



60 students graduate from D.A.R.E in Blackville News, A3

Coach Garrick leaving Barnwell for Aiken High Sports, B1



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VOLUME 146, NO. 45

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

2 SECTIONS / 20 PAGES / \$1

Bomb threats frustrate leaders

Jonathan Vickery
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“It is disappointing these threats continue to happen statewide, and even nationwide, taking time away from what our greatest job is - educating our students.”
- District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton

threats and using their resources to continue investigating that. Our local law enforcement and the district’s IT Department is working closely with them to provide any information that would be helpful in that investigation to identify the culprit.”

Barnwell High School has been plagued by five bomb threats in less than two weeks.

The first threat on Friday, Feb. 17 was followed by two more on Thursday, Feb. 23 and Friday, Feb. 24. On Monday, Feb. 27, the school received two more threats within hours of each other. Following each threat, the school was evacuated and law enforcement responded to clear the building. No bomb was found.

“These are extremely disruptive

to schools and the education of children, but they also prevent us from being able to address other crimes and issues in the county,” said Chief Deputy Darlene Cook with the Barnwell County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO).

Four of the five threats were emailed while the one on Feb. 24 was called in. A juvenile male student was arrested for that threat

and is facing criminal charges.

“We were able to quickly identify the number because it was called in,” said Cook.

However, she said the emailed threats have been more difficult to track. They came from a couple different emails, although two of the threats were from the same email address. It’s unclear if the threats are related.

“We have not been able to determine a specific place or person the threat came from,” said Cook of how the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) has been unable to trace the source of the emails. “We are still running down leads.”

According to Barnwell District 45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton, “SLED is actively working to determine who sent the email

Barnwell County schools have had seven bomb threats this school year, including five at Barnwell High and two at Williston-Elko High. But threats are not just happening locally.

“We’ve seen several other school districts in the state who have had bomb threats multiple days in a

See THREATS, 10A

Generations of Jackets: How Camella Black brought FFA to Barnwell

Barnwell County receives two statewide safety awards

Alexandra Whitbeck
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Barnwell County received two statewide awards from the South Carolina Association of Counties in the 2022 calendar year: The Outstanding Achievement Award and

the Most Improved County Award.

“Barnwell was recognized for two safety awards from our insurance trust,” said Van Henson, director of Risk Management Services with the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC), at the February 14 Barnwell County Council meeting.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented for the successful response to the May 2022 landfill fire, and the Most Improved County Award was given based on a self-audit performed by the county.

The Outstanding Achievement Award

When the Barnwell County Landfill caught fire on the construction/demolition hill on May 15, 2022, there was an immediate response from the entire region.

“It’s hard to put into words how quickly this could have turned into a true disastrous situation,” said Henson.

“The award is not for having your landfill catch on fire,” said Henson, which garnered a chuckle in the crowd. “It’s how it was handled and everything was taken care of from them, that was just excellent work with all parties involved.”

Six local fire departments all responded and began working until late that night to put out the flames; however, the fire returned the next morning fully involved.

A few hours later responders from Barnwell County Emergency Management, Buildings and Grounds, County Administration, State Emergency Management, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority and Public Works Departments, Medshore EMS, Aiken County, Beaufort County, Dorchester County, Hampton County and the S.C. Forestry Commission came to help cover hot spots.

“The whole region responded,” said County Administrator Tim Bennett at the Jan. 30 Health & Safety Committee meeting.

See AWARDS, 3A



Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

In honor of National FFA Week from February 18-25, Barnwell County Career Center FFA program graduate Dorie Myers holds the FFA jackets of her great uncle, Bradley Brown. Myers’ grandmother, the late Camella Black, was also a FFA member and a force in bringing the agricultural program to Barnwell County over 20 years ago. Now, Myers proudly wears the jacket for Barnwell following in these generational footsteps.

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to shop class, according to her daughter, Elizabeth ‘Beth’ Allen.

When their family moved to Barnwell County in 1978 for her father to begin working at the Chem-Nuclear site, both siblings maintained their love for learning and agriculture. Bradley went on to finish the FFA program in Barnwell before it went dormant for over 25 years.

By the time Allen and her siblings were attending high school, the program was not being offered and Black enrolled her children in 4H, another youth agricultural program. She wanted them to develop the same appreciation for the land she learned in FFA.

“It wasn’t offered here when my mom was going to school, but she always said that if it was, she would’ve gotten into it and that’s kind of where my granny started advocating that we need an FFA program,” said Myers.

The Barnwell County Career Center (BCCC) school board took a vote in early 2001 to decide whether or not to bring back the FFA program.

Current FFA instructor Mindy



The late Camella Black

Sandifer was in her first year of teaching at Midland Valley High School and driving over an hour daily from Blackville.

