



The People • Sentinel

Serving Barnwell County and its neighbors since 1852

VOLUME 146, NO. 49

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

2 SECTIONS / 18 PAGES / \$1

Countywide consolidation bill filed

Alexandra Whitbeck
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and sent to the S.C. House. Senate Bill 654 steers the merging of Barnwell County School District 45 (BSD45), Barnwell County Consolidated School District (BCCSD), and Barnwell County School District 80, otherwise known as the Barnwell County Career Center (BCCC).



A bill currently working its way through the S.C. Senate would consolidate Barnwell School District 45, the Barnwell County Consolidated School District, and Barnwell County School District 80 (Barnwell County Career Center) into one district, the Barnwell County School District.

consolidated into the BCCSD. In recent years, Orangeburg County schools have been consolidated from eight districts to one as well as Bamberg County and Hampton County schools from two districts to one.

Senate Bill 654 states; "To consolidate Barnwell School District 45, Barnwell County Consolidated School District, and Barnwell County School District 80 into one school district known as the Barnwell County School District; to abolish Barnwell County School District Forty-Five, Barnwell County Consolidated School District, and Barn-

"If it passes it could be before the governor for his signature within the next several weeks," said Sen.

Hutto. In July 2022, the former Blackville and Williston districts were con-

See CONSOLIDATE, 3A

Groundbreaking held for new city fire department



Leaders from the City of Barnwell join with S.C. Sen. Brad Hutto, Rep. Lonnie Hosey, and contractors to break ground on the new Barnwell Fire Department. It's expected to open next year.

Jonathan Vickery
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"This is a groundbreaking for a building that will serve, protect, and save lives for decades and decades to come."

- Rev. Bart Kelley, chaplain of the Barnwell Fire Department

LONG TIME COMING
A new fire station was originally set to be built following completion of the new police station in 2019; however, city leaders voted to put the project on hold due to a lack of funds. The city had to dip into savings to pay off the remainder of the \$2.5 million police station, which was not completely funded by the capital projects sales tax as originally hoped. In May 2020, council voted to postpone the new fire station, which is estimated to cost \$4.5 million.

"The last time I stood up, along with few other councilmen, in front of this many firemen back in 2020, it wasn't a pleasant experience," said Rivera of the meeting where city officials explained why the new fire station had to be put on hold. He assured the fire department they would do whatever it took to get a new building.

The city hoped to receive a portion of the \$700 million Department of Energy settlement

See FIRE STATION, 10A



This rendering from Spratlin & Son Construction shows what the new Barnwell Fire Department will look like.

Questions remain in juvenile assault at Lemon Park

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Not much has been released officially about an incident between juveniles at Lemon Park.

Video of the March 20 incident has been circulating on Facebook. The video shows a group of at least five juvenile males assaulting another male juvenile with kicks and punches.

"Charges were filed on the evening of the incident. The parents/guardians of all who were involved were notified of the charges by Tuesday. However, this matter is an active ongoing investigation and the police department will not have any further comment at this time. We urge our community to pull together and unify with one another during times like this," stated a post by the City of Barnwell Police Department on March 22.

The *People-Sentinel* requested copies of any documents related to the case.

"This case is still active and under investigation so we will not be releasing it right now," stated the department's emailed reply to the newspaper.

The *People-Sentinel* reminded the police department that there is no "active investigation" exemption under the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

"This is another example of a police chief displaying arrogance and ignorance of the law. Police reports are public records, and must be made available to the public. There is no 'under investigation' exemption from disclosure."

- Attorney Jay Bender on the Barnwell Police Department not wanting to release a public record

See ASSAULT, 6A

Fourth rape suspect arrested

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Alvin Recardo Brown

The fourth suspect in relation to the kidnapping and sexual assault of a 39-year-old Barnwell woman was arrested and charged.

Alvin Recardo Brown, 24, was arrested by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) after turning himself in on March 17, 2023. Brown is charged with kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct and was transported to Barnwell County Detention Center to await bond as of Friday, March 24.

BCSO Investigators were informed of Brown potentially being the fourth person involved by anonymous tips provided to the Barnwell County Tip Line on March 6.

According to BCSO's incident report, a co-defendant in this case identified Brown from a six-person lineup provided by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Investigators were then able to obtain a warrant for the above charges.

The three other individuals involved were arrested in connection to this incident: Preston Devonn Reed, 46, Tyree L. Tolliver, 25, and Bryce Jason Tolliver, 19, all of Barnwell. All were charged with kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct after a two-month investigation by BCSO.

The *People-Sentinel* covered these arrests in the March 7 edition.

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Don Grice - Williston
Myrtle Miller Shedd - Georgia



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\$1.00 Retail
For home delivery pricing, 4A

Williston talks grants, imminent arrests, upcoming events

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council what the rest of the money would be spent on.

Councilman Eric Moody suggested the town fire hydrants be looked into as an option to spend the remaining money on.

Mayor Brett Williams mentioned the service truck needs to be updated because it was cracked, Councilman Kurt Odermatt informed this is a safety hazard.

Police Update

Williston Police Chief James Gainey updated council that the department purchased a new patrol vehicle that will soon see marked with a radio installed. It will be on the road in two to three weeks, according to the chief.

The Williston Police Department (WPD) is also reaching out to homeowners with dilapidated or run-down properties and asking them to clean up. According to Chief Gainey, they have been seeing positive results.

An electronic ticketing system is now operating in WPD vehicles and there is currently an officer working on a grant to fund new radios and walkie-talkies as



Luke Deering, son of Andy and Carla Deering, pulls a grate on a fourwheeler in effort to revitalize the abandoned baseball/softball owned by Williston-Elko Schools for the recreational season. The Deering's and other local families led the clean-up to provide their children with a place to play when the field by the town park is in use.

the current models will be out-of-date in the next two years. Chief Gainey wants to get ahead of this future cost by applying for grants now.

WPD has recently made arrests in long-term cases, and is working on things

were allocated by the town. So far, the department has got a new vehicle and computer programs, and is planning how to spend the rest of the funding.

The council members commended Chief Gainey and the WPD for the increased police presence in Williston.

Upcoming Events

The Town Easter Egg Hunt was approved to be hosted at the Williston Town Park on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is organized by Williston resident Shannon Mundy, and has been held in the town for around 23 years.

A Fun Day for Young Ladies will be held on April 8 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. by Williston resident Zeppe Knowles. This event consists of doubledutch and other outdoor activities that get the youth outside and active. Both of these events are free and open to the public.

During public comment, Williston resident Judy Taylor expressed her concerns around the lack of lighting

and signage at the basketball courts near the town park. Council told Taylor they would look into what they could do in both of these areas.

Currently, town employee David Hall has been working on renovating the bathrooms at the town park. According to Mayor Williams, Hall has installed new faucets and painted the walls. This renovation allows council to ask the question if they still need the porta-potties they pay for to be located at the park for public use.

Mayor Williams informed the council and the public about a good deed done by a Williston resident for the sole purpose of bettering the community. Retired Barnwell County fire coordinator Timbo Williams took it upon himself to install a flagpole at the softball/baseball field located near the town park so people have somewhere to look when the National Anthem is sung at games. Mayor Williams and council members commended Williams for taking the initiative to

Bluebirds get new housing opportunities in Williston

Annette Burnette
Ivy Garden Club

The Ivy Garden Club of Williston hopes the bluebird of happiness builds a nest in one of their new bluebird boxes! Nestled among the trees in the greenway between Highway 78 and East Main, from the BCC District Office to Crane Way, is a new 15-box bluebird trail.

After a presentation by Glen Hendry of the Aiken Chapter of the S.C. Bluebird Society, the club decided to participate in the recovery and conservation of the Eastern Bluebird. You may ask, "Why do bluebirds need our help?"

Bluebirds, all three species, are found only in North America. Between the 1920s and the 1970s, the bluebird population declined by an estimated 90% for two main reasons.

First, is the loss of habitat. The bluebird is a cavity nesting bird, depending on natural cavities, or ones made by other birds, for example old woodpecker holes. Due to large commercial and agricultural expansion, growth of cities, and dense residential development, much of its natural habitat is lost.

Then, starting in the mid-1860s the impact of the natural cavity losses was compounded by the introduction of two European cavity nesting species into North America — the House Sparrow and the European Starling. It was thought the House Sparrow would help control insect pests; however, those that brought them here seriously underestimated this bird's fiercely competitive nature. The House Sparrow population exploded, while that of the bluebird



Members of the Ivy Garden Club in Williston and other volunteers are shown building and installing houses for Eastern Bluebirds as part of a new trail.

declined alarmingly. Both House Sparrows and European Starlings are extremely aggressive competitors for nesting cavities. House Sparrows are small enough to enter any hole that a bluebird can, and they will chase away or kill bluebirds (including babies) competing for a nestbox. Starlings can be excluded from nestboxes by using the correct size entrance hole, but they will out-compete bluebirds for woodpecker holes and most other natural nesting cavities. In addition, massive flocks of European Starlings strip the landscapes of wild berries the primary winter food of bluebirds.

As a result of these developments, bluebirds were nearly exterminated across much of the continent, but since the 1960s, populations have been successfully restored by human intervention and their future is now promising. The most important thing we can do to maintain bluebird populations is to provide secure nesting sites by setting out quality nestboxes and then monitor those through the nesting season. For this rea-

son, the Ivy Garden Club has invested \$1,275 in an inaugural 15-box bluebird trail in Williston.

The club invited Mr. Hendry to tour the town to explore site options. The railroad bed greenway from Crane Way toward town was selected, with Williston Town Council's approval. Then, South Carolina Bluebird Society-approved cedar nestboxes, poles and predator baffles were purchased. Mr. Hendry, his wife Gail, and David Slaunwhite delivered, assembled, and installed the boxes in mid-February, with the assistance of club member An-



The S.C. Blue Bird Society website shows a bluebird.

nette Burnette. The club will maintain, monitor, and report nesting/fledgling data to the S.C. Bluebird Society for analysis and research.

We hope to encourage community education and enjoyment of this valued natural resource. In areas where nestboxes have been put up in a suitable habitat, bluebird populations are increasing. "Bluebirding" is a great hands-on nature activity that people of all ages can enjoy. Local bluebirds are "house hunting" for this spring, some have even already moved in and made a nest! With this bluebird trail in place now, it is likely there will be three sets of broods this season.

Join the Ivy Garden Club in attracting and enjoying bluebirds on the Williston Bluebird Trail. Or put a nest-

box in your yard or neighborhood. Maybe you just need to do some spring cleaning on a box you already have? Then invite a child or neighbor to join you in the adventure of monitoring your bluebird box! When you knock and open the door, what will greet you? An empty box? A partial nest? Group of eggs? Baby birds? Fledglings? Or an empty nest left by fledglings? There will be joys and surprises for sure!

For great info, visit the S.C. Bluebird Society website, southcarolinabluebirds.org. Then be ready for the bluebird of happiness to nest in your box!

GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP

"PALMETTO PRIDE"

- **Make a DIFFERENCE DAY**
- **As Part of the Great American Clean up, we need assistance from MANY volunteers!**
- **April 1, 2023 from 8am—noon**
- **Meet at the City Hall for supplies and locations**
- **SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP IN CLEAN UPS AND WATCH THOSE WHO THROW OUT TRASH FROM VEHICLES AND REPORT THEM AT tel:1-877-754-8837.

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Rotary Club recognizes 5 students for service

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Jefferson Davis Academy student Nasir Void, Williston-Elko High School students Sidney Mason and Gabriel Hosey, Barnwell High School student Emma Creech, and Blackville-Hilda High School student Omarion Kinard.

Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Four students were awarded the Service Above Self award by the Rotary Club of Barnwell County for exemplifying the namesake phrase of the award.

"It's always amazing for us when we get to hear directly from the students what they're doing within their schools, within their community and truly know the impact they're having," said Barnwell School District 45 Superintendent and Rotary Vice President Dr. Crissie Stapleton at the Club's March 9 meeting. "Our hope, as Rotarians, is that one day if you return to Barnwell County you will come and join us in our efforts as well to make a difference within our communities and beyond our communities."

Nasir Void is a sophomore enrolled in his first year at Jefferson Davis Academy (JDA). Void plays football and basketball. When not in school, he coaches children ages four to ten. "This is his first year with us, and he is not from Barnwell County. He drives all the way from Santee," said Head of School Randy Martin.

Void came to JDA when they hired Anthony Reitenour, the current athletic director at the school and attendee at the Rotary event. "He was at the same school with this young man, and [Void] thought so much of an educator that he wanted to continue with him. So that just shows the kind of dedication this man has," said Martin of Void

and Reitenour.

Martin describes Void as humble, kind, and "the first one that's willing to help if anything is ever needed."

"I am a first-year student at Jefferson Davis, and I'm glad to be here because they welcomed me like family," said Void. "I'm just really grateful that I am one of the students that could be here today."

Void was accompanied by his parents, Shreka and Cagney Void.

Omarion Kinard is a senior at Blackville-Hilda High School (BHHS). Known as 'Bouncer' both on and off the field, he played nearly "every sport there was," said Kinard.

"It was hard and I barely went to sleep sometimes," he said with a smile. Kinard also worked while in school.

"Right now, I'm just deciding what I'm going to do after high school," he said.

"I'll probably go to college and major in sports management and be a trainer."

BHHS Principal Christina Snider described Kinard as an "outstanding student."

Kinard was accompanied by his mother and Barnwell County Consolidated School District educator, Felicia Kinard.

Gabriel Hosey, a senior at Williston-Elko High School (WEHS), is the president of Beta Club and the vice president of the National Honor Society (NHS).

Hosey is on the cheer team, volleyball team, and she manages the track team.

"I try to be as involved as I can," said Hosey, who enjoys what she does within her school and community.

Hosey attended the Young Leaders Summit at the University of Southern California last summer.

