' and joked how people here waved at him with all five fingers. This resulted in laughs from the crowd.

The main message of the event was delivered by Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Charles Austin; "All of you have come to celebrate God, celebrate this day, and celebrate each other."

Chief Austin spoke of the broken walls and gates around communities that were band-aided with an increase of police officers, but need to be permanently fixed with more events like this.

This event is set to be replicated by other law enforcement agents who were in attendance that were inspired to bring it back to their communities.

For more information on the SC Youth Challenge Academy, visit scyouthchallenge.com.

Morrisbury Tales: Hope on the horizon

Jerry Morris
History Correspondent



This photo shows the Fuller House many decades ago. The former home of the Fuller family later housed the Barnwell County Public Library but is now home to the Barnwell County Museum.

Contributed Photo

Recently, I took a walk downtown and tried to look at our hometown through the eyes of a visitor. It was really hard to overlook the western side of the Circle, next to where the Circle Inn used to be. The Circle Inn was gone before I was old enough to see it. I always knew that area as an empty space—a parking lot most of the time.

The parking area was renovated a while back when they added the drive-thru at the bank, but it has essentially been the same since I was a child. While I was back in that area, I dropped into Pai Dan Productions, where Common Grounds used to be, and talked with the two fine young ladies who are printing T-shirts and making all sorts of neat craft items. For those of you who are newcomers, that building used to be Dr. Gibson's medical office. I know things get a bit confusing for those of you that have become a part of our community in the last few years.

Those of us that have been here a while have a tendency to call buildings and houses by names that have not been used for years. For example, the law office that the Alexanders have rehabilitated used to be a bank, as some of you know. And the building adjacent to it was Lower Carolina Publishers, where I worked at the first job I had after graduation from the University of South Carolina. *The Barnwell People-Sentinel* was published there in the glass-walled building. I think it's pretty cool that Jonathan Vickery's office for *The People-Sentinel* is in the same building that it used to be years ago.

As I continued to walk

around downtown, I realized that if you look closely and can put some of the disarray around the Circle out of your mind, there is potential. If you use your imagination just a little, you can envision a bit of change in the wind.

The courthouse has been rehabilitated and preserved. The Sundial is still up there, doing its thing for 164 years. We are gradually seeing some of the empty stores come back to life. Before long, you will be able to sit at the drugstore counter again—only this time you will have something new to look at—the wonderful Coca-Cola advertisement that was discovered when the plaster on that wall was removed.

Again, looking more closely gives you details of days gone by. A careful study of the way the walls are constructed tells you that the space that we all knew as Berley's Drugstore at one time was merely an alley between two buildings. That means that in 1920, or thereabout, that Coca-Cola sign was painted on an exterior wall of the building. Just look at that the next time you go around

the Circle and imagine what that area might have looked like.

One other thing I noticed. For some reason, which I have yet to discover, people from upper New York state have discovered Barnwell. I

think a copy of Craig Wix's Hometown Video must have made its way to the office of some cracker jack real estate lady's desk, because there seem to be a number of families that somehow have made their way to Barnwell.

And if you've been reading *The People-Sentinel*, you realize there are some changes in the wind. The Dayco Plant building over in Williston will be buzzing with activity soon, bringing jobs and money into the county. We have a YMCA pool to cool off in this summer. A farmers' market will be going strong this summer and Fuller Park is becoming the place to be for the young-uns.

It's beginning to feel a bit like the 1930s here in Barnwell. The economy is suffering, but there is hope on the horizon. A young businessman from New England and his red-headed wife with a sharp tongue came to town and made their presence known. They purchased a home from one of our residents, and in return for agreeing to sell it, the young businessman builds the lady a new house right behind the one she sold him.

Speaker of the House, Solomon Blatt and Senator Edgar Brown, from Barnwell, and Representative Winchester Smith from Williston, held the reins of South Carolina government

from Barnwell County. Before too long, they would be joined by Governor Joseph Emile Harley to form the famous Barnwell Ring.

These politicians supported the young man from New England in his business ventures, the most prominent one being a road construction business. Mr. C.G. Fuller had an invention that he put to good use in the low country of South Carolina, building asphalt highways with a huge machine that not only laid the hot asphalt down, but dressed the edges as well, eliminating the need for hand labor to smooth out the edges. Compared to the expensive concrete roads that had preceded them, C.G. Fuller's roads were a big improvement. No more expansion joints going "bump," "bump," "bump" as the automobile tires ran over them.

Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Effie Mae got rich, and he shared his riches with his adopted hometown. He built a beautiful pond on the Salkehatchie River, above the old dam near Morris Ford, just south of town. He was instrumental in the construction of a baseball stadium that was named Fuller Park in his honor. He had enough political pull, along with that of the Barnwell Ring, to get a State Park built between Barnwell and Blackville. He helped with construction of a golf course on the outskirts of town, named Sweetwater Country Club. And to top it all off, to help Barnwell grow and prosper as we fought through the evils of the Great Depression, C.G. Fuller founded a bank. We rewarded Mr. Fuller by electing him mayor in 1932.

If you want to know more about Mr. C.G. Fuller and his lady, Mrs. Effie Mae, head over to the Barnwell County Museum and look at the exhibits.



Jennings Owens holds a portrait of C.G. Fuller, which he presented to the City of Barnwell in 2019.

The 'goat car crew'

Weesie Fickling
History Correspondent

Going through some old newspapers, I came across this picture with the following caption: "Reunited again are some members of the infamous 'goat car crew' who followed every Barnwell parade in

the 1950s in their Model A Ford with a white goat as a passenger."

Now just how much fun could that have been? It was harmless entertainment for all! By the way, the goat belonged to our own Billy Creech. The owner of the Model A is uncertain.

Pictured are Barnwell High School grads and pals:

(left to right) George Lee Webb, '56; Billy Creech, '50; Van Cooper, '53; Don Peerson, '54 and Charles Ridgeway, '57.

Today, our world seems to be upside down and wrong side out. Hopefully, this mini article / photo will give you a much-needed mini chuckle from days gone by.





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BHS prom puts out red carpet



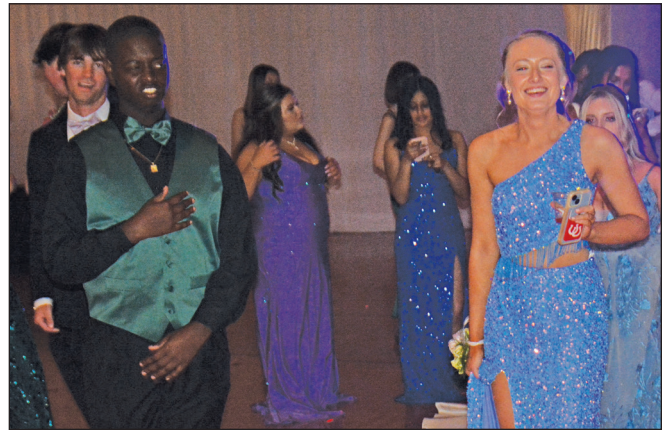
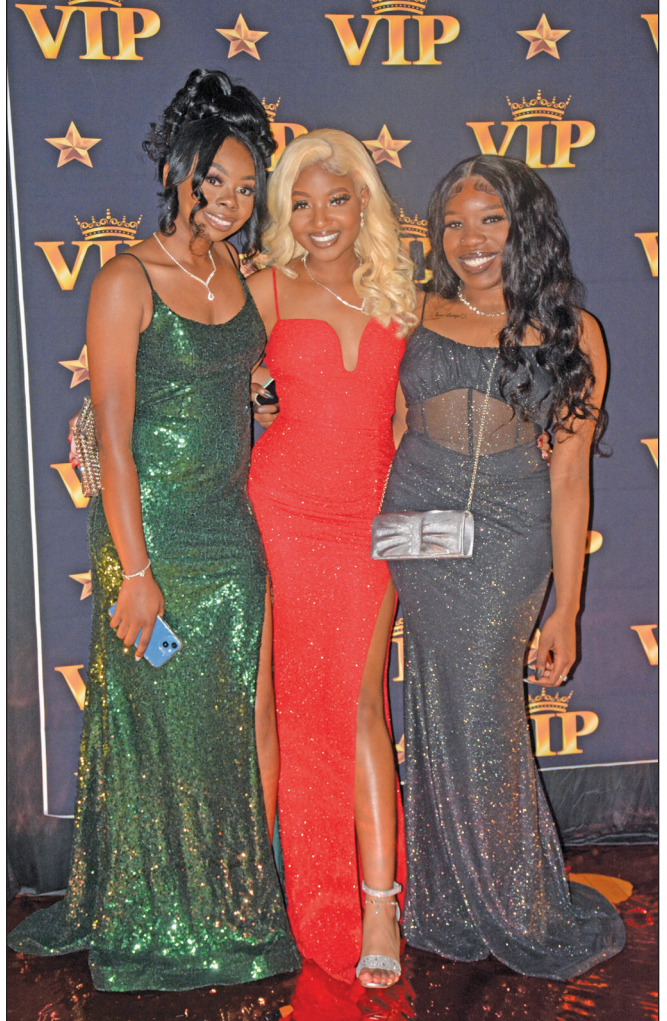
Barnwell High School held its "A Night in the Spotlight" themed prom on Friday, March 31 in the school gym. Juniors and seniors along with their guests

dressed in their finest attire for the evening of glamor. A special treat was a 360-degree photo booth.