When she heard the BCCC board was interested in bringing this program back, she reached out to the director at the time, Suzette Wilson.

“She told me over the phone that they would be voting on the decision, but she felt I would be wasting my time to come. She felt the board was going to vote against it,” said Sandifer.

Sandifer came to the meeting

See FFA, 9A

Newspaper moves to new printing facility

Staff Reports
The People-Sentinel
www.thepeoplesentinel.com

You may notice some changes inside this edition of *The People-Sentinel*.

Effective with the March 1st edition, *The People-Sentinel* will be printed at a different facility. This will cause some changes to the layout of the newspaper, including what pages are color, page numbers, and moving some pages to a different section.

“The changes are due to the configuration of the new printing press, which is different from our previous printer. While things might be a bit different, we can assure you that all the local and features content you are used to is still inside the pages of this newspaper,” said Publisher Jonathan Vickery.

The change in printers was made after constant issues with quality and timely delivery of the newspaper at the previous facility.

“We look forward to providing our loyal readers with a quality printed paper that is delivered on time each and every week,” said Vickery. “Thank you for supporting your locally-owned newspaper.”

If you have any questions, please email jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com or call (803) 259-3501.

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Williston residents collected 53 bags of trash on Feb. 18, which filled the beds of two pickup trucks. Contributed Photos

Williston residents collect 53 bags of trash

Jonathan Vickery
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AT LEFT: Williston Mayor Brett Williams picks up some of the 53 bags of trash to haul away.

ed in 53 bags of trash and an oxygen machine being collected.

"An incredible group of people came out to help pick up trash in the Town of Williston. Every little bit helps," said Williston

resident and event organizer Margo Huggins, who thanked everyone who came out.

The next trash cleanup event is scheduled for Earth Day, which is April 22.



\$100,000 helps Williston Fire Dept. purchase equipment

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Williston Town Council's Feb. 13 meeting was packed with a full room and a full agenda.

The meeting started with town attorney Tom Boulware administering the oath of office to new council member Alyson Hutson Collins. She won the special election on Feb. 7 to fill the seat left vacant after the death of William Toney Jr. in 2022.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Fire Chief John Melton's provided an update on the Williston Fire Department, including about new equipment and software. The town provided the department with \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

"\$100,000 has gone a long way," said Chief Melton.

The biggest purchase was \$45,788.82 in extrication tools, which Melton said will allow them to cut into metal, such as a vehicle in which someone is entrapped.

They also purchased \$5,647.58 in Milwaukee battery tools, which firefighters recently trained with. "We discussed different uses, tool familiarity, and hands-on cutting with a recently built prop," said Melton.

Using \$3,085 in new emergency networking software, Melton handed council copies of a report that included call data. This software allows the department to easily enter and track every incident they respond to while being able to print easy-to-read reports and charts that break down the calls into categories. Of the 54 calls the department responded to from Dec. 1, 2022 (start of their new year) to Feb. 13, three were structure fires (none were major), 26 were EMS calls, three were motor vehicle accidents, one was a bomb threat, and one was an extrication from a building where a lady fell through a porch.

The department also purchased a new bay door for \$7,000 and five iPads with cases for \$6,528.92. Melton said the iPads were needed because the new software runs off them. However, they will also improve efficiency as firefighters can write their reports at the scene, rather than having to wait to get back to the office.



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Alyson Collins takes the oath of office on Feb. 13 as Williston Town Council's newest member. She's pictured with town attorney Tom Boulware and her daughter Hensley.

Other equipment that's been ordered includes \$13,589.15 in air bags, cross ram supports, and composite cribbing, plus a truck bed cover for \$3,682.66.

The department is looking at some smaller equipment to spend the remaining funds on.

Melton said they also received a \$5,000 S.C. Forestry grant to purchase 10 new radios. It requires a 50 percent match, which he said could come from the ARPA funds. They are pursuing a \$1,000,000 grant for a rescue truck and other equipment.

With some new firefighters joining recently, he said everyone will soon be certified. All trucks also passed annual pump testing.

GRANTS

Council awarded a contract to demolish seven dilapidated houses on Elko Street.

While council previously awarded the bid to another contractor, that contractor did not complete the job. That led the town to rebid the project. Chaplin and Sons Clearing and Demolition is the new contractor with a bid of \$71,050.

Chaplin has 90 days from being notified to proceed to complete the job. Six of the houses contain asbestos that needs to be abated.

The project is funded by a community development grant through Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG).

The town also received a \$1.1 million grant through LSCOG for a water project; however, the bid came in at \$3.2 million.

"That's a big discrepancy," said Town Administrator Michael Beasley.