"It was so amazing, I got

to meet so many people from all around the world," she said. At the summit, she learned practical skills and how to reach opportunities that may be far in distance.

"I just want to thank you guys for bringing me here today, I am very grateful," said Hosey. "I want to thank you for helping me network with many people."

Hosey was accompanied by her mother, Annie Dicks.

Sidney Mason is a sophomore at WEHS and member of NHS, Student Government Association, and the National Technical Honor Society.

Mason was the Rotary student of the month in February, but was unable to attend so was recognized at the March meeting.

She was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, and her hobbies include reading, drawing, and spending time with family and

friends.

"My future plans are to become someone successful in life and also to give back to my country as well as the world," said Mason. "I would like to become a forensic scientist in the future."

Emma Creech is a senior at Barnwell High School (BHS) who will be attending Clemson University in the fall to pursue a degree in chemistry. After Clemson, Creech plans to attend dental school.

"I just want to start this by saying what an honor it is to be selected as a Rotary Club student of the month," said Creech.

Throughout her time at BHS, Creech has been yearbook editor, varsity soccer team captain, Scarlet Knights marching band high brass captain, and a member of girls tennis, pep squad, Interact Club, National Honor Society, and Beta Club - all while

maintaining an A average in honors classes.

"One of my favorite extracurriculars is Interact Club where we focus on community service. We have had multiple projects like the Warhorse Closet at the primary and elementary schools," said Creech.

"We hope one day you will carry that over to be a Rotarian," said Barnwell School District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton. "Interact is the high school version of Rotary, and sponsored by Rotary International."

Creech was also a delegate at Palmetto Girls State last summer, where she was elected to the county council and state house of representatives. Also during summer 2022, Creech was a lifeguard at the Barnwell YMCA.

She was accompanied by her parents, Stephanie and Chad Creech.

CONSOLIDATION: Bill introduced to fully consolidate county school districts

FROM PAGE 1A

well County School District Eighty on July 1, 2024."

This is a local bill, meaning it only needs the support of the local delegation. In Barnwell County, the local delegation is just two people: Senator Hutto and Representative Lonnie Hosey.

As done previously, "this consolidation will not impact schools at this time. This process is about consolidating administrative (district office) services," said BCCSD Interim Superintendent Dr. Marcella Shaw.

To facilitate the consolidation of BCCSD, BSD45, and BCCC, each district's board of trustees "and their

superintendents, administrators, and personnel shall cooperate fully with the Barnwell County Legislative Delegation and the delegation staff," states the bill.

"We anticipated the introduction of Senate Bill 0654. As a BCCSD team, we are poised to work hand-in-hand with all parties involved to ensure a successful consolidation. We are committed to conducting the business of consolidation in a manner which reflects the highest level of integrity and fidelity," said Shaw. "Most importantly, we are dedicated to ensuring that we keep the needs of all Barnwell

County scholars as the focal point of the important decisions to be made during and throughout this journey."

"At the Barnwell County Career Center, we are already serving students from the three high schools in our county. We will continue to serve in that capacity to continue giving our students the skills necessary to be successful, whether they attend college or go straight to work," said BCCC Director David Augustine.

"We are aware of the bill that was introduced and, while our Board of Trustees has repeatedly expressed concerns with the negative

impact this legislation could have, we will work together to plan next steps if this legislation is passed," said BSD45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

"We wish we had more control over a decision such as this; however, it is out of our hands, and we hope our legislators make the best decision for the future of this county. Our priority is always for our students and families. That will never change," said Dr. Stapleton.

Initially, a five-member board of trustees will be appointed for the newly-created Barnwell County School District.

"These appointed members shall serve on the Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees until their successors are elected in school district elections conducted at the same time as the 2024 General Election and qualify," states the bill.

Barnwell County Council adopted a Resolution in Support of School Consolidation at their Feb. 14 regular meeting showing their support of county-wide consolidation.

The resolution states, "the SC Code of Laws was amended by adding Section 59-17-35 so as to require county-wide school districts no later than July 1, 2025."

This amendment (bill 3154) was introduced in the House of Representatives and read for the first time on January 10, 2023. It was then referred to the Committee on Education and Public Works.

Bill 3154, which is separate from the bill Sen. Hutto introduced strictly for Barnwell County last week, also breaks down the proposed consolidation of county-wide school districts into regionally-wide school districts by July 1, 2030. The People-Sentinel covered this bill in the Feb. 27 edition.

Read the full version of Senate Bill 0654 at www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/bills/654.htm.



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APPOINTMENT



Stephanie D. Jacobs has recently been appointed to the SCASCD Board of Directors.

SCASCD appoints Barnwell native to Board of Directors

Stephanie D. Jacobs, a Barnwell native and 1994 graduate of Barnwell High School, has recently been appointed to the SCASCD Board of Directors. South Carolina ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a primary mission of improving the teaching and learning of all students. This mission is accomplished by influencing research, policy and practice in curriculum and instruction in South Carolina schools.

Stephanie D. Jacobs is a resident of Rock Hill, SC where she serves as an Instructional Coach, supporting teachers in implementing best teaching practices in the classroom. She also works with educators and staff across the United States, providing professional development as an independent educational consultant. Jacobs is a former SCASD Emerging Leader and a featured author in three books from the EduMatch Snapshot in Education series.

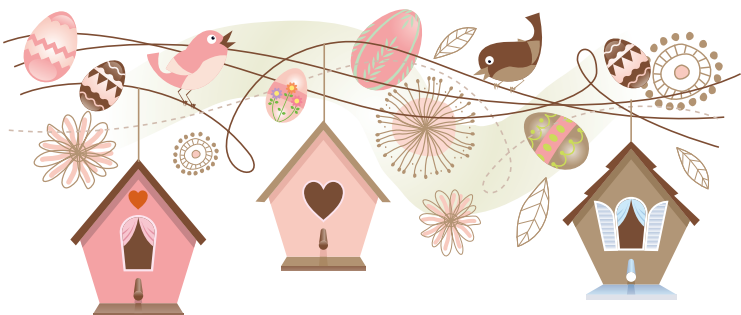
CONTEST WINNER



Scarlette Dulyea wins the "Smokey the Bear" poster contest at national level.

Scarlette Dulyea

Congratulations to Scarlette Dulyea on winning the "Smokey the Bear" poster contest, sponsored by the South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs. Her poster was submitted by the Ivy Garden Club of Williston and won at the state level. It was then forwarded to the national level and won. Scarlette is a fourth grade student at Kelly Edwards Elementary School in Williston.



ANNIVERSARY



Newlyweds Phil and Jean Frederick on March 30, 1963.

Phil and Jean Frederick

Phil and Jean Frederick of Williston will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on March 30, 2023.

The couple was married at the Williston Presbyterian Church on March 30, 1963. This date is also Jean's birthday, which gives the family a double celebration.

Phil has lived in Williston all his life while Jean moved there when she was three years old. They both graduated from Williston-Elko High School. Jean skipped her junior year to graduate early with Phil.

Phil's career was in purchasing. He was the purchasing manager for Whirlpool in Williston for 16 years. Jean retired from the Williston School District Office after 31 years. She worked in the accounting department as the bookkeeper and accounts payable lead.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick have been members of Williston First Baptist Church for 46 years.

The couple have been active members of their community.

Phil has served on the Williston school board, as a volunteer with the Williston Fire Department, 22 years on the Williston Town Council, Williston Athletic Booster Club president, a member of the Jaycees, and a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Williston First Baptist.

Jean was the first female elder in the Williston First Presbyterian Church. She is a member of the Ivy Garden Club and serves on numerous church committees.

They have two children, Bill (Renee) Frederick and Carol (Tim) Bolen.

They have five grandchildren: Lauren Frederick, the late Will Frederick, Grant Bolen, Natalie Bolen, and Reid Bolen. They also have one great-grandchild, Jackson Byars.



Phil and Jean Frederick celebrate 60th wedding anniversary.

Homemaker's Column

Going green with your grocery shopping



Christine Patrick

County Extension Agent

Perhaps you haven't yet started recycling the many containers that package food purchases. And, maybe you have limited access to some of the "greener" food products on the market. Yet there are things you can do if you're interested in a "greener," more environmentally friendly household. Read on for some easy steps you can take right now. They also will save you money, adding a little extra green to your wallet!

• Size matters. When choosing between a large container and several small containers that add up to the same volume: Consider whether buying the large container would save the same purpose and save you money. For example, do you need to buy individual boxes (and more packaging) for juice if they all are drunk in the same week and at your kitchen table?

• It's in the bag. While we could all carry our reusable shopping bags when we go shopping, if we don't we can reuse any plastic grocery bags we might accumulate to line small wastebaskets. Put a few bags in the bottom of the wastebasket BEFORE you line it, so there's another one ready to use after one is filled.

• Got to have a plan! Plan and shop less often for groceries or shop in conjunction with other errands taking you near a grocery

store. The result is a reduction in the use and cost of fuel needed to transport food.

• Practice the 3 Rs - Produce less waste AND save money by practicing the 3 Rs of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Reduce - the amount of leftover food tossed by serving smaller portions of foods that frequently produce leftovers OR ...

Reuse - leftovers by serving them again in a day or two or freezing them for future use, OR ...

Recycle - leftovers into a different type of meal; for example - add that extra rice to a soup the next night.

• Don't be a "spoil"-sport. Throwing away spoiled food is related to tossing leftovers. Reduce the amount of spoiled food that gets tossed through such practices as:

Read labels for "use by," "expiration," or "best if used by" dates.

Refrigerate and freeze foods at recommended temperatures -- 0 degrees F or lower for freezers and 40 degrees F or lower for the refrigerator section. An appliance thermometer assures your refrigerator/freezer is maintaining these temperatures.

Follow recommended storage times for foods. For example, some containers may specify a recommended time frame in which to eat food after it is opened.

Avoid buying so much food in bulk that it spoils before you can use it.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, and is an equal opportunity employer.

Rants & Raves

Today (March 10) driving from Allendale to Barnwell there was a beagle laying beside the road, as I passed he raised his head. I had to turn around, the whole time praying it was alive then trying to figure out what will I do with it if it is alive; it certainly couldn't move. As I turned around, I noticed another vehicle turned around and also came back to the dog. Yes, it was alive. She told me she saw it and said she had to go back too. She picked it up and I asked if she needed help with it. She said she would take care of it, she worked at a vet office and would take it home, make it comfortable, and take it to the office in the morning. There are still people that care!

God bless that girl; I know he was working! God is good all the time, even with animals. I believe he's looking out for that pup. I know my heart is at ease that pup is in God's hands.

Virginia Nettles, Barnwell

I want to give a huge thank you to the Barnwell County Sheriff's Department for coming to our rescue. We were out for our evening golf cart ride and it decided to break down. Sheriff Steven Grits Griffith, Darren Towne and officer Neal made sure we got home safely. We are blessed to have these men looking out for our safety.

Sonya Brown, Barnwell

The family of the late **Pauline Glover Rivers** wishes to express our deep and sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness extended to our family during this most difficult time. Blessings to each of you and your families.

Deloris Rivers Williams
Jamie Rivers Robinson
Ella Rivers O'Berry

Editorial:

Government transparency is vital to local communities

South Carolina is the Sunshine State, but things aren't always sunny when it comes to government transparency and openness - two vital components of democracy.

Many public officials and public bodies say that transparency is a top priority. Some even include that as part of their platform. Unfortunately, they don't always live up to their promises. It's one thing to talk the talk, but it's more important to walk the walk.

We can cite more than a few examples from recent years of public officials and public bodies trying to withhold or hide public information. Just last week, the Barnwell Police Department attempted to keep the public in the dark after *The People-Sentinel* requested documents related to an assault involving juveniles at Lemon Park.

The chief said no information or documents would be released at the time since this was an "active and ongoing case."

Not true. This is an invalid excuse that's used far too often by many law enforcement agencies to not release public documents. There is no "under investigation" exemption under the S.C. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) - the law outlining access to public documents. According to FOIA (Section 30-4-30), the public has the right to inspect or copy certain public records without a written request. This includes "all reports" from the previous 14 days that "disclose the nature, substance, and location of any crime or alleged crime reported as having been committed," as outlined in Section 30-4-50 (A)(8).

However, there are some things law enforcement agencies can redact from those records. This includes records that would interfere with a law enforcement proceeding, deprive someone of a fair trial, constitute an unreasonable invasion of privacy, disclose a confidential source, disclose current techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, endanger an individual's life or physical safety, or disclose contents of intercepted electronic communications not otherwise disclosed during a trial. We completely understand these reasons and would never want to jeopardize anyone in these situations.

This newspaper was also told by the chief that releasing the report would spread some false information since they were still trying to determine what happened. It was also stated that there were blatant lies being spread online where a video of the assault was posted.

That's exactly why the police department should be transparent. Just as it's a newspaper's job to keep people informed, including about crime and public safety, law enforcement agencies should want to be open as well. That builds trust with the public. It also builds community awareness about public safety.

A heavily redacted one-page incident report was eventually released to the newspaper. However, no supplemental reports were released. Information on the juveniles that were charged has also not been released. We agree that names of juveniles should be withheld, but a redacted booking report should be released with the suspect's age, gender, and charges. While journalists often use FOIA to request public records and

uncover important information, this tool is available to every member of the public to shine a light into those dark, hidden crevices of government that some public officials don't want you to see.

Some public officials forget they are public servants. They work for us - the people.

That's why journalists and the public should utilize these tools to find out what's happening in their communities. FOIA helps journalists maintain their ever-important role as watchdogs while helping citizens understand they also have the power to hold public officials accountable.

The importance of FOIA and

open government is celebrated annually during Sunshine Week. Though we missed this year's celebration, March 12-18, it's always a good time to promote and celebrate open government.