Prince Rekiez Roberts, Princess Anna Kate Richardson, Queen Ny'Avia Bennett, and King Christian Smith pose for the cameras in front of the VIP backdrop.

All photos by: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher



Food and fun found at Taste of Blackville



Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

A little rain did not stop the food and fun on Main Street on Saturday, March 25 at Taste of Blackville.

A variety of local chefs came to share their food with the community such as Natta's Sweet Treats, LaLa's Lemonade, and Kitchen Kings who served low country boil, pork chops, and seafood. There were also a variety of vendors like Lavish Girl Boutique and Damsel in Defense, and the First Baptist Church of Blackville hosted soccer and face painting for children.

Norman Bolen, a local Elvis Presley impersonator, provided the musical entertainment with a selection of songs. Bolen has been impersonating Elvis Presley for 18 years, and has even performed twice in Graceland.



Photos by
Alexandra
Whitbeck /
Reporter





Barnwell County Consolidated School District #48
Office of Special Services

Barnwell County Consolidated School District #48 presently provides programs and services for children with:

◆ Autism	◆ Other Health Impairment
◆ Deaf-Blindness	◆ Orthopedic Impairment
◆ Deafness & Hearing Impairment	◆ Speech or Language Impairment
◆ Developmental Delay	◆ Specific Learning Disability
◆ Emotional Disability,	◆ Traumatic Brain Injury
◆ Intellectual Disability	◆ Visual Impairment
◆ Multiple Disabilities	

Should you be aware of any child from ages 3 to 21 with a disability who is in need of services, please contact:
Mrs. Leah Bias, Director of Special Services
at (803) 284-5606 weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

All names of referred persons will remain confidential.

The Office of Special Services is located at 446 Country Club Road, Blackville, SC 29817.



Blue Devils defeat Warhorses in tennis



Grade: 11th
Sport: Cross country, Soccer
Favorites...
 • **Food:** Spaghetti
 • **Movie/TV shows:** *Outer Banks*
 • **Snack:** Cheez-its
 • **Coaches:** Tiffany Zorn
 • **Free time activity:** Drawing
 • **Musician:** Louis Tomlinson
Goal for this season:
 "Score a hat trick (3 goals)."

VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Thursday, April 6

• Horse Creek Academy @ Barnwell - 3pm

Friday, April 7

• Barnwell @ Branchville - 5pm
Monday, April 10
 • Orangeburg Christian @ JDA - 6pm

Tuesday, April 11

• Barnwell @ Wade Hampton - 6pm

SOFTBALL

Monday, April 10

• Orangeburg Christian @ JDA - 4pm

Tuesday, April 11

• Barnwell @ Wade Hampton - 5:30pm

TENNIS

Monday, April 10

• Williston-Elko @ Fox Creek - 5pm

SOCCER

(Boys B, Girls G)
Tuesday, April 11

• Wade Hampton @ Barnwell G 5:30pm, B 7pm



Williston-Elko defeated Barnwell 5-1 on Thursday, March 30.

Jeff Miller
 Sports Writer

There has been a long-standing rivalry between the Williston-Elko Blue Devils and Barnwell Warhorses in most sports, but some of the most competitive battles have been fought not on the gridiron or hardwoods, but on the tennis courts. Both teams have battled for numerous region championships.

Wait, why would Barnwell and Williston be competing for region titles? you might ask. Due to the

small number of teams in single A boys tennis, Williston had been a part of the same region as Barnwell, for boys tennis only. This year the two teams are not grouped together, but the rivalry remains.

Coach Bernard Walters and the Williston-Elko boys tennis team hosted the visitors from Barnwell on Thursday, April 30th. This year, Williston-Elko has bragging rights, defeating Barnwell by a score of 5-1. The one Blue Devil loss was in number one singles. Barnwell's Amolik Sinha proved to be stronger and came out with the 6-2, 7-5 win over Williston's

#1 Xavier Lewis. Lewis battled to keep the second set going, before Sinha won the match.

Coach Walters said, "I am glad to have Chris Davis back. Chris is a senior and has been out with a football injury. Timothy Jameson won the third seed 6-0, 6-0." Walters continued saying, "Congratulations to Amolik for his number one singles win."

Williston will face Fox Creek on the 10th of April. Barnwell will be off until the rematch with Williston-Elko on April 17th. Good luck to both teams as the season winds down.



Barnwell's Amolik Sinha won the #1 singles battle 6-2, 7-5.