The original plan was to upgrade the water filtration system, add a backwash tank, and install asbestos transmission lines. After a meeting between the town, LSCOG, and Turnipseed Engineers, it



A Williston firefighter cuts through a prop using new equipment the department received through ARP funds. Contributed Photo

was decided to remove the transmission lines to help reduce the cost and rebid the project. They will seek a separate grant for that, said Brooke Morris with LSCOG.

RETAIL STRATEGIES

Council approved a request from Retail Strategies to provide \$2,500.

The real estate and economic development agency, which works with municipalities, has partnered with Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA), a regional economic development agency, to help spur retail growth in Barnwell County. Retail Strategies helps match companies with communities.

"It's a good program," said Beasley. The former Blackville mayor said the company also helped bring the new Dollar Tree/Family Dollar store to Blackville last year.

As part of this county-wide initiative, Retail Strategies is seeking a total of \$40,000 split among all



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Williston Mayor Brett Williams (left) congratulates police officer Dalton Peoples during the Feb. 13 council meeting for completing the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

on behalf of the Ivy Garden Club regarding the "recovery and conservation of the eastern bluebird."

At one time, the eastern bluebird population was decimated by 90 percent due to loss of habitat since they prefer to nest in the cavity of trees. They also are targeted by two other bird species, including eastern starlings and house sparrows. Since the 1960s the population of eastern bluebirds has grown.

Williston's garden club wants to do its part to help the future of eastern bluebirds be more promising. That's why they formed the Williston Bluebird Trail Committee and allocated \$1,275 to establish a trail of 15 boxes for the birds to nest in. Council granted approval to place the boxes, which will be on poles, in a wooded area on Crane Way. "We want to encourage our community through education," said Burnette.

Timing of the Williston trail is perfect as eastern bluebirds are house hunting.

Councilman Eric Moody supports the project, but asked for the town to be informed of the exact location of the trail to ensure it doesn't affect future development plans for the area.

parties - \$20,000 from Barnwell County EDC, \$10,000 from Barnwell County, \$5,000 from the City of Barnwell, and \$2,500 each from the towns of Blackville and Williston. Williston was the last approval needed.

BLUE BIRD TRAIL

Annette Burnette spoke

In other news:

- Barnwell County Councilman Don Harper spoke during public comment as a Williston resident. As a resident of the country club, he said some people are "using our roads as a racetrack." He said it's mostly non-residents who are causing issues, including delivery drivers. With many people walking the streets of that neighborhood, Harper said he's concerned about safety, especially since one man almost got hit recently. He has talked to the police chief, but asked council for help.

- Council approved a request from resident Jo Owens to use the downtown rail trail for a vendor event on Oct. 21. The 2022 event was held at Winfield Heights Baptist Church with 50 vendors. "We had a lot of vendors but not a lot of shoppers," said Owens, who hopes the location change will improve visibility and therefore attract more shoppers.

- Council approved a sponsorship for the DIG STEM Festival on May 6.

- Administrator Beasley commended the fire and police departments for pursuing grants. He also commended the office staff at town hall for their work, including updating forms. "A lot of work is being done. We are working towards our goals and making sure we complete them," he said.

- Liana Orr resigned from the planning commission after winning election to the Barnwell County Consolidated School District board while Alyson Collins resigned after being elected to council. Mayor Brett Williams asked council to consider who they want to appoint to fill these openings.

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Toy drive light show warms hearts of all ages

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A recent toy drive and light show warmed hearts and brought smiles to many people.

Barnwell dentist Craig Wix ended his Wix Flix light show for the season on Feb. 4 with one final showing featuring more than 19,000 lights synchronized to Disney and praise and worship music. The family-friendly event was a final opportunity for the community to donate to Jenna's Toy Drive, which is done in memory of Jenna Bodiford, a Barnwell teenager who died from cancer in 2018.

"We got to remember Jenna tonight in a great way and we'll get to bless many more children in her memory. Thanks everyone from the bottom of my heart for helping keep my friend Jenna's memory alive by blessing other children," said Emma Hodge, a friend of Jenna's who organizes the toy drive annually.



Jenna's Toy Drive Light Show on Feb. 4 raised nearly \$3,000 in monetary and toy donations, which were delivered to Children's Hospital of Georgia. Pictured from left: Jerry and Andrea Hodge, Brett and Becky Bodiford, Emma Hodge, Sadie Beyer, Charlee Wix, Dr. Craig Wix, Chloe Wix, and Trina Wix.

Contributed Photo

Nearly \$3,000 in both cash and toy donations was collected and then donated to Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta.

"It worked out perfectly for the hospital to provide Valentine's Day for the children. It's turning out that Barnwell is one of, if not their biggest donor,"

said Wix.