To read the entire FOIA law, go to www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t30c004.php. To read the S.C. Public Official's Guide to FOIA, visit <https://scpress.org/public-officials-guide-to-the-foia/>.

The forecast for transparency is bright if citizens and journalists each do their part to hold public officials accountable.

Let the light shine!

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher

Letter to the Editor



Foot marker is damaged at the Barnwell County Memorial Cemetery.

Dear Editor,

Two items I would like Mr. Tim Bennett, county administrator, and members of Barnwell County Council to reconsider are:

Barnwell County Memorial Cemetery. The receipt received by my husband at the purchase of a four-grave plot at the cemetery clearly states, "You are now the owner of this specific plot." It did not state the county owned the plot or have a list of rules. This was over 40 years ago. My husband has been buried at this cemetery for 23 years. Since he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. for eight years, a foot marker was provided to me. I do take care of this plot. Much better than the county! For the last 18 years that foot marker has been badly chipped on the upper left-hand corner. There are several smaller ones. No weed eater could cause this much damage. It had to be a tractor pulling a big finishing mower right over the marker. I have spoken to those who were in charge of overseeing this work several times. To date, no one has taken responsibility for the damage or even acknowledged the fact. I keep fresh or artificial flowers and an American Flag on the grave. Once a year Marine Corps. Flag is placed at the grave site for a week or two. I also reserve the right to place a Christian Flag there. I realize many people have moved away and may only come home three or four times a year to place flowers. Clearly, these would need removing after a while.

The Capital Sales Projects Tax Act to be accomplished between May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2025. Number 5 is the last item for Barnwell County stating (Repair/replace county landfill scale house). This should be moved to

"begin immediately" before time/money run out. The tiny, dilapidated building that houses workers is in total disrepair. It should be torn down and a new building erected. Every project funded by the Capital Projects Sales Tax, be it town, city or council only affects some people. The County Landfill is the only project to affect every citizen of Barnwell County, from the youngest to the eldest. Their job is vital. They are responsible for collecting and disposing of waste from every business, doctors' offices, individual homes, schools, recreation areas, jails, etc. Items such as furniture and mattresses, often infested with bed bugs, rusted metal items, rotting food, wood that has mold and mildew are disposed of. On occasion dead animals are buried there. Fires are set periodically to burn debris. This is just a partial list of items handled and their duties.

Every member of Barnwell County Council and Mr. Tim Bennett should tour this facility in the hot summer. Smell the trash, rotting food and other items in the dumpsters waiting to be buried. Eat your lunch in the tiny, dilapidated building. Imagine how your home would look and smell if trash was not picked up for a month in the summer. Odor, flies, rated wild animals would be around, making it very unhealthy. With the numbers of workers and the type of materials handled every week, the new building should have two eye wash stations, two restrooms and two showers. These workers do a great job that benefits every citizen. They deserve better!

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth M. Rutland,
Barnwell

The People-Sentinel

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Publication No. (044-52)

Periodicals postage paid to Barnwell, SC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The People-Sentinel, P.O. Box 1255, Barnwell, S.C. 29812. The People-Sentinel is a weekly publication. In the event of typographical errors in advertisements, The People-Sentinel will be responsible for the space occupied by the actual error.

Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to noon
222 Main Street, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
www.thepeoplesentinel.com

Phone
(803) 259-3501

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Letters policy

Letters, limited to 800 words, may be sent to:

Letters to the Editor
The People-Sentinel
P.O. Box 1255, Barnwell, SC 29812

by Fax: (803) 259-2703

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.

Barnwell County Arrest Reports

Arrest reports listed below are public record and have been provided by local law enforcement agencies. All persons named are presumed innocent until their cases are determined in a court of law.

Jarmal Markice Burgess, 30, of 962 Kingfisher Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 11, 2023 by the Barnwell Police Department (BPD) for Possession of Marijuana. Burgess was booked and released to the Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Kelijah Cave, 18, of 220 Silver Lane, Barnwell, was arrested on March 20, 2023 by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Assault & Battery and Criminal Domestic Violence. Cave was booked and released to BCDC.

Christopher Lee Chavis, 32, of 74 Levy Lane, Blackville, was arrested on March 12, 2023 by BPD for Reckless Driving. Chavis was booked and released to BCDC.

Quadarius Tyreak Frazier, 23, of 306 Litchfield St. #368, Barnwell, was arrested on March 10, 2023 by BPD for Domestic Violence. Frazier was booked and released to BCDC.

Angelo Maxwell Grant, 49, of 78 Bussey Road, Aiken, was arrested on March 22, 2023 by BCSO for four counts of Distribution of Illegal Narcotics and Possession of Illegal Narcotics with Intent to Distribute. Grant was booked and released to BCDC.

Justin L. Green, 28, of 43 Makenzie Lane #36, Barnwell, was arrested on March

20, 2023 by BPD for Driving Under Suspension, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and Unlawful Use of License Plate. Green was booked and released to BCDC.

John Robert Hadden, 56, of 1005 Lebanon Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 21, 2023 by BCSO for Trafficking Meth, Trafficking Heroin, Distribution of Heroin, and Distribution of Meth. Hadden was booked and released to BCDC.

Jeffery Jerone Mack, 29, of 282 Laurel Avenue, Denmark, was arrested on March 20, 2023 for Fraudulent Check. Mack was booked and released to BCDC.

Ziquail Malik Glover, 21, of 825 Stilton Road, Orangeburg, was arrested on March 21, 2023 by BPD for Assault and Vandalism of Property.

Glover was booked and released to BCDC.

Christopher Terryson Osorio, 37, of 266 Quail Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 20, 2023 by BCSO for two counts of Failure to Pay Child Support. Osorio was booked and released to BCDC.

Jeff Phoenix Jr., 48, of 1120 S.C. Highway 300, Barnwell, was arrested on March 21, 2023 by BPD for Open Container and Speeding. Phoenix was booked and released to BCDC.

Brandon Sanders, 30, of 661 Green Branch Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 21, 2023 by BCSO for Distribution of Math, Distribution of Heroin, and Distribution of Heroin within Proximity of a School. Sanders was booked and released

to BCDC.

James Martin Saxon, 43, of 12281 Carolina Highway, Olar, was arrested on March 22, 2023 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Court Fines/Fees. Saxon was booked and released to BCDC.

William Austin Todd, 42, of 179 George Brown Road, Pelion, was arrested on March 21, 2023 by BCSO for Larceny of Vehicle Parts and Giving False Information to the Police. Todd was booked and released to BCDC.

Dennis Shabar Walker, 32, of 291 Bomba Street, Barnwell, was arrested by BPD on March 11, 2023 for Manufacturing and Possession of Drugs. On March 12, 2023, Walker was arrested for Assault, Malicious Injury to Property, and Shoplifting. Walker was booked and

released to BCDC for both arrests.

Marquis Tyshon Washington, 30, of 522 Gum Street, Allendale, was arrested by BPD on March 11, 2023 for Possession of Marijuana. Washington was booked and released to BCDC.

Miles Maxwell Willard, 28, of 386 Old Salem Road, Barnwell, was arrested on March 24, 2023 by BCSO for Unlawful Carry of a Pistol. Willard was booked and released to BCDC.

Mileena Mairah Williamson, 19, of 74 Hampton Apts. Ave. #814, was arrested on March 10, 2023 by BPD for Possession of Drugs and Driving Under Suspension. Williamson was booked and released to BCDC.

BBB Scam Alert: Grandparent scams still targeting seniors



Kelvin Collins
Better Business Bureau

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is still warning well-meaning seniors about "emergency" scams designed to fool them into thinking that their grandchild is hurt, has been arrested or is stranded, and in need of money.

According to recent FBI reports, the "Grandparent Scam" has been around since 2008, but they continue to plague well-meaning seniors. Retirees are an attractive target for financial scammers since they may have more disposable

income and they are less likely to report being scam victims. Emergency scams play off of peoples' emotions and strong desire to help others in need. Scammers impersonate their victims and make up an urgent situation - "I've been arrested," "I've been mugged," "I'm in the hospital" - and target friends and family with urgent pleas for help, and money.

One victim reported sending four transactions totaling \$4,400 over a two-day period. She was duped after receiving calls alleging that her grandson had been arrested after being in an accident. The money was initially to cover fines and representation to get the grandson released. Soon, the caller needed money to cover the medical bills for a person injured in the accident. The victim claims

that the scammer not only knew details about her grandson but also allowed her to briefly speak with someone that sounded like her grandson.

We also see this scam target families with loved ones deployed overseas, claiming to need the money to get back from a week-end pass. If you don't send the money, they face being arrested for being absent without leave (AWOL).

BBB offers the following tips to avoid the Grandparent Scam:

- **Communicate.** Loved ones should share travel plans with family members before leaving the state or country. Also, discuss this scam with older family members so they are aware of how the scam works.
- **Share information.** Loved ones should provide the cell phone number and

email address of a friend they are traveling with in the case of an emergency. Family members should remind students to be cautious when sharing details about travel plans on social media.

• **Know the red flags.** Typically, the grandparent receives a frantic phone call from a scammer posing as their grandchild or a so-called "officer of the court". The caller explains that the grandchild has gotten into trouble and needs help, perhaps caused a car accident, or was arrested for DUI or drug possession. The "grandchild" pleads to the grandparent not to tell his or her parents and asks that they wire thousands of dollars for reasons of posting bail, repairing the car, covering lawyer's fees, or even paying hospital bills for a per-

son supposedly injured in a car accident.

• **Ask a personal question, but don't disclose too much information.** If a grandparent receives a call from someone claiming to be their grandchild in distress, BBB advises that the grandparent not disclose any information before confirming that it really is their grandchild. If a caller says, "It's me, Grandma!" don't respond with a name, but instead let the caller explain who he or she is. One easy way to confirm their identity is to ask a simple question that the grandchild would know such as their middle name or what gift they gave the grandchild for Christmas.

• **Discuss with family members.** Even though the scammer will plead with you to keep this a secret from the parents, discuss

the situation with someone and chances are you will find that your grandchild is safe and secure at home.

For anyone victimized by this type of distressed loved-one call, BBB recommends reporting the incident immediately to your local police department and BBB Scam Tracker. For more consumer tips you can trust or to report a scam, visit bbb.org.

Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia, and Western South Carolina. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org

ASSAULT: Lemon Park incident under investigation

FROM PAGE 1A

In fact, the law allows journalists and the public to inspect and copy certain records without a written request. This includes police records from the previous 14 days that show the "nature, substance, and location" of a crime or alleged crime.

During a follow-up call with Police Chief Lamaz Robinson, the newspaper was told it would be irresponsible to release the report since there are many lies circulating online and the department was still trying to determine exactly what transpired. The newspaper responded that it was important to release the documents, not only because it's lawful, but because it's important for the public to know about public safety.

"This is another example of a police chief displaying arrogance and ignorance of the law. Police reports are public records, and must be made available to the public. There is no "under investigation" exemption from disclosure," said Jay Bender, legal counsel for the S.C. Press Association, which represents the state's 85 newspapers.

In a subsequent call, the

chief told the newspaper that attorneys told him he did not have to release the records immediately. While FOIA does provide a timeline for public bodies, such as police departments, to respond to FOIA requests, that does not apply to the situation of police records from the previous 14-day period. Those records are supposed to be readily available for viewing and copying.

"If the chief was accurately quoting the department's attorney about the time for response to a request for records, the department needs a lawyer who can read. I'm guessing the chief never spoke to a lawyer. Each time a police department ignores the requirements of the law and withholds records from the public, it diminishes the department's credibility," said Bender.

The department did release a heavily redacted one-page incident report. However, no supplemental or booking reports were provided.

The redacted report essentially states that officers were dispatched to the park's football field around 8 p.m. for an assault. They found a

juvenile on the ground who was complaining of minor injuries. Redactions make it difficult to understand the circumstances that led up to the assault.

While multiple allegations have been made online about the cause of the attack, *The People-Sentinel* will not publish those since nothing has been proven.

In addition to cell phone footage of the incident, there is also surveillance footage from the park. Using American Rescue Plan funding, cameras were recently installed at Lemon Park, Fuller Park, and downtown to improve safety and security.

"Cameras did help us in that matter," said City Administrator Lynn McEwen. "Cameras uptown have also been timely and helpful in a couple of things."

Mayor Marcus Rivera made a Facebook statement after being tagged multiple times online.

"I pray that all of the children involved are fine physically, mentally, and emotionally. Secondly, I Marcus Rivera, not Mayor Rivera, have been working in this community with

the youth especially young men to teach them that any acts of violence, retaliation, bullying, or any crime of any sort is unacceptable," he said.

While he said he is "confident" in the police department's abilities to investigate this case, he said there's a bigger issue. "We have elected officials, adults, both black and white, exhibiting childish behaviors that's being viewed by children and others. This is not a racial issue; this is a matter of right and wrong. Nothing will justify the acts of the young men that were in the video, but they must also be heard, before being judged," he said.

The mayor recommended to the city council that any child under 16 visiting any of the city's parks be accompanied by an adult. This has not been voted on as of press time.

The police chief also agreed to continue performing walk-throughs at the parks, especially during events.

Notice

SOUTHEASTERN
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Holly Hill Complex at Cribb Street, Holly Hill, SC

North Complex at Palmetto Ave., North, SC

Allendale Complex at Bluff Road, Allendale, SC

Blackville Complex at Hampton Ave., Blackville, SC

Branchville Villa complex at Branchville Lane, Branchville, SC

Denmark Gardens Complex at Mimosas Avenue, Denmark, SC

Fairfax Boundary Complex at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

Williston West Main Complex at West Main Street, Williston, SC

Barnwell Arms Complex at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

Bamberg Villa Complex at Race Street, Bamberg, SC

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

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AG-0003364030-01

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PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE B7.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Barnwell, South Carolina, will hold a public hearing at **5:00pm, on Thursday, 04/13/23, City Hall, on the following appeals:**

Appeal No. 2023-01 by Peter Palmer from decision of the Zoning Official that the building on parcel 073-11-04-015 (674 Jackson st) is a non-conforming use which cannot be rezoned or resolved by a variance or exception which affects property at building on parcel 073-11-04-015.