Photo by: Ali Godhrawala

Soccer Camp

Blackville First Baptist Church is offering a free Soccer Day Camp on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for students of all ages. Lunch will be provided.

The camp will be led by the Columbia International University Men's soccer team, the 2022 NCCAA National Champions.

Registration is open now and can be completed online at <https://forms.gle/aDMj3rMu8x4vuXyn6> or on Facebook at Blackville First Baptist Church KICKS Soccer League. Anyone with questions can call 803-709-0165. The church is located at 19449 Solomon Blatt Avenue, Blackville, and all students and parents should come to the picnic shelter behind the church.

Barnwell baseball splits with Woodland



Barnwell's Cam Austin struck out 11 Woodland batters on the way to a 6-0 Barnwell win.

Photo by: Shannon McCormack

Jeff Miller
 Sports Writer

The Barnwell Warhorse baseball team played Woodland twice last week.

The first game was Tuesday, March 28 at Barnwell and then the Warhorses traveled to Woodland on Thursday, March 30. Barn-

well easily won the first contest 6-0, but could not repeat the feat and lost the second game 8-3 at Woodland. Barnwell is currently 9-5 and 4-2 in Region 6-AA competition.

The first game saw Warhorse hurler Cam Austin throw seven quality innings. Austin allowed no runs, only gave up three hits, and struck out 11

Wolverines on the way to a 6-0 victory. Offensively, the Warhorses were helped by Seth Ray, who was 1/2 at the plate and scored two runs. Clay Pender was 3/4 and had three RBIs. Trey Boleman was 1/3 with an RBI.

Despite losing the second game, the Warhorses region finish is still in their control. According to Barnwell Coach Will Gee, "We play

Wade Hampton in a big region series the week after spring break. If we win both, we will be tied for first in the region. If we lose one, we will finish third. So that series will be huge for our playoff seeding. We have our backs against the wall in region play, but it is still in our hands. That's all you can ask for."

When asked about his

team this year, Gee said, "We have been playing good baseball as of late. Thursday was a rough loss having only struck out once at the plate and made just one error. Just one of those games that didn't go our way. Our pitchers have really thrown the ball well and our defense has been a bright spot for us the past few weeks."

Barnwell will face Horse Creek Academy, Thursday, April 6 then travel to Branchville on Friday, April 7, before facing Wade Hampton the following week in the very important series with Wade Hampton that will determine the region standings. Good luck to Coach Gee and the Barnwell Warhorse baseball team!

Lady Warhorses beat Wolverines twice to remain unbeaten in region play



The Barnwell Lady Warhorses are 6-0 in Region 6-AA after beating Woodland in back-to-back games.

Photo by: Dalton Beasley

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

The Barnwell Lady Warhorse softball team took a 4-0 region record into this week's region showdown against Woodland.

Woodland was also unbeaten in region play going into the Wednesday contest at Barnwell, followed the next day by a game at Woodland. If either team could win both games, they would be in first place in the region. If the teams each won a game, then the region championship pic-

ture would be very unclear. Barnwell not only won both games, but did so in a very convincing manner.

The first game took place Wednesday, March 29 in Barnwell. Jaidyn Devore took to the circle for the Lady Warhorses, and when she pitches, it is usually bad news for the opposition. This held true with Devore striking out 17 Woodland batters on the way to another Barnwell victory.

The Barnwell offense got more than enough help offensively, scoring eight runs to seal the 8-2 win and a temporary first place ranking in division play.

Offensively for the Lady Warhorses, Abigail Corley, Cailyn Morris, Brooklyn Gordon, Tierra Arnold, and Bre'Anna Buckmon all had singles. Bre'Anna had two singles. Cailyn Morris and Brianna Croft hit doubles, with Cailyn hitting two doubles. Brooklyn Gordon added a triple for the Horses. Tierra Arnold hit the shot of the night when she unloaded a homerun over the left field fence in the fifth inning. RBIs were contributed from Cailyn Morris (1), Brooklyn Gordon (3), Tierra Arnold (1), and Karrie Bolen (1). When the dust cleared,

Barnwell came away with the 8-2 win and was in first place in the region, but still had to travel to Woodland the very next day.

Barnwell traveled to Woodland the next day to face the Wolverines for the second time in as many days. The results would be no different, with Barnwell coming out on top of Woodland 13-2. Devore was back in the circle and did not disappoint, striking out 9 of the 18 batters she faced in the win.

Offensively, the Lady Warhorses were led by Bre'Anna Buckmon, who finished the night going

2/4 with 2 doubles and 2 RBIs. Makayla Creech was 3/4 with a double. Abigail Corley went 1/2 at the plate. Devore helped her own cause by going 2/2, with a double, and 2 RBIs. Cailyn Morris went 2/3 and had an RBI. Brooklyn Gordon was 1/2 on the night. Tierra Arnold stayed hot offensively, going 2/3. Karrie Bolen went 1/3 and added an RBI. Brianna Croft was 1/3, with a double, and 2 RBIs. The offense scored 13 runs while the defense only gave up two.