Hodge thanks the community for "continuously supporting" the Jenna Bodiford Toy Drive. She gave a special acknowledgement to the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office, Russell's Pizza, Allison Forehand, and Sport's Convenience for generous

donations.

"This wouldn't be possible without the support of the community," she said.

Hagood Avenue Baptist Church partnered to provide refreshments and an interpretive movement performance by the HIM girls. Though it was cold

outside. I especially want to thank Hagood Avenue Baptist Church and HIM Girls for making this night one to remember. I'm almost sure this is the first home show to have a live performance," said Wix.

Hodge thanks Trina and Craig Wix for hosting this event and putting so much into it. She also thanks the HIM girls at Hagood for performing, Russell's



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Snow machines add a touch of winter to the light show which included Disney and praise and worship songs.

outside, snow machines from the Wix family added a true winter touch.

"I've never been so proud of how our community, my church, and neighbors came together and made the Jenna's Toy Drive Light Show a suc-

cess. Pizza for bringing their food truck and donating their proceeds, and everyone who attended.

"It was cold, but we had a blast!" said Hodge.

Wix said he's looking to add more acts and lights next year.



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

The HIM Girls interpretive movement group forms the word "SMILE" using light sticks.

AWARDS: Barnwell County earns two statewide safety awards

FROM PAGE 1A

By 4 p.m. the next day, the fire was almost out. The Aiken County Civil Air Patrol then provided FLIR thermal image cameras to locate the remaining hotspots to be covered with the assistance of the City of Barnwell, Williston, Elko, Blackville, Long Branch, Barnwell Rural and Red Oak fire departments.

Two local, private contractors came to aid in moving dirt alongside the many agencies and departments - Palmetto Tool and LRB Site Prep & Hauling LLC.

450 loads of dirt were moved in six hours with the help of these contractors and other responders, according to Roger Riley, Barnwell County Director of Emergency Management at the Health & Safety Committee meeting. Without their help, the process would have taken a lot longer.

Riley played a major role successfully controlling the fire alongside Williston Fire Department Chief John Melton and Frank Williams, the director of Landfill and Solid Waste.

"Roger Riley is the person who brought in all those outside entities and coordinated it throughout," said Bennett. "Chief Melton



Barnwell County received two statewide awards for their successful response to the May 2022 landfill fire. Fire chiefs accepted the award from the South Carolina Association of Counties. From left to right: Long Branch Fire Department Chief Andy Hogg, retired Barnwell County Fire Commissioner Timbo Williams, Elko Fire Department Chief Michael Shumpert, Barnwell Rural Fire Department Jesse Elmore, Blackville Fire Department Chief Eartheil Walker, Williston Fire Chief John Melton, Director of Solid Waste & the Landfill Frank Williams, and Van Henson, Director of Risk Management Services with the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

came in as the initial incident commander, and did his thing. He fought it and coordinated the response."

"Frank Williams, the landfill and solid waste director, operated the machinery guiding his people," said Bennett. "It was an incredible evolution that took place over maybe 56 hours."

There were no cases of heat exhaustion, burns, or injuries reported during the fire's evolution and a tent with ample water was provided.

"All of this is a very good example of a proactive approach to risk management,



AT LEFT: Van Henson (right), director of Risk Management Services with the South Carolina Association of Counties, presents Barnwell County Business Manager Debbie Fickling (left) the Most Improved County award for 2022.

just exceptional communication, both interdepartmental with the county as well as intergovernmental with other agencies and also networking with outside individuals in the process," said Henson.

The Most Improved County Award

This award by SCAC is not presented to a S.C. county each year- "it is really reserved for very unique situations, and this year Barnwell County based off of information and data that was submitted to us," said Henson.

"Barnwell County was the only county to receive this this year within the South Carolina Workers Comp and Property Liability Insurance Trust," said Henson.

Barnwell County was named most improved based on data, documents, and information received in a self-audit performed by the county in the 2022 calendar year sent to SCAC. "This one comes from a self-audit that we do, it's a good bit of work involved and we have to attach a lot of paperwork, things that we have physically done," said Barnwell County Business Manager Debbie Fickling at the Jan. 30 Health and Safety meeting.

"We went through and saw some very good progress, some very good momentum forward as far as the basic risk management principles we really strive for to help make counties successful," said Henson.



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 Eleanor's Corner




BIRTH



Karmyn Sage Wilson was born February 8, 2023.