Documents relating to the appeals are available for public inspection in the office of the Zoning Official at City Hall, 130 Main St. Barnwell, SC 29812.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Allendale Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing at **5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2023** to receive comments on a proposed amendment to the Town of Allendale Planning & Zoning Commission.

Applicant: Kimely Dunbar

Amendment Summary: Rezoning from residential to commercial community.

- General Area -Mary Lane - Subdivision: Tison
- Acreage: 1 lot (#5) - Planimetered Area .18

Hearing Location:

Allendale Town Hall, 1296 Main Street South, Courtroom, Allendale, SC 29810

For Additional Information:

Town of Allendale Planning & Commission
1296 Main Street, South
Allendale, SC 29810
803-584-4619
info@townofalldalesc.us

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Don Grice

from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. The family has asked that memorials be made to Rosemary Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 409, Williston, S.C. 29853.

Mr. Don passed away at home on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Born in Batesburg, he was a son of the late Willie Edgar Grice and Lillian Hallman Grice and was married to Joyce Williams Grice for 54 years. Mr. Don served on the Williston Cemetery Committee; was a very faithful member of Rosemary Baptist Church where he served as church treasure for 34 years, was a deacon, and served in many other capacities over the years. Mr. Don loved his dogs and cats and enjoyed

working in his yard with his wife, Joyce. He retired as a Lab Technician from Westinghouse SRS and served in the S.C. Air National Guard for 10 years.

Survivors include his loving wife, Joyce of the home; his brother and sister-in-law, Willie E. (Sara) Grice Jr. of Williston; a nephew, David Grice of Williston; and a brother-in-law, Richard (Kim) Williams, of North Augusta.

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

The People-Sentinel
3/29/23



Myrtle Miller Shedd

gia where she met her husband, Marion Frank Shedd Sr. They were married June 10, 1943, and moved to Waxhaw, North Carolina while stationed at Fort Buckner. They had three children, Dorothy Jean Taber (Stuart), Patricia Callahan (Ronnie), and Marion Frank Shedd Jr. (Caroline).

She is pre-deceased by her husband of 58 years and her daughter, Dorothy Jean. She has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She has numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved very much and were a great part of her life throughout the years.

She spent the majority of her married life residing in Barnwell, South Carolina. There she devoted her time to being a full-time wife and mother. She and her fam-

ily were active members of the Barnwell Presbyterian Church. Myrtle Miller Shedd spent her life loving, serving and sharing with others. She was an incredible inspiration as to how our lives should be lived and will be greatly missed.

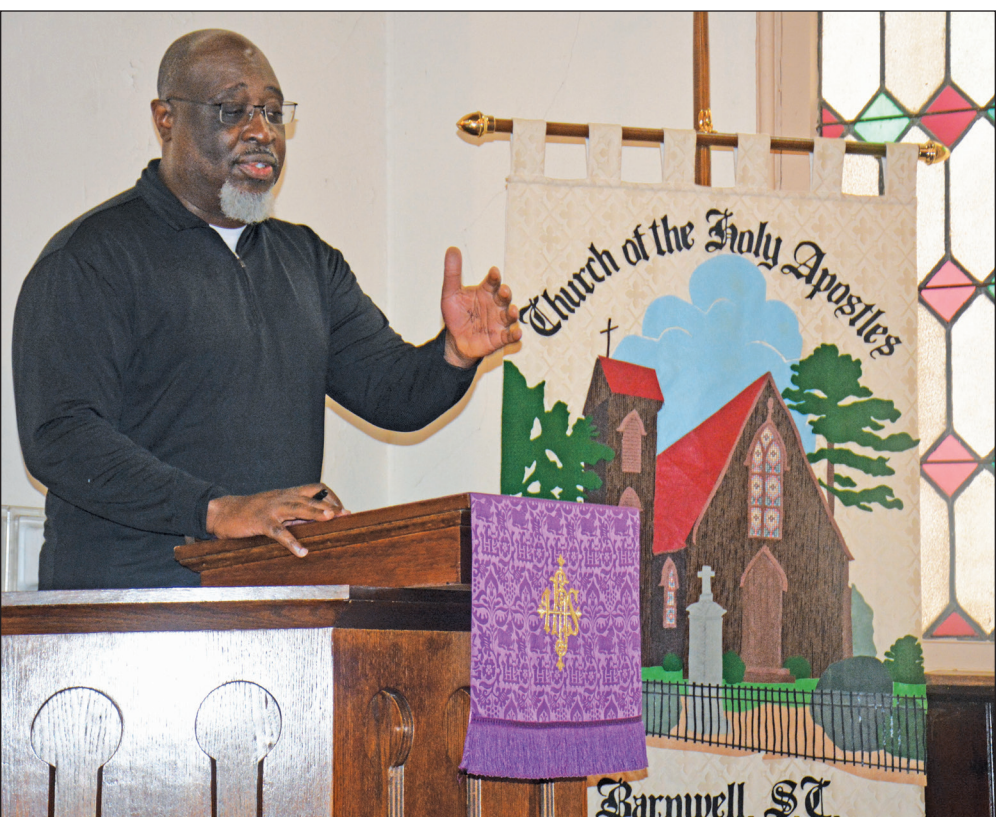
Graveside services and interment were held on March 24, 2023, at 4 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery, Cairo, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Shriners Hospital for Children in her memory.

Whiddon-Shiver Funeral Home in Thomasville, Ga. was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at www.whiddonshiverfuneralhome.com.

The People-Sentinel
3/29/23

Faith

Lenten service: Hold up, wait a minute



Rev. Bobby Dukes delivers a message at the March 22 Lenten service held at Holy Apostles Anglican Church in Barnwell. Photo by: Jonathan Vickery

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

"Hold up, wait a minute." That was the title of the message Rev. Bobby Dukes delivered to the crowd gathered at Holy Apostles Anglican Church in Barnwell for the March 22 Lenten worship service.

"We all make mistakes. Lent is a time of reflection," said Dukes, the pastor of Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Barnwell. Rev. Dukes read John 13: 21-30, which tells of Jesus predicting His own betrayal by His disciple Judas.

"Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me," said Jesus to His disciples in verse 21.

While the disciples did not know who Jesus was referring to, Judas would soon be revealed as the traitor who would turn Jesus in to the authorities for a little bit of money.

"Nobody knew who Judas was. They served with this man for three

years but didn't know who he was," said Dukes. "We all have skeletons in our closet."

Though people don't really name their children Judas nowadays, Dukes said the spirit of Judas is alive. He was referring to how everyone has sin in their lives and go against God's will for their lives.

"How many times have we betrayed Jesus ourselves?" asked Dukes.

This includes hating people we are called to love, tearing down people we should encourage, and not caring for people we should care about. Simply going to church and keeping up the appearance of being a Christian doesn't mean someone knows God.

Thankfully, Dukes said Jesus died on the cross to tear down that wall, so those who accept Jesus as their savior will be forgiven and have eternal life.

"Doesn't matter how much wrong I've done or how much sin I've done, I am the one Jesus loves.

Jesus loves all of us," said Dukes.

He encouraged the crowd to take a good look in the mirror to reflect on how their lives measure up.

Rev. Bill Clarkson of Holy Apostles thanked Dukes for the "beautiful and challenging message" as they continue their journey through Lent.

Clarkson also reminded everyone to give to the love offering that is used by the Barnwell County Ministerial Association to help people in the county. "So please hold up, wait a minute, and share what God has first given you," Clarkson said.

Lenten services are held every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday through the week of Easter. Each service is hosted by a different church and starts with a light lunch at noon followed by a brief service at 12:30 p.m. The last two services are March 29 at Hagood Avenue Baptist and April 5 at Gateway Assemblies.



Holy Apostles Anglican Church was packed for the March 22 Lenten service. Photo by: Tommy Faircloth

Corder's Corner: Finding Rest

David B. Corder
Contributing Writer

My thoughts have been drifting a lot towards rest lately. I'm a teacher, so I think I know a fair bit about being tired. As my father once told me, "There's no tired like teacher tired."

But I don't discount anyone who is tired. Everyone is weary of toiling long hours. Of staying up late with screaming babies. Of dealing with the negativity of people in our lives.

We're all tired. And that weariness does not just relate to our physical exertions. Our minds can be exhausted, our hearts heavy, our souls burdened. Indeed, we are most drained when our souls are brought to a breaking point.

We know the solution: to rest. However, sometimes we cannot find this rest. Something is keeping us from achieving it, and it might be anything. Perhaps we don't want to rest—we'd rather have our fingers chewed off by a gopher than have to lay down and take it easy for an hour. Some of us think rest means sleeping 30-plus hours over the course of a single weekend or reclining on a couch and scrolling through TikTok. We tend to think that "rest" is just an excuse to be abhorrently lazy.

For me, the first thing I think of when I want to rest is to turn on my Xbox and play video games. I need to stop looking at words on a screen or in a book, I say to myself. I need to let my brain go blank for a while. That's all true, and there's nothing wrong with spending thirty minutes to an hour playing a video game. If I spend too much time on my Xbox, however, or on my phone, or watching TV, I find that I feel just as exhausted as I did when I started the activity. I don't feel rejuvenated, which is one of the main purposes of resting.

Resting does not mean doing nothing.

When God created the Earth, He rested on the seventh day. Because he was tired? Absolutely not! As it says in Isaiah 40:28, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable" (ESV). God does not tire. How could an omnipotent God become physically tired?

He rested because rest is a good thing. And as far as I know, it does not specify in the Bible how He rested. But I'm sure He didn't turn on the Xbox or scroll through TikTok for hours

thinking that would be the best way to spend His time.

I think He probably walked and wandered around Eden, looking at all that was beautiful, smiling to Himself and saying, "I created all of this, and this is good." And by looking at what He created, He brought Himself joy.

We should take inspiration from God. Rest is not an excuse to be lazy. It is a path to find rejuvenation.

After a long day at work, I know I will feel better if I do something meaningful like write, or read, or go for a walk. I will find more solace in resting from my work in those ways as opposed to scrolling through Facebook for nearly an hour.

And this is not all to say that watching TV or playing a video game or spending a few minutes watching funny videos on your phone is bad. But is it actually giving you rest? Or are you just wasting the precious minutes given to you that could be used for something more enjoyable and more likely to restore your soul?

I'd like to challenge you this week to find rest in an intentional and meaningful way. And as you do so, be sure to give glory to God, for it is one of His great gifts towards us.

Work Cited: *The Bible. The English Standard Version Study Bible*, Crossway, 2008.



Attendees enjoy a light lunch before the March 22 Lenten service. Photo by: Tommy Faircloth

County council gives recognition, notes needed repairs

Alexandra Whitbeck
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The Allendale County Council covered a wide variety of topics at their March 16, 2023 meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Out of the eight packets of meeting minutes to be voted on, only five were approved.

Minutes from the Dec. 5, 2022, Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Jan. 24, and Feb. 28 meetings were passed.

The special-called meeting minutes for both Feb. 2 and Feb. 13 were not approved due to not being included in the councilmembers' packets, therefore they were unable to review them and/or make corrections prior to the meeting for approval.

The December 20, 2022 meeting minutes from a rescheduled regular meeting were not passed as needed corrections had not been made.

Allendale County Council meetings are recorded and then transcribed for public documents, however, the auto-transcription feature used by the county is not always completely accurate and requires revision.

Minutes from municipal meetings serve as the official record of what was

In the hospital, plumbers can access these pipes through crawl spaces to make repairs and replacements. However, at the nursing home, this pipe is under a concrete slab.

"When a pipe collapses under a concrete slab, then you've got real major issues," said Gooding.

The Allendale County Hospital is considered a dual status hospital, meaning it is considered both a county hospital and a non-profit hospital. The county owns the facilities and property that the hospital operates on, but it is operated by a board of trustees appointed by the county council.

Gooding explained in the nine years he has been with the hospital, they have "tried our best to upgrade some of the infrastructure issues, but it's gotten to the point where it's almost a burden financially for us to do so."

"My goal is to make sure we have the hospital moving forward, and for me to do that we're going to have to work on the infrastructure at the hospital to be here long term," said Gooding.

Gooding projects upgrading the plumbing infrastructure for both facilities will cost \$500,000 to \$700,000.

The Allendale County



Allendale County Director of Public Safety Marshall Morehead presents plaques to the fire department, EMS personnel, and dispatch team recognizing their continued dedication to the safety of citizens and seamless response to a major accident in January, 2023.

Photo by: Alex Whitbeck

"From then to now, that road has deteriorated," said Wright, who expressed these concerns during public comment at the Feb. 28 meeting.

Councilmember Jennings stated she remembers the roads that make up Best Loop when she was working with the school district "because buses couldn't get down that road to pick the students up because of the condition of the road."

There are around 900 miles of dirt roads in Allendale County, and the morning of the Feb. 28 meeting Councilmember Jennings was informed by members of the Department of Transportation the state was in control of roughly 600 of those miles.

Previously to the meeting she spoke with the Department of Public Works, Public Transportation, and CTC Commission who informed

and federal delegations to inquire about how to get funding for this plumbing project.

Road Repair

Councilmember Willa Jennings gave an update on the road conditions in the county and a list of roads previously identified to be resurfaced.

Some of the roads on this list were sections of Fitts Road, Gray Roads, Gillison Road, Mulberry Street, Goodson Street, Pearl Street, Wilson Street, Joe Folk Road, and more.

The total length of the roads selected were 11.78 miles.