With the victory, the Lady Warhorses improved to 11-1 overall and 6-0 in region

play to sit atop Region 6-AA all alone.

Barnwell will take a few days off for spring break, then will return to finish out the regular season and get ready for the playoffs.

Barnwell coach Mike Beasley said, "I'm proud of our players, coaches, and parents for what they do each day to ensure the success of the Lady Warhorse Softball program. When everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. I'm excited for our players and the position they've put us in moving forward."

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 22 No. 18 © 2023 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.

Reindeer Route

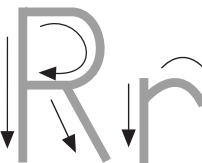
Help Rocky Reindeer find the road to the restaurant.



My Rhyme Time
R's for the reindeer
With the soft, pretty eyes;
Ronnie found them so tame
She had quite a surprise.

My Letters

R is for Reindeer
r is for reindeer



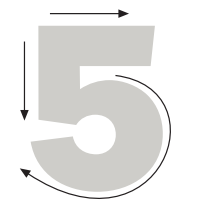
Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter R. Say the letter as you trace it.

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

My Numbers

How many ?

How many ?

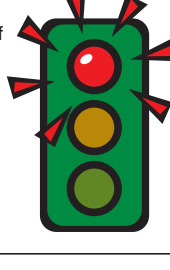
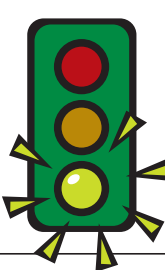


Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

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.

Reindeer are _____



Sunday

Letter Identification
With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter **R** in **reindeer**.

Monday

Math Play
Point to the number **5** in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

What's Hiding?
Let your child find a picture of something he or she likes in the newspaper. Look at the picture for about 30 seconds. Then cover the picture and see how many details your child can remember about the picture.

Wednesday

Letter to Santa
On a blank piece of paper, have your child create a letter to Santa. Your child can find and cut out pictures of "wish list" items from the newspaper and glue them onto the letter.

Thursday

Cold Signs
Have your child look through the newspaper and find things that make them think about **COLD**. Put an **X** on each thing found.

Friday

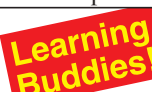
Wrapping Paper Factory
Have your child color and make designs on sheets of already-read newspaper and use their paper to wrap gifts for friends and teachers.

Saturday

Counting Presents
At this time of year, newspapers are full of holiday art. Play **Find the Presents** with your child. Give your child several sheets of newspaper with pictures of presents. Ask your child to find and count the presents on the pages.

Learning Buddy Sign Here
I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature Date



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.