Karmyn Sage Wilson

Richie and Brittany Wilson of Aiken are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Karmyn Sage Wilson. She was born on February 8, 2023 at 1:37 a.m. at Piedmont Hospital in Augusta, Ga. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20.5 inches. Grandparents are Tracy and Dawn Waller of Olar, Rick and Tricia Wilson of Temple, Texas, and Karen Wilson of Govan. Great-grandparents are Dianne Williams and the late Tony Williams of Olar, Donald Waller of Aiken, Wade Richardson and the late Rosiland Richardson of Aiken, the late Clarence and the late Margaret Jones of Govan, and the late Gene and the late Evelyn Wilson of Columbia.

BIRTH



Lorelai Pearl Miranda was born January 27, 2023.

Lorelai Pearl Miranda

Hannah Gibson Miranda and Jose Miranda of Winter Park, Fla. are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lorelai Pearl Miranda. She was born on January 27, 2023 at 12:54 p.m. in Orlando, Fla. She measured 19.5 inches long and weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. Grandparents are Wendy and Mary Beth Gibson of Barnwell, S.C. and Juan Carlos Miranda and the late Sonia Diaz of Humacao, Puerto Rico.

The People-Sentinel

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Barnwell County Rotary Club inducts 2 new members

Contributed
Rotary Club of Barnwell

The Rotary Club of Barnwell County is pleased to announce that two new members have been inducted as the newest members of the service organization.

Jonathan Vickery, sponsored by Rotarian Crissie Stapleton, is the publisher and owner of *The People-Sentinel*.

"I am honored to be inducted into the Rotary Club of Barnwell County," said Vickery. "I look forward to serving alongside other community and business leaders to continue the important work of Rotary that not only impacts Barnwell County but also people all over the world. Though we come from different backgrounds and work in different professions, Rotarians all share a common trait of service. That's why Rotary's motto is 'Service Above Self.' It's something I've tried to live by and live out throughout my life by being an active member of this community. Whether you are a Rotarian or not, I encourage everyone to find a place they can serve with the goal of improving our community."

Bob Snead, sponsored by Rotarian Lynn McEwen, is the president and CEO of the Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce and Palmetto Innovation Center. "I was fortunate to attend



Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Bob Snead (right) was inducted into the Rotary Club of Barnwell County on Feb. 23. He's pictured with Lynn McEwen, who sponsored his induction.

the Barnwell Rotary Club as a guest several times before being invited to join officially, and the people who are a part of the local chapter are some of my favorite people to work with in the community," said Snead. "I'm looking forward to working with them on the many great things Rotary supports locally. Throughout my 20-year career working in non-profit community-based organizations, the Four-Way Test has always resonated with me. From the beginning I have aimed for truth, fairness, friendship, and mutual benefit around every project or program I've helped to create. I'm excited to now apply those principles in my service alongside fel-

low Rotarians to continue building a stronger and more vibrant community."

Rotary Club President Trish Gordon shared during their induction, "I wish to impress upon you that you have been admitted not only to the Rotary Club of Barnwell County, but to a worldwide association; and by virtue of your membership in this club, you will be welcomed into the fellowship of any Rotary club



Contributed Photo

Jonathan Vickery (right) was inducted into the Rotary Club of Barnwell County on Feb. 23. He's pictured with Dr. Crissie Stapleton who sponsored his membership.

in the world."

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 160 countries worldwide. The first Rotary Club was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1905 by an attorney named Paul

Harris and several of his colleagues. The name "Rotary" was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among each of the members' offices. The Rotary motto is "Service above Self."

During this induction, the new members were presented with a plaque of the Four-Way Test and were presented with a Rotary pin by their sponsors. The Four-Way Test, which Rotarians say at the close of each meeting and

is used by Rotarians worldwide, serves as a moral code for personal and business relationships. It asks the following four questions:

- Of the things we think, say or do:
- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOOD-WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

For more information on the club's initiatives or to join the Rotary Club of Barnwell County, please reach out to any Rotarian or club secretary Lynn McEwen for more information.

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- Allendale Complex** at Bluff Road, Allendale, SC
- Blackville Complex** at Hampton Ave., Blackville, SC
- Branchville Villa complex** at Branchville Lane, Branchville, SC
- Denmark Gardens Complex** at Mimosa Avenue, Denmark, SC
- Fairfax Boundary Complex** at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC
- Williston West Main Complex** at West Main Street, Williston, SC
- Barnwell Arms Complex** at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC
- Bamberg Villa Complex** at Race Street, Bamberg, SC
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Community Funeral Home of Barnwell Opens



Community Funeral Homes welcomed the community to their Barnwell location's dedication service on Feb. 19 with speeches from local political figures. From left to right: City of Barnwell Mayor Marcus Rivera, Dr. Betty D. Strudwick, Rep. Lonnie Hosey, and Councilwoman Alicia Davis.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck



Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Dr. Betty Strudwick is reaching out to be the guiding hand that brings Barnwell County residents through a difficult time at the newly opened Community Funeral Home of Barnwell on Jackson Street.