The Allendale County 911 dispatch team accepts a plaque recognizing the integral part they play in keeping Allendale County citizens safe. Director of Public Safety Marshall Morehead describes dispatch as the 'lynchpin' of emergency services; without them it would all fall apart. From left to right: Bernice Charlton, Elvira Osorio, Jennifer Boswell, Brittany Robinson and Christopher White.

Photo by: Alex Whitbeck



The Allendale County EMS team was recognized at the March 16 Allendale County Council meeting for their continued dedication to Allendale County citizens. From left to right: Matt Windham, Ashley Simmons, Lish Sabb, Kelly Highsmith, Christopher Atkins, Ernest Williams.

Photo by: Alex Whitbeck

discussed, what decisions were made, and that the meeting occurred. If they are not correct, neither is the public record.

"They have to be approved by council before they are legal," said Councilmember Theresa Taylor at the Feb. 28 public hearing and regular meeting.

At both the Feb. 28 meeting and the March 16 meeting, Taylor explained the importance of these minutes being accurate.

Hospital Repairs Needed

Lari Gooding, CEO of Allendale County Hospital, asked the council for their support as he tries to find funding to repair the 75-year-old hospital building currently providing emergency medical services to residents in multiple counties.

The major issue is plumbing.

According to Gooding, the hospital spent over \$100,000 in the last four to six weeks to get the plumbing functioning in both the hospital and the nursing home. Both facilities are plumbed with cast iron pipe which has deteriorated to be 'paper thin' in some areas.

Hospital not only serves the residents of Allendale County, but Barnwell County as well since its hospital closed in 2016. According to Gooding, at one point 22-23% of emergency room patients were coming from Barnwell County.

"We became a regional hospital by default. We started seeing a lot of patients from Barnwell County," said Gooding.

A more recent major repair made to the hospital was seven years ago when the county advanced the hospital's funding to allow them to replace the roof. Essentially, the hospital was provided with a zero interest loan for one year to cover this cost.

Gooding explained the hospital is in good standing with its operational reserves, but feels he would not be "prudent in running the hospital if I took all of our operating reserves and upgraded the infrastructure."

"We are in full support of the hospital, we understand and appreciate the importance of it," said Chairman Matthew Connelly, who also informed Gooding letters were sent to state

"The roads that you see on the sheet were not selected by the CTC committee. This was done by the state," said Jennings.

"There are some roads on here that you may have questions about, but these roads were identified many, many years ago," said Jennings, who notes a delegation made this list "before most of us were born."

Best Loop resident Charles Wright has lived in his home since 1993, and has only seen the road worsen since.

her that to pave one mile of dirt road would cost over \$1 million dollars.

"Right now with 900 miles of dirt road, I think that the county council should have a conversation about how this is going to get done," said Councilmember Jennings.

The county currently has one motograder - a machine used to maintain unpaved roads.

At the March 16 meeting, Jennings explained County Administrator Bert O'Rear is looking into leas-

ing another motograder and providing training to Allendale County residents to be able to run this equipment.

According to Jennings, Allendale County Council passed an ordinance in 2007 that requires every vehicle owner in the county to pay a roughly \$30 fee in return for maintained roads.

"We promised the citizens that we were going to scrape their roads if they paid that fee," said Councilmember Jennings.

"If you know of any roads you feel need to be resurfaced, you can provide that list," said Jennings.

"The names would have to go to the state and they would make a decision."

Coroner's Office

"The coroner's office right now, or the morgue, does not have any security and really doesn't have much of anything," said Councilmember Jennings of the lack of security lights and cameras.

Renique Riley is currently serving as the Allendale County Coroner and is entering her second term serving the county.

Currently, the coroner's office does not have internet access.

Councilmember Jennings explained there is a major need for updates due to the requirements and regulations around child fatality outlined in Chapter 5 Article 7 of the SC Code of Laws under Title 17.

"If you have a child fatality in the county, you will be having agencies coming from all over the state," said Councilmember Jennings.

The coroner's office was recently awarded a \$14,000 grant from the National Network of Public Health Institutes, but is unable to access it as the office does not have its own bank account with the county. This grant funding can not be allocated to the county's general fund.

According to Councilmember Jennings and Administrator O'Rear, the coroner's office also has an over \$2,000 reimbursement from the Hampton County Coroner's Office for storing a body for almost a year at the facility.

These funds will be granted to the coroner's office once an account is set up.

First Responder Recognition, Hiring, Grant

"This is the first major incident since the short time that I have joined the Allendale County team as the Director of Public Safety. It was a time where I was able to see the passion and commitment of all our emergency service personnel," said Marshall Morehead, Allendale County Executive Director of Public Safety.

Morehead presented locally made plaques recognizing the continual and dedicated service of emergency service personnel in the county. Emergency medical service (EMS), the fire department, and dispatch was recognized.

"On the night of Jan 20, 2023 on Highway 300 just inside of Barnwell County, an off duty Allendale firefighter responded to a multiple vehicle collision.

This set into motion Allendale County Emergency Response personnel from multiple departments," said Morehead.

Very quickly, Allendale County 911 dispatch coordinated with the fire department, EMS, and law enforcement in addition to establishing landing zones for patients to be airlifted to medical facilities.

"Both Allendale and Barnwell County Emergency units worked together, seamlessly, to provide life and scene safety," said Morehead.

In Morehead's 22 years of serving as a first responder in many capacities, he learned "very few emergency personnel do what they do for fame or fortune. The vast majority of dispatchers, EMS, firefighters, and law enforcement do what they do because they love their community and want to make a better place for their families and friends."

"I know that Allendale is a better, safer place, because of the women and men who are our first responders," he said.

As County Fire Chief Franklin Stanley stood among his fellow firefighters to accept the plaque, he said, "To all of you, thank you for what you do. You're dedicated folks, and the citizens are lucky to have a group of people like you."

Executive Session: Hiring

After the executive session, the council decided to open a position for another full-time EMS employee. This will bring the staff from nine to 10 members.

Finance & Grant Updates

According to Administrator O'Rear, the county applied for a grant to better equip emergency service personnel when responding to an overdose.

"It is a \$2 million grant for our firefighters and EMS, which would provide them \$500,000 per year for the next four years to be able to carry and get training on how to administer NARCAN for drug overdoses on the firetrucks as well as ambulances," said O'Rear.

The effects of a drug overdose rapidly lessen when NARCAN is administered.

Administrator O'Rear had a "very detailed conversation" with S.C. District 6 Congressman James Clyburn regarding applying for South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants when he and Chairman Connelly visited Washington, D.C. in early March.

"There have been about \$800 million leftover that's available for those individuals and those agencies that applied for grants on those two deadlines, and if you did not apply on those two deadlines, you're excluded from the \$800 million leftover," said Administrator O'Rear.

Administrator O'Rear was not with Allendale County at the time these deadlines were due, and wanted to look into applying for these leftover funds.

"We did not get any promises, but we did let them know of our concerns and wishes," said Connelly of their trip to Washington, D.C.

For more information on SCIIP grants, visit //ria.sc.gov/sciip/.



The Allendale County Fire Department is a dedicated volunteer team. An off duty firefighter was the first to arrive on the scene of a January 2023 fatal accident. From left to right: Sekhu Gentle, Linda Fennell, Greg Simmons, Jamie Myrick, James All, Tommy Hutto, Franklin Stanley, Ellis Mew, Paul Brant, Josh Delk, Jaliyah Sanders, Jason Smith, Sharon Summers, and David Tymeson.

Photo by: Alex Whitbeck

New GU director ready to help 'seasoned citizens'

Alexandra Whitbeck
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"My passion is looking at the opportunity we have to support our seniors in our community and making sure we provide care for them because that is what they have done for us."

- Ethel Faust,

the new director of Generations Unlimited

As the new executive director of Generations Unlimited (GU), Ethel Faust is re-visioning what it means to be a 'seasoned senior' and hopes to unite the community regardless of age through reenergized programming and services.

"My passion is looking at the opportunity we have to support our seniors in our community and making sure we provide care for them because that is what they have done for us," said Faust.

"As the name says, Generations Unlimited, of course our primary focus is our seniors, but how can we have seniors with the younger generation. So we are looking at really making sure that all generations are interconnected with our services," said Faust.

Faust hopes to bring creative programming and a reinvigorated sense of what it means to turn 60- the minimum age of enrollment at GU's Gail Reyes Senior Center in Barnwell and the Golden Retreat Activity Center in Blackville.

"There are many things that I am so looking forward to expanding the

reach of Generations Unlimited," said Faust.

She plans to work toward sustaining the organization financially, increasing efficiency in programming and Local Motion services, gaining more volunteers, and expanding services for seniors in Williston, which lacks a senior center.

"Local Motion is where I am really learning and growing to see how we can direct it for more efficiency in the program operation," said Faust.

Local Motion is public transportation and not taxi-type transit, according to Faust, who notes the struggles GU has had in finding drivers.

"We know that we have issues as far as the pay," said Faust on the search for drivers. "I've done some research, and we are right in line with what is being paid across our region as for the Federal Transportation Association."

Local Motion has a fleet size of 15 which serves their current needs, according to Faust.

"We just need to be creative in how we are doing the services and how we are meeting the need, because the need is here not just for our seniors," said Faust on Local Motion as it is used by all aged members of the community.

Faust recognizes the upheaval GU went through in March 2022 before her arrival, and hopes to be a part of rejoining the agency with the community.

In March of last year, Barnwell County Council assumed governance of the GU board and fired the executive director through a unanimous vote due to financial concerns and irreconcilable differences.

The People-Sentinel writes in a March 2022 article, "The 'differences' cited by [county councilman Freddie] Houston revolve around the finances of GU, particularly related to the operation of its Local Motion public transportation program."

"As executive director, my main and most important task is to be effective in carrying out the guidance and direction of the agency's administrative board, which is currently the Barnwell County Council, to ensure that we are effectively implementing policies and procedures in the most cost effective manner in servicing the daily operations of the county's transportation and senior services in accordance with established budgetary processes," said Faust.

GU does not currently have an administrative board and is still under the direction of county council. According to Faust, names of recommended individuals to serve on the board have been sent to the council for review.

Another challenge Faust has identified is updating GU's policies and procedures to better improve operational efficiency as they are now outdated.



Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Current executive director of Generations Unlimited (GU) Ethel Faust (standing) chats with founding GU executive director and namesake of the Barnwell senior center, Gail C. Reyes.

"The staff here is really on board, they have sustained the program in the absence of the director with support of county council," said Faust. "They have been here, day and night, to make sure that the ship keeps sailing on."

Although Faust is fairly new to her position with GU, she has had a long career rooted in service that has prepared her to step into this role.

"My interest in this position was just as it was when I worked here a few years ago, to engage and enhance the services for a population that I now call the 'seasoned seniors,'" said Faust.

"My career has crossed a variety of paths; from early beginnings right here in this building. I worked in a summer intern type role with this agency," said Faust, who went on to serve as the executive secretary handling personnel, office management, and accounting before it was operating as GU.

"I was in high school," said Faust at the 23rd Anniversary of the Gail Reyes Senior Center. "Mrs. Gail and Mrs. Cheryl Long gave me an opportunity at that time to come and work during the summer at their facilities right up the road here, at the site where I am director."

Faust also worked with the Town of Blackville doing administrative work, as a career specialist with Applied Learning Tech Prep serving schools in Barnwell and surrounding counties, and as the direc-

tor of public information at Denmark Technical College.

Faust then began teaching business courses at Blackville-Hilda High School while working part time for Barnwell County First Steps until she became the finance director.

"One of the most fulfilling jobs I've held was something quite new that I would have never thought I would be doing- photography," said Faust, who photographed for church directories through Life Touch and Shutterfly. "This was such a rewarding experience because it allowed me to travel and meet many people of various religions, beliefs, and backgrounds to help create beautiful, fun, and lasting memories for themselves and their places of worship."

All of these experiences have contributed to Faust's passion for working at GU and for the seniors of Barnwell County. She finds her upcoming birthday also energizes her work.

"My passion is heightened by the fact that I too will be qualified to bear the title as a 'seasoned senior' this year," said Faust, who will be turning 60-years-old. "Some driving factors are just to be able to continue in the working in an environment that I really enjoy, surrounded by various groups of people, stakeholders who have and are making a difference in someone else's life, to be able to come together to address issues that are rel-

evant to our community, and to be an example to other generations in this walk of life."

Some of the next steps for GU include creative programming, a search for more volunteer and driver involvement, building more partnerships within the community, and an overall effort toward inter-generational unity in effort to support senior citizens.

"We just had a partnership with First Steps where we are able to support their participants to get the services they need," said Faust of the efforts made to create community partnerships and unify generations.

Faust also hopes to bring events like the 'Grand GRAMMIES' and the 'Umbrella Campaign' to fruition once GU's administrative board is in place. These events will be open to the public and "help to sustain the financial position of the agency," said Faust.

In the month of February, some upcoming opportunities for seniors include exercise and cooking related classes.

In five years, Faust hopes to see GU reach into every community in Barnwell County and be an active and engaging presence.

To get involved with GU or get enrolled at either the Gail Reyes Senior Center in Barnwell or the Golden Retreat Senior Center in Blackville, call the administrative office at (803) 541-1249 or visit <https://generationsunlimited.org/>.

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FIRE STATION: Construction to start soon on new \$4.5 million facility

FROM PAGE 1A



This file photo from 2020 shows the current Barnwell Fire Department that was built in the early 1950s. A new fire station will soon be built nearby.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

over the storage of plutonium at the Savannah River Site, but that didn't work out. The city then looked at renovating the existing building, but that would be "like putting lipstick on a pig," said the mayor. In 2022, Sen. Brad Hutto and Rep. Lonnie Hosey were invited to tour the fire station. The tour was eye-opening for the lawmakers as they saw the deteriorating conditions inside, including leaks.

"This building doesn't need to be upgraded, we need a new building," said Sen. Hutto.