Allendale County News

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

The People-Sentinel

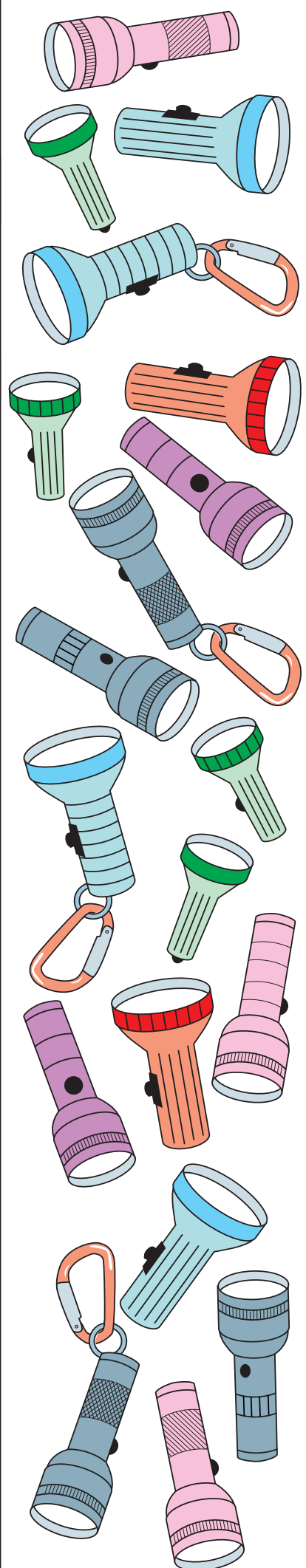
5B

“All In Allendale” brings community together

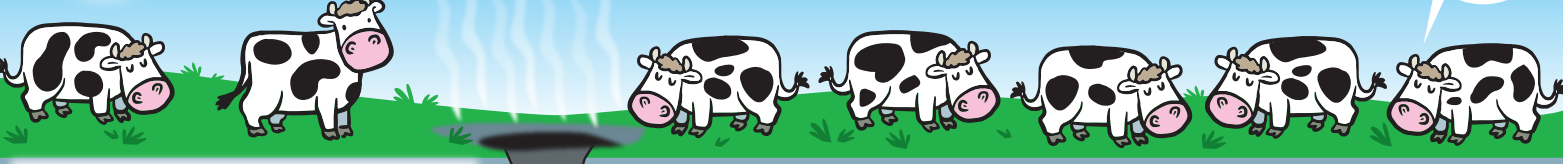
All In Allendale got the community together and engaged in STEM activities on Saturday, April 1. This event was brought by the Original Six Foundation, a non-profit working to improve educational opportunities by identifying and filling gaps through hands-on engagement and resources. The Allendale-Fairfax High School cheerleading squad and band performed and read to children. Allendale-Fairfax students were able to visit each booth to participate in a STEM based activity and complete a worksheet provided by the school to win prizes. Between learning about airplanes with Boeing and planting seeds with the Veggie Cupboard Community Garden & Greenhouse, fun was had by all at All In Allendale. Photos by Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter



All but one of these flashlights has an identical twin. Can you match each pair and reveal the one unique flashlight? Have a family member try!



The Mystery of Farmer Howe's Cows



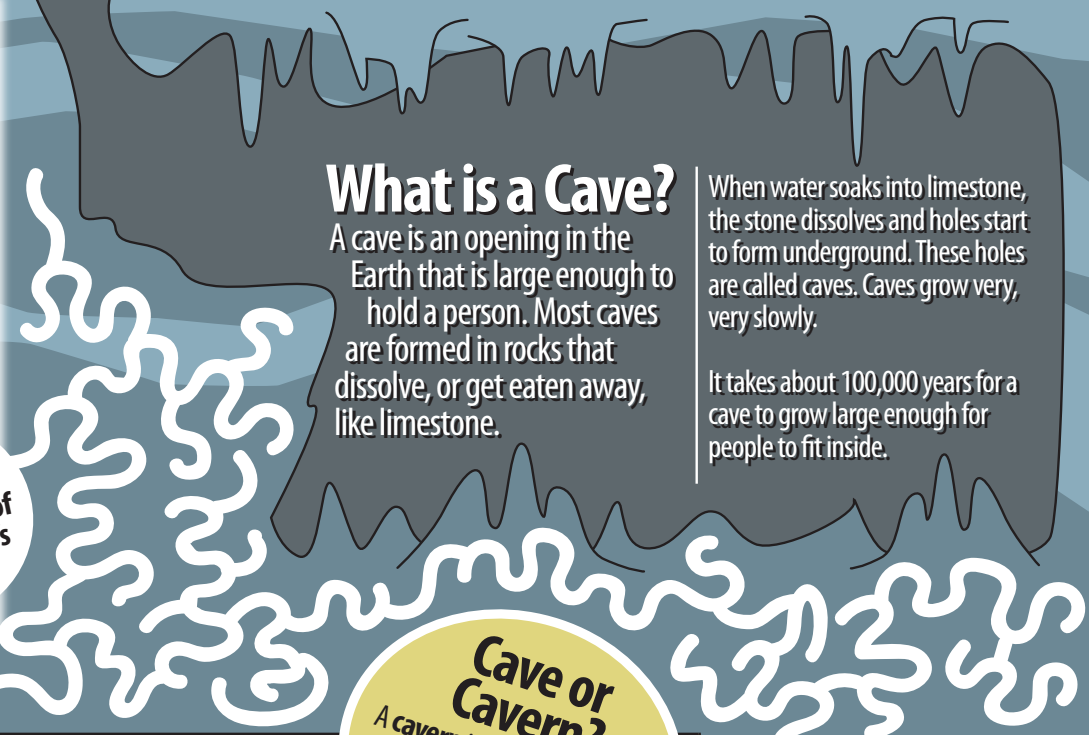
Hot. That was the best word to describe May 1842 in New York.

Strange. Farmer Howe's cows were standing out in the sun instead of the shade.

Farmer Howe walked over to his cows. When he got there, he felt cool air. Surprised, he looked around and found a hole in the ground. His cows were standing around the hole. Cool air was coming out of the hole in the ground!

Cool! Farmer Howe looked down the hole and discovered it was an opening to an underground cave.

Follow the maze to see what became of Farmer Howe's cave.



What is a Cave?