"It takes a special person to guide families in their time of need. I promise to always provide a relaxing atmosphere

NC, Reverend Michael O' Neal, Sister Kimberly Riley, and Sister Erica Brisbon.

"We are more than a funeral home, we are a family who will be transparent and planted here in this community," said Deacon Youmans.

Before Dr. Strudwick began her career in mortuary services, the Orangeburg native spent 20 years serving in the United States Army. After her retirement from the military, she took a position in Allendale Fairfax High School's JROTC program and later Calhoun County High School.

Her interest in funeral directing came when her sister passed away at the age of 42 after having a brain tumor.

After this traumatic experience coping with death, Dr. Strudwick knew she wanted to bring comfort to families.

"I remember looking at the funeral director, Paul Simmons of Simmons Funeral Home of Orangeburg, and said, 'I want to do this,'" said Dr. Strudwick, who then enrolled at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood and started her entrepreneurial journey.

Dr. Strudwick is able to provide all needed end of life services as a licensed embalmer, licensed funeral director, licensed cosmetologist, and funeral consultant.

Community Funeral Homes offers full funeral, graveside, and cremation services as well as limousine transport, obituary support, a notary, program creation and printing, pre-need arrangements, and aftercare. The Barnwell facility also has repeat capabilities.

Dr. Strudwick understands how high the cost of this can be, and aims to bring her services to the community at an

"It takes a special person to guide families in their time of need. I promise to always provide a relaxing atmosphere and a professional staff to assist the Barnwell community if given the opportunity."

- Dr. Betty Strudwick,
owner of the newly opened
Community Funeral Home of Barnwell



Barnwell City Councilwoman Alicia Davis spoke at the open house of Community Funeral Home of Barnwell.



Representative Lonnie Hosey spoke about the significance of this funeral home opening during Black History Month.



City of Barnwell Mayor Marcus Rivera reminded the newly opened business he and city officials would aim to help in any way possible.

and a professional staff to assist the Barnwell community if given the opportunity," said Dr. Strudwick. "I look forward to earning their trust."

Dr. Strudwick opened Allendale Community Funeral Home in 2006. After 17 years of serving the Allendale community, she opened the doors to the Jackson Street location to offer her services to those in Barnwell County as well.

The Community Funeral Home of Barnwell was filled with sounds of worship the afternoon of Sunday, February 19 during the open house and dedication service.

"We came today to celebrate a great thing that has been accomplished, not only for Dr. Betty, but for the community," said Rev. Dr. Bernice Graves of Second Calvary Baptist Church in Allendale and mistress of ceremony.

Dr. Strudwick pondered the idea of expansion for a while, deciding between Barnwell or Hampton county, before taking the leap north.

"The Lord gave her the vision, and we came here the first time and it wasn't the right time," said Deacon Travis Youmans at the dedication service. "Over a year had passed, and she called me one day and said, 'I'm going to do it, I'm going to get that building.'"

Deacon Youmans explained they first visited the building in October 2022, and after months of renovations in every room, they were able to open their doors and welcome the community to the event.

Others involved in making the event a success were Brother Nigel Fisher of Mount Zion Baptist Church who sang a moving rendition of Try Jesus, Reverend Joe Banks of Jordan Baptist Church in Barnwell, Retired Elder Reverend Joseph Abrams, Reverend Dr. J.L. Flowers of Charlotte,



Reverend Dr. Bernice Graves served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, and welcomed each guest to the podium.



Reverend Dr. J.L. Flowers said the prayer at the opening of Community Funeral Home of Barnwell.

affordable rate. She plans to help families navigate this time both financially and emotionally.

"I enjoy helping people in their time of need," said Dr. Strudwick. "You need that person that's compassionate and you need that caring shoulder to cry on. You need someone that's prompt and efficient to take care of your needs."

Dr. Strudwick also hopes to bring further education on how to handle the end of life services for a loved one or preparing for your own to the Barnwell community.

"I will be working with all community leaders and churches in the area to educate citizens on what to expect if death occurs," said Dr. Strudwick.

At the dedication service, community leaders came to support the newly opened business such as City of Barnwell Mayor Marcus Rivera, Councilwoman Alicia Davis, and State Representative Lonnie Hosey.



Participants are moved by the voice of Nigel Fisher, who sang a selection during the opening ceremony.



Deacon Travis Youmans greeted the crowd and welcomed them to the dedication event.



Participants applauded the song and message brought to the dedication service.

Community Funeral Home of Barnwell is located at 361 Jackson Street, Barnwell. To contact the Barnwell location, call (803) 450-5080.