This led the lawmakers to repurpose \$2 million that was originally to be used for a multi-purpose building. These funds are part of Barnwell County's portion of the DOE settlement.

"Barnwell is a place we love and care about, we want to take care of it," said Rep. Hosey, who is a Barnwell resident. He often hears sirens from his house.

"These are courageous men and women who will go into a fire to try to save somebody. The building they work in should be the best one in town," said Hosey.

While a new building is one thing, Sen. Hutto said, "What we are really here to celebrate is those men and women who are there when we need them. They hope they never get that call but when they do, they are there."

HISTORY OF SERVICE

Fire Chief Tony Dicks, who has been with the department for 37 years, detailed 132 years of fire protection history in the City of Barnwell.

"To make good decisions going forward, you need to know your history," said Dicks, who has been chief since 1999.

In 1891, the city had no formal fire protection or equipment to protect its population of 1,800 people. It only had a windmill downtown with a tank and well underneath to move water around town through wooden water lines.

By 1909, the city still had no organized fire protection or equipment, but there were 15 volunteers who only had a hand tub to squirt water on a fire using 200 feet of hose. Their alarm at the time was either someone shooting a gun or someone ringing a bell.

"We don't know what happened between 1909 and 1922 but things really changed," said Dicks.

In 1919, the city underwent major changes in water supply and fire protection for its population of 2,000 people.

"The town now owned four artesian wells that supplied a 100,000-gallon surface reservoir, a 60,000-gallon elevated water storage tank that stood 110 ft. tall, and two coal fired boilers at 125 & 150 horsepower, respectively. There were four miles of 6-inch iron water pipe, 3,900 feet of 8-inch iron water pipe, and 3,600 feet of 4-inch iron water pipe which remains in the ground and used today. That iron pipe supplied 52 fire hydrants and one of those hydrants sits on the corner of Washington and Burr streets today," said Dicks.

In 1922, the newly organized Barnwell Volunteer Fire Department had 20 men and one officer. The first fire station was on the east side of Burr St.

about 100 ft. north of the intersection of Washington and Burr where the current station is located.

In 1933, S.C. Power Company took over the town's power plant. This eliminated the 24 hour per day steam boiler operations for water and electrical supply, which the town had maintained for 15 years. With the addition of an electrical grid, water would now be pumped by electric well pumps rather than steam.

"With this change, the original fire alarm which was a steam operated whistle designed and built by the first fire chief, J.J. Vickery, no longer had a steam supply to operate, and the town replaced it with an electrically operated siren to be mounted upon the elevated water tank which remained in operation for 46 years until removed from service in 1979 after being replaced by a group alert telephone system," said Dicks.

This change also meant the steam operated fire pump supplying the hydrants no longer existed. The department purchased a new motorized fire apparatus in 1934.

"The first fire station sited in 1919 was not large enough to house the new fire truck as it was basically a series of small lean-to sheds. The new fire truck found its home in the Vickery Brothers Garage which was located on the northeast corner of Washington and Burr occupying one of the shop bays by night and under these two large oak trees during the daytime and spent a lot of time in the summer months covered with a canvas and remaining outdoors as the weather cooperated," said Dicks.

The economic boom from the construction of the Savannah River Site led to an infusion of federal funds into Barnwell and surrounding communities in 1953.

Barnwell purchased a new fire truck for \$17,699. This truck, known as Big Bertha, arrived by rail car in 1954 and is still part of the department, though it's no longer used to fight fires.

The department also used funds to build a new police and fire headquarters at the corner of Burr and Washington streets. The project bid was \$56,750 and it was completed 15 months later in January 1955.

However, the city had a different plan for the building once they took possession. In addition to the police and fire departments, the building also housed city hall. City hall remained there until the early 1970s when the city acquired the Methodist church's parsonage next door. The police department assumed the void created by the departure of city hall.

PATIENCE PAYS OFF

Chief Dicks started attending city council meetings regularly after becoming chief in 1999. He saw Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Perry Black was the one with the pull to get things done.

"In 2001, he (Black) shared a vision that we construct a new city hall, police and fire station, on the existing property we are on today. A study by an architectural firm determined not enough property existed to house all three operations, a parking lot and the long sought after drive-thru window to

pay your water bill from," Dicks said.

This led Black to look at the deteriorating former Bankers Trust building on the Circle. This building was renovated and now houses city hall and the



State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel (right), a native of Barnwell, speaks to Barnwell City Councilman Ron Still after the March 25 groundbreaking for the new Barnwell Fire Department. Before entering law enforcement, Keel's first stint in public service was as a volunteer firefighter in Barnwell.

Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

police department moved its administrative offices to the old parsonage building left vacated by city hall.

"A new council returned to this site and said we need a new police and fire headquarters as surely it would be enough room on the property to build such a complex. Again, architects said the space would not work out. So, the city looked elsewhere around town. After an extensive search nothing seemed to work out and we were back at square one," Dicks said.

Land later became available across the street from the police and fire departments in the 2000s after an old law firm building burned. Adjoining property owners also became ready to sell.

"When those pieces came together the building of a new stand-alone police station occurred in November of 2018 using the first capital improvement sales tax for our area, and you see that structure across the street today," Dicks said.

After being very patient, it's finally the fire department's turn.

"We finally came to one of the best days in my 37 years of being associated with the Barnwell Fire Department. It started with a vision of the leadership of A.P. Black, went in a little different direction than the original thinking, but today we close the door on his vision that started 22 years ago," said Dicks.

NEW & IMPROVED

In approximately 13 months, the Barnwell Fire Department will have a new one. It will be triple the size of the current building and have new features to improve technology and safety.

"It took some understanding from many of us, both firefighters and elected officials, to get to this point, and it took the acceptance and understanding from council that a fire station wasn't just a garage for trucks, but a technically advanced designed building, a building with health and safety in mind, a building that creates environment conducive to learning, encourages brotherhood and fire service family, supports community safety through emergency management operations and communications when disaster strikes, and a building that reflects on the past yet prepares for the

future of the fire service of Barnwell," said Dicks.

With cancer being the number one killer of firefighters, the new fire station is designed to keep cancer causing toxins of the job isolated from the living and working spaces. It will include a decontamination area, negative pressure room to store personal protective equipment, and a room to clean equipment.

There will also be space for an emergency operations center to coordinate city functions in the event of an emergency. It will also have communications capabilities to provide 911 services if the county 911 center goes down. There will be ample dormitory space for all 30 volunteers and four paid staff members to work and sleep in the event a disaster requires them to stay in one place. There will also be sufficient training space for



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Fire Chief Tony Dicks provides a history of the Barnwell Fire Department during a March 25 groundbreaking.

Remembering the department's past and educating the public on the importance of fire safety is also worked into the design with the Lonnie Hosey Fire Service Heritage and

far from where we began," said Dicks.

Once the Notice to Proceed is signed, the public should notice some work happening by mid-May, said McEwen. The project could take 12 to 15 months. The biggest delay is getting some of the needed components, such as a generator and HVAC system, due to supply chain issues.

Even with the \$2 million repurposed funds and \$350,000 that Hosey secured in 2019, the city still won't have enough to cover the estimated \$4.5 million cost. They are requesting additional funds from the state under regular allocations for this year. If that doesn't come through, McEwen said they will probably have to do a general obligation bond.

Firefighters will remain in the current building throughout construction. Once the new station is built, the old station will be torn down to make way for parking and a firefighter's park under the iconic oak trees.

It's been a long journey for the Barnwell Fire Department, but they will soon have the new home they've waited for.

rappelling, ladder rescue, and more.

"This is a groundbreaking for a building that will serve, protect, and save lives for decades and decades to come," said Rev. Bart Kelley, pastor of Barnwell First Baptist and chaplain for the department.

Education Center. Chief Dicks said this will be a place to display Big Bertha and historical pieces while also having a place to talk to school children and other groups to learn life-saving skills.

"We are moving forward but we're not gonna move

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Jaylen Creech
Barnwell High School



Grade: 10th
Sport: Track and football
Favorites...
• **Food:** Chicken and steak
• **Movie/TV shows:** *Creed I, II, and III*
• **Snack:** Green grapes
• **Coaches:** Coach Thomas Davis
• **Free time activity:** Train/work on football
Goal for this season: "To always be the best at anything I do."

Javion Glover
Barnwell High School



Grade: 10th
Sports: Track
Favorites...
• **Food:** Fries
• **Movie/TV shows:** action movies
• **Snack:** Hot Cheetos
• **Coach:** Thomas Davis and Rokeem Williams
• **Free time activity:** Play games and chill
• **Musician:** Taylor Swift
Goal for this season: "To be the best I can be."

VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Thurs., March 30

• Barnwell @ Woodland - 6pm

SOFTBALL

Thurs., March 30

• Barnwell @ Woodland - 6:30pm

TENNIS

Wed., March 29

• Williston-Elko @ Batesburg-Leesville - 5pm

Thurs., March 30

• Barnwell @ Williston-Elko - 5pm

SOCCER

(Boys B, Girls G)

Thurs., March 30

• Woodland @ Barnwell G 5:30pm, B 7pm

TRACK

Wed., March 29

• Barnwell @ Woodland - 5pm

GOLF

Thurs., March 30

• Barnwell @ Bamberg-Ehrhardt - 4pm

Brian Smith takes reins as Warhorse football coach

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

The Barnwell Warhorses have a long tradition of winning football.

Ask any coach in the State of South Carolina what comes to mind when you hear Barnwell. They will most likely say good football. Now the next chapter begins in the story of Warhorse football. The Brian Smith era starts now.

Coach Brian Smith is a veteran coach, who is no stranger to winning. Coach Smith led his Ridge Spring-Monetta team to the A State Championship game in 2019. He also led his Strom Thurmond team to a AAA State Championship game earlier in his career. He has also served as offensive coordinator at Eastside High School and Southside High School. Smith even coached at the collegiate level as the head coach at North Greenville.

Coach Smith will be taking over for a very successful coach, as Dwayne Garrick accepted the head coaching job at Aiken High School.

"I look forward to becoming a part of the Barnwell family," said Coach Smith. "They've got a good bunch. I've known Dwayne

a long time. He's done a great job there. They've been one of the most successful programs for a long time in our state and I'm just very honored and blessed and excited to get started as soon as we can."

Barnwell High School Principal Franklin McCormack said, "Coach Smith is a man of integrity who brings a wealth of football knowledge and experience to our football program."

"Coach Smith brings a ton of football experience to BHS and is a great leader of young men. He is a man of character, a man who loves his family, and will use the game of football to mold our young men into quality husbands, fathers, and members of their communities. We are confident that Coach Smith will embrace the tradition of excellence set forth by previous Warhorse football coaches," said BHS Athletic Director Derek Youngblood.

Barnwell has been known for great football and it is not surprising that there were 24 applicants for the head coaching position. The seven-member interview team consisting of school administrative team members, a district office representative, and community members narrowed



Coach Brian Smith, shown coaching at the North/South Bowl game, is the new Barnwell Warhorse football coach.

the field down to four finalists, who all had previous quality head coaching experience. Three are from the CSRA and one is from the Midlands. None of the four finalists were current BHS

employees, said Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

Let's wish Coach Brian Smith and the Barnwell Warhorses the best of luck in this new chapter of Barnwell football.

Barnwell Baseball-Softball Association opens 2023 season with nearly 500 players



Members of the 2022 Barnwell Angels All-Stars react with excitement after unveiling a plaque honoring them for being runners-up at the Dixie Youth Softball World Series. Photo by: Jonathan Vickery

Jonathan Vickery
Publisher
joickery@thepeople-sentinel.com

The BBSA held its opening ceremony on Saturday, March 25 at Lemon Park to recognize the teams, players, and sponsors.

"We are looking forward to a great season. Watching these kids learn, and how you see all the improvement watching them from February through June.

Rain didn't dampen spirits as the Barnwell Baseball-Softball Association (BBSA) kicked off its 2023 season.

It's a night and day difference in some of the kids," said Brad Whitehead with the BBSA.

There are 32 teams with 460 kids. There are actually more than 500 kids playing when you add in the three Williston teams that are joining with the BBSA this season. This is the largest number of kids Whithead has seen in his eight years on the BBSA board.

"It's growing. Hopefully it keeps getting bigger and bigger," said Whitehead.

Following a prayer by Davis Thrasher and performance of The National Anthem by Jeremy Roland, the baseball creed was read by Miquel Thomas and softball creed was read by Anniston Pierce. For softball, Kaydence Chavis threw the first pitch which was caught by Tenley Renew. On the baseball side, Clay Pender threw the first pitch which was caught by Jackson Lehman.

A plaque was also dedicated in honor of the 2022 Barnwell Angels All-Star team which made it to the Dixie Youth Softball World Series where they ended up as runners-up.

"The plaque was an amazing gift to these girls. It solidifies their support from our city. The girls loved it and think they're

celebrities," said Whitehead, who coached the team.

Whitehead is also excited and appreciative of the recognition.

"I'm at the park four nights a week. To be able to see that and remember the experience I was able to share with the girls will never be forgotten. It also gives the other girls below them something to look at and know if they put in the work, they can achieve anything. The plaque ultimately isn't just for us. All the kids at that park now knows that Barnwell can get it done, they just have to work and become a good team and not just be a group of good players," he said.

Games started Monday, March 27 and will continue through May 10.

"This sport is an outlet for these kids by being coached and learning discipline. I've had kids tell me when I'm proud of them and when they've done a great job that that was the first time anyone has told them that in a sport. It helps them to get out there and burn calories, stay active, meet new friends, and grow mentally and physically stronger as a child," said Whitehead.

After the regular season ends, the All-Stars begin. Tournaments will be in June.