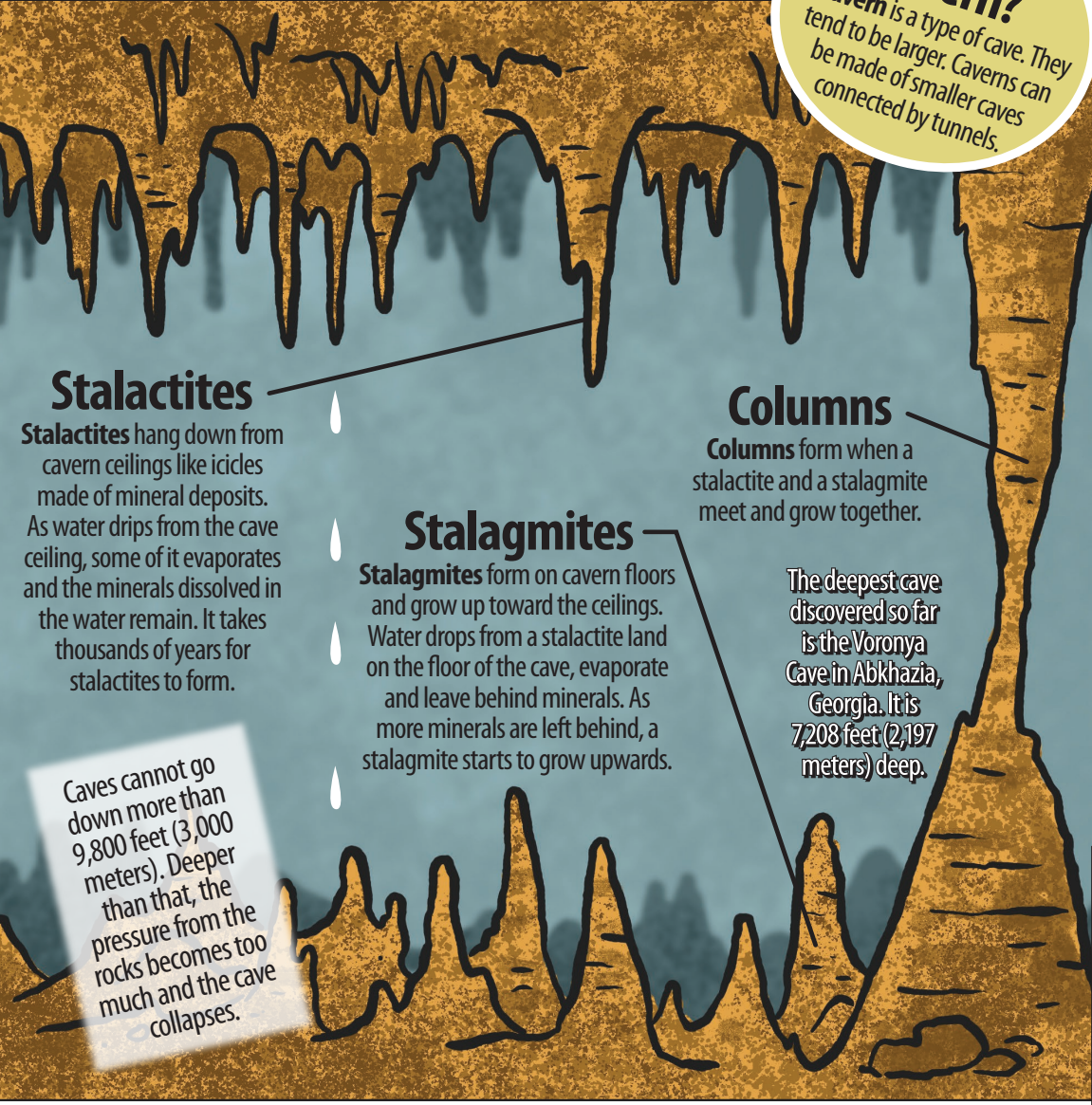
A cave is an opening in the Earth that is large enough to hold a person. Most caves are formed in rocks that dissolve, or get eaten away, like limestone.

When water soaks into limestone, the stone dissolves and holes start to form underground. These holes are called caves. Caves grow very, very slowly.

It takes about 100,000 years for a cave to grow large enough for people to fit inside.

Cave or Cavern?
A **cavern** is a type of cave. They tend to be larger. Caverns can be made of smaller caves connected by tunnels.

A person who explores and studies caves is called a **spelunker**.



Stalactites

Stalactites hang down from cavern ceilings like icicles made of mineral deposits. As water drips from the cave ceiling, some of it evaporates and the minerals dissolved in the water remain. It takes thousands of years for stalactites to form.

Caves cannot go down more than 9,800 feet (3,000 meters). Deeper than that, the pressure from the rocks becomes too much and the cave collapses.