Allendale Community Funeral Home is located at 156 Pleasant Street, Allendale. To contact the Allendale location, call (803) 584-4488.

To contact Dr. Strudwick, email acfuneralhome@aol.com. For more information on services offered at either location, visit www.allendalecommunityfuneralhome.com.

60 Blackville students graduate from D.A.R.E

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

Macedonia Elementary-Middle School celebrated its first class of D.A.R.E. grads since the pandemic.

Sixty fifth and sixth grade students received their certificates on Feb. 10 as loved ones watched from both the bleachers of the gym and virtually. The ceremony marked the end of a 10-week program where students learned about making the right choices when it comes to drugs, alcohol, and other negative influences.

"The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is meant to teach your students life skills, and not only how to stay away from drugs and violent behavior, but any behavior or activity they don't want to be part of. D.A.R.E. teaches you to make safe and responsible decisions," said sheriff's deputy Brandon Montgomery, the school resource officer who taught the D.A.R.E. program.

Some of those other negative behaviors and activities include bullying. D.A.R.E. also teaches the difference between tattling and telling on people who are doing the wrong thing.

The guest speaker was Barnwell County Sheriff Steve Griffith, a Williston native who has been in law enforcement since 1978. He became the county's 39th sheriff in 2021.

"Sheriff Griffith is very, very



Abigail Smith and Heather Nickens won the essay contest. They are pictured with Blackville school resource officers Brandon Montgomery and Donald Danner, Sheriff Steve Griffith, Williston school resource officer Erica McRae, and Blackville Police Chief Ray Crawford.

Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

supportive of the D.A.R.E. program. He believes in the future of our children," said Sgt. Donald Danner, school resource officer at Blackville-Hilda High School.

"We all need to do good instead of bad," said Griffith. He said D.A.R.E. teaches young people some ways to avoid getting caught in bad situations. This includes avoiding places or groups where bad things are happening.

"Be confident. Stand up and

say no," he said. He knows it's stressful to get out of a bad situation sometimes, "but after 45 years in law enforcement I've found it's a lot more stressful if I don't do anything," said Griffith.

It's also important to have a "help network" to turn to and be able to tell things without fear. This could be a teacher, parent, pastor, principal or any other "trusted adult," said the sheriff.

He also encouraged the

graduates to see law enforcement officials as trusted adults.

"I'm a new sheriff but I'm an old law man. One of the reasons I stay around is because I want our children to trust law enforcement like I could when I was young. Don't be scared to talk to law enforcement. If you ever need me, call me," he said.

MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls thanked the sheriff for his "words of inspiration and all your support."

Speaking to the students, Smalls said, "Always remember the effects of drugs on your life, your health, and your body."

Montgomery thanked Russell's Pizza for providing the D.A.R.E. workbooks for fifth through seventh graders (seventh grade was not part of the ceremony). He also thanked Sheriff Griffith for providing the T-shirts to all graduates.

Smalls and Montgomery thanked the teachers and the

families of the graduates for their support.

2023 D.A.R.E. Graduates

Mrs. Bryson's class:
 Thuya Aung, Brayden Brown, Sha'Marion Brown, Dustin Carroll, Zulema Diaz, Miracle Foust, Azion Frazier, Raphael Goodwin, Kyle Hayward, Maurice Holman, Aaron Johnson, Tariah Johnson, Jayden Miller, Davida Mays, Deliyah Risi, Kylen Seabrooks, Da'Quan Stroman, Paris Thompson, Michelle Williams, Karter Wilson

Mrs. Epps' class:
 Ke'Ara Bing, Anthony Castillo, Bryan Diaz, Ja'Nyia Donaldson, Brandon Dunbar, Carolina Flores, Douglas Ford, Lauren Frazier, Ca'Mari Johnson, Quinten Johnson, Tyler Joyner, Chasity Lee, Christian McMillan, Kahrin Mixon, Heather Nickens, DaMaurius Odum, Braylon Owens, Semaj Rice, Cameron Smith, Landrea Young

Mrs. Brown's class:
 Tyler Davis, Sanaa Jenkins, Travaris Johnson, Bryson Jones, Nevaeh Joyner, Trenton Moors, Disha Patel, Kenya Tyler

Ms. Jenkins' class:
 Cortni Gleaton, Taylor Hampton, Warren Jamison, Melyndi Martin, Tramell Mitchell, Tatiana Pernell, Haylei Sapp, Noah Sawyer, LaShae Smalls, Marcus Smalls, Abigail Smith, Mike Walker

HEATHER NICKENS
 FEB 10, 2023

MY D.A.R.E. ESSAY

DO YOU REMEMBER HAVING D.A.R.E IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER THINKING THAT DRUGS CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THAT BAD, YET OVER 96,700 PEOPLE DIE A YEAR FROM DRUG OVERDOSES. BULLYING HARBORS THE SAME RISK. KIDS WHO GET BULLIED ARE 2 TO 9 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT SUICIDE. ALCOHOL IS NO SAFER. ALCOHOL IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON ADDICTIONS AS OF 2020 28.3 MILLION PEOPLE 12 OR OLDER WERE REPORTED TO SUFFER FROM AUD(ALCOHOL USE DISORDER).