City officials congratulate the 2022 Barnwell Angels All-Star team for being runners-up at the world series. Pictured left to right: (back row) City Councilman Ron Still, Coach Robert Scott, Coach Michael Terrapin, Coach Brad Whitehead, Mayor Marcus Rivera, City Councilwoman Peggy Kinlaw, and City Councilman Jimbo Moody; (front row) players Isabella Rutland, McKaylee Padgett, Naomi Scott, Emily Vanacore, Kensley Terrapin, Rekeyah Roberts, Sadie Whitehead, Ashby Heltibridle, Mary Sanders, and Genesis Walker. Photo by: Jonathan Vickery



Clay Pender (left) threw the first pitch for baseball. It was caught by Jackson Lehman (center). They are pictured with BBSA board member and coach Brad Whitehead. Photo by: Jonathan Vickery

D45 students compete at Special Olympics



Barnwell School District 45 students competed at Special Olympics on Friday, March 24 at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School. A full story with results will be published in the April 5 edition.

Photos by: Marissa Lynn



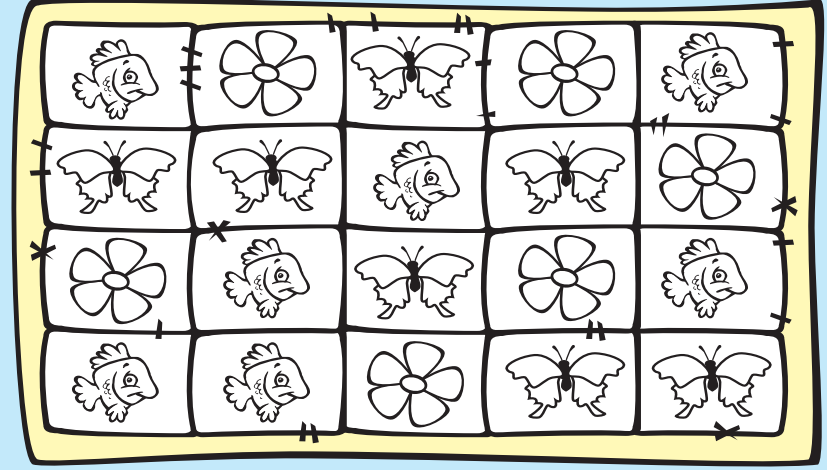
Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!



Vol. 22 No. 17 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Color the Quilt

Color the squares yellow that have a picture of something that grows in gardens. Color the squares blue that have a picture of something that lives in the water. Color the squares red that have a picture of something that can fly.



My name:

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

My Letters

Q is for Quarter 
q is for quarter

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

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the Q sound like the word quarter?

My Numbers

How many  ? 

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



My Rhyme Time

The duck said to me, "Quack!
 Please give my quarter back."
 I thought it was quite funny
 Because I didn't have his money.

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.



My quarter is _____



Sunday
Letter Identification
 With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter Q in the word quarter.

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

 Learning Buddy's signature Date

Monday
Math Play
 Point to the number 4 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday
One Quarter = 25¢
 Look through the newspaper and find the number 25. Cut out one of the pictures of a quarter on this page and glue it onto a piece of paper with the number 25. Add the cent sign and tell your child that one quarter equals 25¢.

Learning Buddies!

Wednesday
Big Q, Little q
 With your child, find every uppercase letter Q on one page of the newspaper. Draw a small circle around each one. Then try to find a lowercase letter q for each uppercase letter Q. Draw a line to connect the letters.

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.

Thursday
Picture Puzzles
 You can make puzzles with pictures in the newspaper. Cut out a picture, cut it into four equal parts. Give the parts to your child to put back together. Tell your child you cut the picture into quarters or "fourths."

Friday
Q is for Question
 Ask your child a question about a picture in the newspaper. Explain that a question asks for information. Show your child some question marks and explain that when we write down questions, we put question marks at the end.

Saturday
Find the Square
 Say the word square to see if your child can hear the Q sound after the S. Then, look through the newspaper for things that are square shaped. Have your child trace square shapes with a finger while saying the word square.

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.

Barnwell improves to 4-0 in region



Barnwell had a lot to smile about in their 19-1 win over Ridgeland-Hardeeville.

Photo by: Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

The Barnwell Lady Warhorse softball team recorded another impressive region win last Friday night, March 24, at home over the visitors from Ridge-

land-Hardeeville. The Warhorses were cheered on by the usual softball faithful, but were also joined by a large group of softball players and coaches Ricky and Rose Arnold representing the softball side of the Barnwell Baseball-Softball Association.

Barnwell coach Mike Beasley invited the recreation league softball players to come to the game in uniform and were part of the pregame festivities. The girls formed a tunnel for the team to walk through, then lined up along the first base line for the National

Anthem with the varsity team. Coach Beasley referred to the young visitors as "future Warhorses", which seemed to bring a smile to a lot of the younger players.

Many smiles were seen Friday, as the Lady Warhorses easily defeated Ridgeland-Hardeeville by a score of 19-1. The Lady Warhorses used the opportunity to rest a few players and to get a little more experience for others. Laney Grubbs took to the circle to throw for Barnwell and did a great job, striking out four hitters and allowing only two hits.

Offensively, Laney added a double, had two RBIs, and was 1/2 at the plate. Makayla Creech went 2/3 on the night. Bri Croft was 1/3 from the plate. Bre Buckmon was 1/3. Jaidyn Devore was 1/1 hitting. Brooklyn Gordon went 1/2, hit a triple, and drove in two runs. Jessica Williams

went 2/3 and added an RBI. Kah'miyah Williams was 1/3 from the plate and had an RBI.

The Lady Warhorses are 9-1 on the season, but more importantly, remain unbeaten in region play at 4-0. The girls will face Woodland twice this week, before going into spring break.

If the Warhorses can go into spring break with a 6-0 region record, Coach

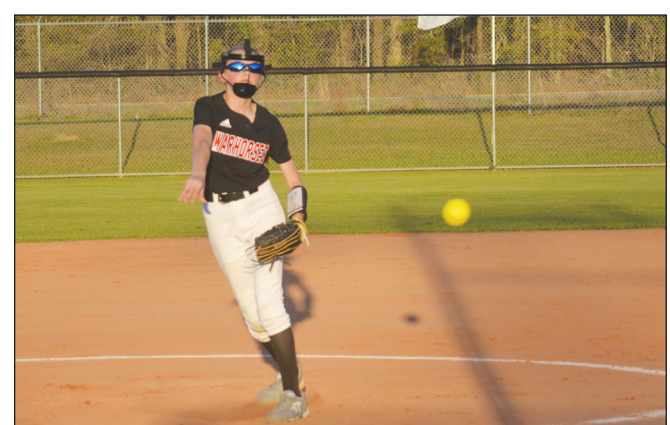
Beasley and the Lady Warhorses can enjoy that break just a little bit more. Coach Beasley has said repeatedly throughout the year, "We continue to work hard, grow, and develop, hoping that it will pay dividends at the end of the year." It looks like things are going well so far.

Good luck as the ladies enter the last part of the regular season and into the playoffs.



Softball players from the Barnwell Baseball-Softball Association were special guests at the March 24 Barnwell High softball game.

Photo contributed by: Barnwell Baseball-Softball Association



Laney Grubbs struck out four hitters on the way to another Barnwell win.

Photo by: Jeff Miller

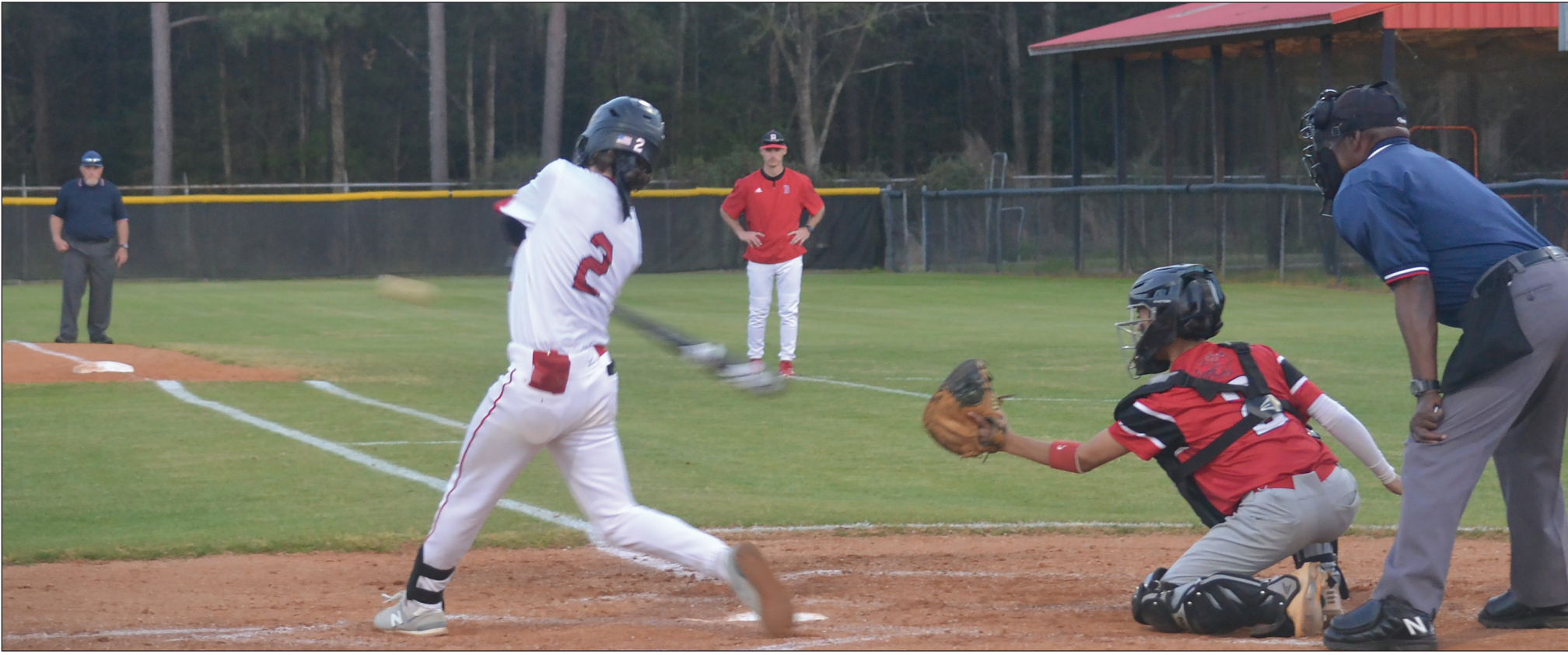
Lady Raiders celebrate 10-0 win



The JDA softball team celebrates their 10-0 win over Dorchester Academy Friday, March 24th.

Photo by: Kathy Goog

Barnwell baseball beats Ridgeland-Hardeeville 16-1



Hayden Pierce gets a hit in Barnwell's 16-1 thumping of Ridgeland-Hardeeville.

Photo by: Jeff Miller

BHS JV soccer remains competitive



Barnwell JV soccer has been competitive lately. Coach Luke Catoe said he has been particularly happy with the play of Shelby McHenry.

Photo by: Kelley Wood



The Barnwell Baseball Softball Association softball players came out to support the Lady Warhorses Friday, March 24th.

Photo by: Jeff Miller



Ricky and Rose Arnold from the Barnwell Baseball Softball Association, assemble the many softball players that participated in the Barnwell High School pregame activities.

Photo by: Jeff Miller

Williston-Elko wins 2 of 3 games last week

David B. Corder
Contributor

The Williston-Elko Blue Devils' baseball team are two for three after this past week.

On Wednesday, March 22, the Blue Devils had 14 runs in the sixth inning as it gained a 12-2 victory over Wagener-Salley. This victory was led by walks from Omarion Williams, Ben Jenkins, Jarrett Wootten, Riley Jeffcoat, and Markel Sanders, along with singles by Peyton Rimes and Jenkins, as well as by Chase Morris and Colby Baker. Morris was key in gaining the win for W-E, surrendering one run on one hit over the course of two innings and striking out three.

Friday, March 24 saw W-E conquering Ridge Spring-Monetta with an astounding score of 14-2. The Blue Devils were on the offensive in the first inning with Ben Jenkins drawing

a walk and scoring a run. The Blue Devils went on to boast three runs in the second inning with Jenkins scoring. The team accrued five runs in the fourth inning led by Tylan Parker, Grant Whitman, and Jarrett Wootten. Wootten also stood out as the winning pitcher, surrendering two runs on three hits over the course of five innings and striking out nine.

In total, W-E had nine hits per Peyton Rimes, Wootten, and Jenkins. Rimes himself had three hits in three at bats. The Blue Devils also stole 13 bases total in the game with Rimes leading with five.

Though the Blue Devils had two excellent games, things were tougher for them as they faced off against Barnwell High School. In the end, the Warhorses won with a close score of 8-6.

The Blue Devils took an early lead in the first inning with Baker drawing a

walk and scoring one run. However, Barnwell took the lead back with four runs in the fourth inning. Seth Ray, Hayden Pierce, and Jaevin Santos all scored for Barnwell and Pierce saw to it that Barnwell claimed victory from the pitcher's mound. He surrendered zero runs on two hits over five and two-thirds innings, striking out eight. Clay Pender pitched one inning as relief from the bullpen and recorded the last three outs to earn the save for Barnwell. Omarion Williams, Quaide Overton, Rimes, and Jeffcoat all had one hit to lead W-E, however, the Blue Devils still came up short against the Warhorses.