Stalagmites

Stalagmites form on cavern floors and grow up toward the ceilings. Water drops from a stalactite land on the floor of the cave, evaporate and leave behind minerals. As more minerals are left behind, a stalagmite starts to grow upwards.

Columns

Columns form when a stalactite and a stalagmite meet and grow together.

The deepest cave discovered so far is the Voronya Cave in Abkhazia, Georgia. It is 7,208 feet (2,197 meters) deep.

Natural Air Conditioning

Farmer Howe built a hotel over the hole. Cool air from the cave air-conditioned the original hotel. Farmer Howe's hotel and cave became very famous. Circle every other letter to discover its name.

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

H _ _ _

Extra! Extra! Shape Search!

How many shapes can you find in the newspaper? Look for triangles, squares, rectangles, circles and more.

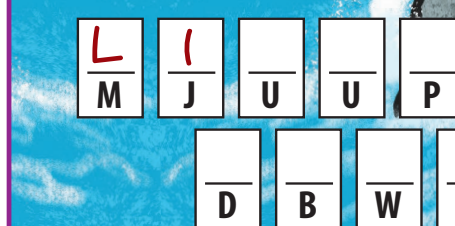
Standards Link: Use visual cues to understand points of view.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Waves Make Caves!

Sea caves are created by waves hitting rock cliffs over a long period of time, causing erosion.

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the alphabet to reveal another name for sea caves.



Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

- CAVE
- CAVERN
- COLUMN
- COOL
- COW
- DEEP
- EARTH
- FORM
- HOLE
- SLOWLY
- STONE
- STUDIES
- TUNNELS
- WATER
- YEARS

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



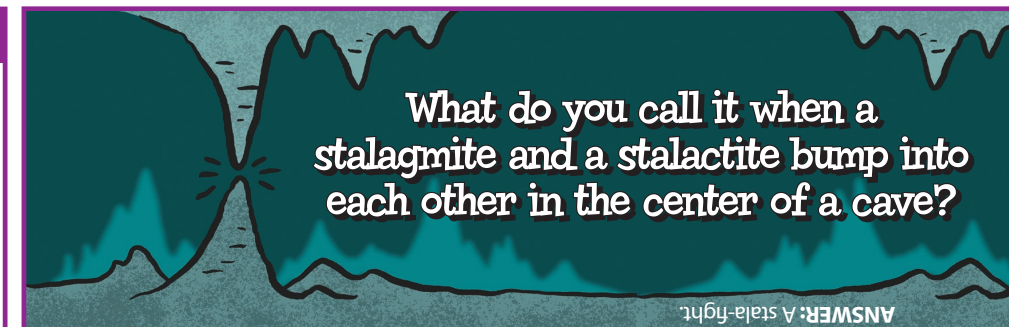
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Dress for Spelunking

Find the forecasted high for the day in your newspaper. The temperature in the Howe Caverns are around 52 degrees year-round. Is your local high temperature warmer or cooler? What would you wear to visit Howe Caverns?

Standards Link: Compare and contrast points of view.



What do you call it when a stalagmite and a stalactite bump into each other in the center of a cave?

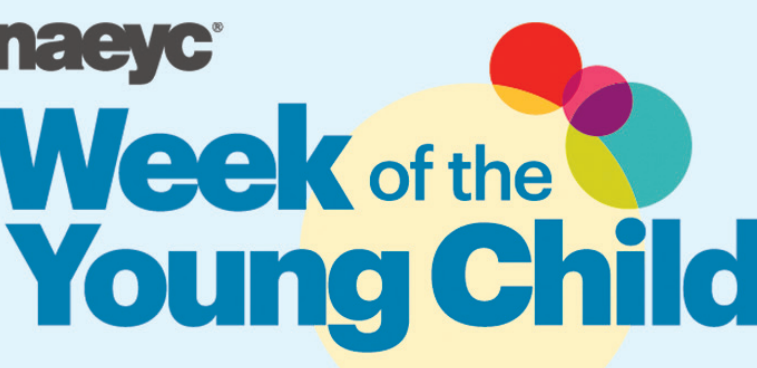
ANSWER: A stala-fight.

Write On!

If I Lived Underground

Imagine that you lived in an underground cave. What would it be like? Write about it!

Celebrating Week of the Young Child (April 1-7)



Week of the Young Child recognizes that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The week focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families, but also recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Locally, Barnwell County First Steps helps this mission by working collaboratively all year to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential. This is done by engaging families, caregivers, and community partners in high-quality programs and services that improve early childhood development, from before birth through age five.

Our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for their present and their future.



Getting children ready for school.

110 Franklin Street,
Barnwell, S.C. 29812
803-450-1493
barnwellfirststeps.org