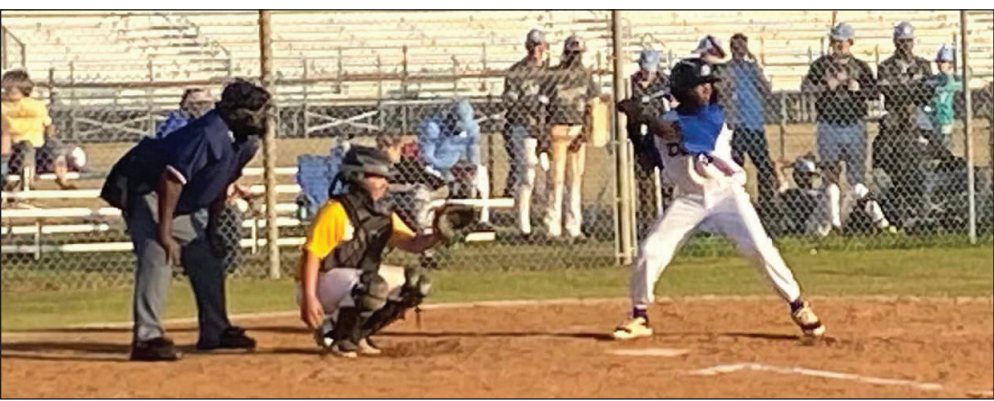
Despite the one loss, W-E are still confident with their two victories and are sure to keep going strong throughout the season as they take to the baseball diamond.

The Blue Devils took an early lead in the first inning with Baker drawing a



Blue Devil baseball players watch their teammates from the dugout.

Photo courtesy: Williston-Elko High School



A Blue Devils player is preparing to knock it out of the park.

Photo courtesy: Williston-Elko High School



The Blue Devils walk away from three games with two wins against Wagener-Salley and Ridge Spring-Monetta, respectively.

Photo courtesy: Williston-Elko High School

LEGALS

made on the Defendant TYKHEEM D. SANDERS, by publication in a newspaper of general circulation designated as most likely to give notice to Defendant, TYKHEEM D. SANDERS; and IT IS ORDERED that publication is made at least once per week for three weeks in a newspaper of general circulation designated as most likely to give notice to Defendant TYKHEEM D. SANDERS. IT IS SO ORDERED. Date: 3/8/2023 CLERK OF COURT Orangeburg, South Carolina s/Glenn Walters Glenn Walters Attorney for Plaintiff PO Box 1346 Orangeburg, SC 29116 803-531-8844 2023-52 3tp 4-05-23

Notice to Creditors of Estates

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is Barnwell County Courthouse, Probate Court Room 108, Barnwell, SC 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Charles Keith Gooding A/K/A Charles K. Gooding Date of Death: February 9, 2023

LEGALS

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: Benjamin Key Holmes Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00037 Personal Representative: Eartha Holmes Address: 31 Little John Drive, Williston, S.C. 29853 Attorney: Martha M. Rivers Address: 12923 Main Street, Williston, S.C. 29853 2023-56 3tp 4-12-23

Notice to Creditors of Estates

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LEGALS

Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00041 Personal Representative: Patty C. Gooding Address: 6138 S.C. Hwy. 3, Barnwell, S.C. 29812 Attorney: Thomas O. Gardner Address: 210 Colony Parkway, Aiken, S.C. 29803 2023-57 3tp 4-12-23

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Harmony 14 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, wine, and liquor at 458 Hampton Avenue, Fairfax, S.C. 29827. To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, you must submit Form ABL-20, postmarked no later than April 14, 2023. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing and should include the following information: 1. the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the protest; 2. the specific reasons why the application should be denied; 3. that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); 4. that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and, 5. the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be submitted online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or emailed to ABL@dor.sc.gov. 2023-58 3tp 4-12-23

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THEME: COLORS

ACROSS

- Partner of pains
- "Raiders of the Lost ____"
- Opposite of flows
- Flesh of fish
- Grazing area
- Soft palate hanger
- Boatload
- Wood-shaping tool
- Old episode
- *Alice of "Color Purple" fame
- *Fruit and color
- Long reef dweller
- Sound of pain
- Math class total
- Excessively abundant
- *"Royal" color
- Arrival times, acr.
- *Color quality
- Shininess
- White House "sub"
- Spritelike
- Cupid's counterpart
- Serengeti grazer
- *Feeling blue
- Hokkaido native
- *Color wheel inventor
- Walk with a hitch
- "Malcolm X" (1992) movie director
- Stare open-mouthed
- Napoleon of "Animal Farm," e.g.
- *Between blue and violet
- *____phobia, intense fear of colors
- Opposite of cathode
- North American country
- Run ____ of the law
- Geography class book
- Local area network
- It's firma
- Has divine power
- Banned insecticide, acr.
- German surrealist Max

- Nicki Minaj's genre
- Not womenfolk
- *Number of colors in a rainbow
- Of service
- Colorful parrot
- *The Lumière brothers' colorful creation
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Jeopardy
- *Alice of "Color Purple" fame
- *Fruit and color
- Long reef dweller
- Sound of pain
- Math class total
- Excessively abundant
- *"Royal" color
- Arrival times, acr.
- *Color quality
- Shininess
- White House "sub"
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- Run ____ of the law
- Geography class book
- Local area network
- It's firma
- Has divine power
- Banned insecticide, acr.
- German surrealist Max

- Westerns fame
- Follow as a consequence
- Email folder
- Cone-shaped quarters
- Naiad or maenad
- Motherless calves
- Old horse
- Long John Silver, e.g.
- Modified "will"
- Bottom-ranking employee

- Opposite of "out of"
- Hall of Fame Steelers' coach
- June 6, 1944
- "____ Buy Me Love"
- Between dawn and noon
- Yours and mine
- Expression of pleasure
- Melancholy
- Latissimus dorsi, for short

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
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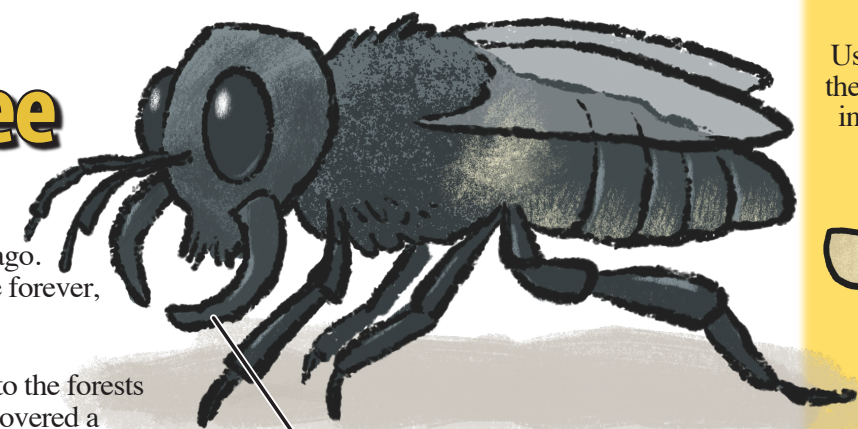
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World's Biggest Bee

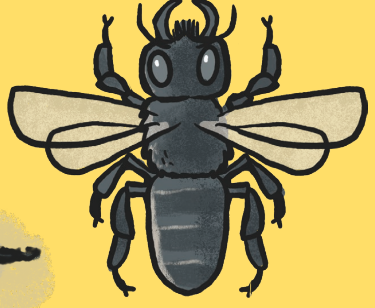
The world's biggest bee, called **Wallace's giant bee**, disappeared almost 40 years ago. Scientists thought it was gone forever, or **extinct**.

In 2019, scientists traveled into the forests of Indonesia. There, they discovered a living Wallace's giant bee!



How Big?

Use the code to discover why the giant bee causes such buzz in the scientific community!



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

Wingspan: _____ inches (_____ cm)

About as long as an adult human thumb: _____ inches long (_____ cm)

World's Smallest Bee

Unscramble the letters to find the missing words.

One bee is teeny tiny. Scientists call it the *Perdita minima*. Many people call it the _____.

YRIAF EBE

The fairy bee lives in the American southwest. It lives alone and makes a tiny nest in sandy desert _____.

LISO

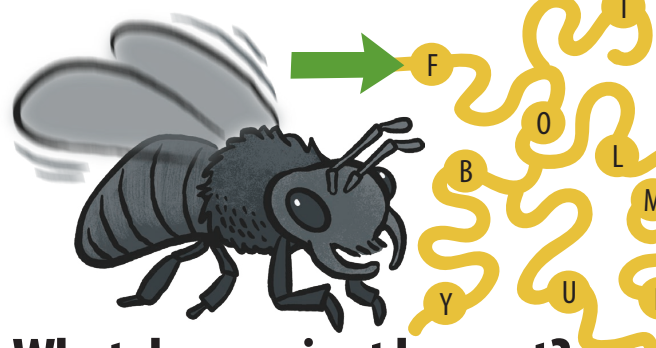
The fairy bee grows to be less than two millimeters long. Its entire body can easily fit on the head of an averaged-size bee.

People who look for this tiny bee look for its shadow on the ground. It is easier to find its shadow than the bee.

This bee is so small that it can easily pass through the mesh of insect _____.

TENS

Standards Link: Spell grade appropriate words correctly.



Giant Jaws

The giant bee has enormous jaws called **mandibles**. It uses the mandibles to scrape sticky **resin** off trees. They use the resin to build burrows within termite nests, where females raise their young.

Does it sting?

Wallace's giant bee **does** sting. But, unlike the honeybee, it does not die when it stings.

What does a giant bee eat?

Like other bees, they feed on nectar and pollen but they don't make honey. Follow the maze and write down the letters along the correct path to discover how much larger Wallace's giant bee is than a typical honeybee.



How much larger is Wallace's giant bee than a typical honeybee?

F _____

The Big Bee with Many Names

Use the code to discover different names this big bee is called.

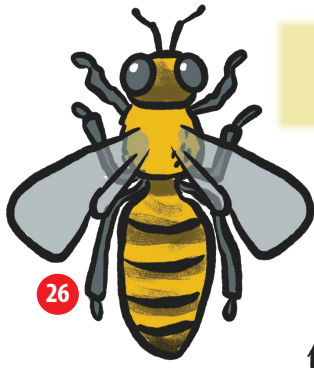
Indonesians call it *Raja Ofu* which means:

_____ _____ _____ _____
 7 19 22 16 18 13 20
 _____ _____ _____ _____
 12 21 25 22 22 8
 The scientists who found it called it:
 _____ _____ _____ _____
 21 15 2 18 13 20
 _____ _____ _____ _____
 25 6 15 15 23 12 20

CODE

26 = A	13 = N
25 = B	12 = O
24 = C	11 = P
23 = D	10 = Q
22 = E	9 = R
21 = F	8 = S
20 = G	7 = T
19 = H	6 = U
18 = I	5 = V
17 = J	4 = W
16 = K	3 = X
15 = L	2 = Y
14 = M	1 = Z

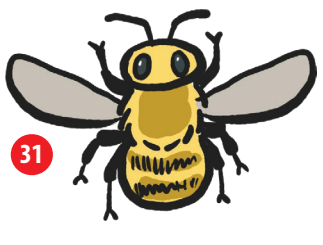
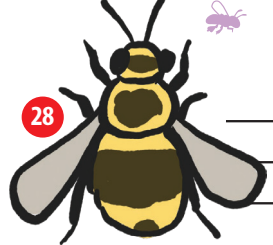
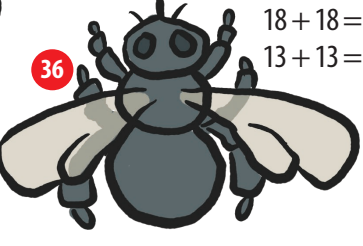
How many bees can you find on this page?



What bees are these?

Do the math to label each of these bees!

- 14 + 17 = Pigmented Miner Bee
- 17 + 11 = Western Bumble Bee
- 18 + 18 = Valley Carpenter Bee
- 13 + 13 = Western Honeybee



Extra! Extra! Big, Bigger, BIGGEST

Look through the newspaper for pictures of three things. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper in order from big, bigger to biggest. Do the same thing to show things that are small, smaller and smallest.

Standards Link: Understand comparative and superlative forms.

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. **Oops!** All but one petal, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the number in the center.

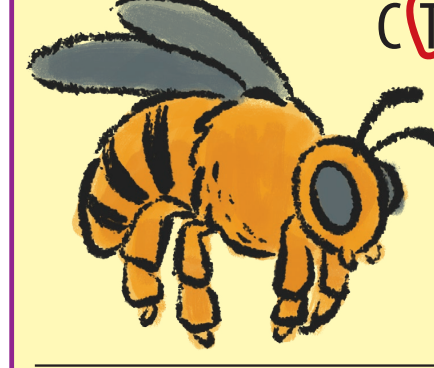
Flower 1: Center 18, petals 3, 4, 3, 2, 2. Missing: 4.
 Flower 2: Center 28, petals 8, 7, 2, 3, 6, 2. Missing: 1.
 Flower 3: Center 24, petals 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 3. Missing: 3.
 Flower 4: Center 16, petals 3, 3, 2, 3, 3, 3. Missing: 2.
 Flower 5: Center 32, petals 3, 6, 6, 2, 9, 9. Missing: 4.

Standards Link: Calculate sums and differences.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Cutest Bee on Earth

These bees, with scientific name *Amegilla bombiformis*, look cute and cuddly. If you want to snuggle up with one of these bees, you're in for a treat because the male bees don't sting. These bees live in Australia. **Circle every other letter to reveal the nickname for this bee.**



C T R E L D N D W
 Y K B C E H A J
 R V B U E F E
 T _____

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

BEES
 BUZZ
 CARPENTER
 EXTINCT
 GIANT
 HONEY
 JAWS
 MINER
 NECTAR
 NESTS
 RESIN
 STING
 THUMB
 TREES
 VALLEY

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Endangered Species

Look for articles about animals that are endangered. What is causing each animal's endangerment? What can be done to prevent the loss?

Standards Link: Use evidence from text to support a position.

Whoops!

What kind of bees hum and drop things?

ANSWER: Fumble bees.

Write On!

Buzzy Day

One day I woke up and I was a bee. Then ...

Finish this story.



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