THINKING ABOUT THOSE FACTORS I PAID CLOSE ATTENTION IN D.A.R.E. ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE LEARNED IN D.A.R.E THAT'S PRESENT IN EVERYDAY LIFE IS PEER PRESSURE, ONLY 10% OF PRETEENS SAY THAT PEER PRESSURE HAS NEVER INFLUENCED THEM. PEER PRESSURE COULD BE BOTH POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. SOME OF THE NEGATIVES OF PEER PRESSURE INVOLVE SMOKING. 70% OF TEEN SMOKERS SAY THAT THEY STARTED SMOKING FROM PEER PRESSURE. ONCE SMOKING STOPS HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE TEEN THEY'LL END UP MOVING TO HARDER HITTING DRUGS LIKE MOLLY, METH, AND COCAINE. MOST PEOPLE BECOME MORE VIOLENT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

DOES LIVING THAT SORT OF LIFE SEEM FUN TO YOU? I'D HOPE NOT TO AVOID IT. LET'S LIVE A LIFE FREE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND RESPECT AND EMPOWER EACH OTHER. LET'S D.A.R.E!



MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls fist bumps D.A.R.E. graduates as he hands out certificates.



MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls, Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun, and school resource officer Brandon Montgomery congratulate D.A.R.E. graduates.

Abigail Smith
 2/10/23

D.A.R.E

I've learned a lot from the D.A.R.E program. The main thing I learned is that drugs don't just hurt you, but they hurt everyone around you. It hurts you physically and mentally. It doesn't matter what kind of drug, because they all will end up damaging your body. They can cause heart, lung, and liver problems. They can cause weight loss and rapid aging. Drugs can cause you to be more aggressive, depressed, anxious, etc. Those things can cause your friends and family to leave you. Even if your friends and family get you off of drugs, you could experience horrible withdrawal symptoms.

The D.A.R.E program teaches these things and more to keep you from doing drugs. D.A.R.E also teaches you to make better decisions. We were taught how to deal with situations responsibly, stand up for ourselves, deal with our emotions, and to stand up to peer pressure. These are all important because they help shape you into a good citizen. If we didn't learn these things, we could end up being taken advantage of, getting sent to jail, or getting killed.

Everything I talked about in this essay is important but I believe the best part of the D.A.R.E program is that it was created to help kids like me. Some kids don't have someone reliable there to teach them these things. D.A.R.E teaches them things they need to know so they can become a good person and succeed in life. I am very thankful for D.A.R.E and all that I was taught this year.



Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun hugs a D.A.R.E. graduate.



D.A.R.E. graduates at Macedonia Elementary-Middle School perform songs about saying no to drugs.



MEMS Principal Eryl Smalls, Assistant Principal Chelsea Calhoun, and school resource officer Brandon Montgomery congratulate D.A.R.E. graduates.



The 5th grade graduates from MEMS pose for a photo with school and law enforcement officials.



The 6th grade graduates from MEMS pose for a photo with school and law enforcement officials.



Mervin Schrock

Menno J. Schrock and Mary Miller Schrock. Mervin was a self-employed carpenter and could fix almost anything he put his hands on. His passion was people; he always enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and will be missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include his daughter, Tonya Burchett of Kauai Island, HI; a son, Fredrick Burchett, and his fiancée, Tesa Vanderpool-Castle of Grove City, Ohio; two grandchildren, Emily and Freddie; a great-granddaughter, Rylee; his siblings, Marion (Fannie) Schrock, Marjorie (Dennis) Stoll, Marvin Schrock, Marietta (Floyd) Lengacher, Merlene (Larry)

Wingard, Mildred (Robert) Carroll, Martha (David) Miller, Marita (Vernon) Huyard, Miriam Schrock, Madonna (Sheldon) Schrock; a brother-in-law, Andrew Miller; a sister-in-law, Ina Schrock; and a multitude of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Marilyn Miller, and a brother, Melvin Schrock.

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

The People-Sentinel 3/1/23



Wilmer O. Salley

the class of 1966. He served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in October 1968.

On July 10, 1971, Wilmer entered into Holy Matrimony to Earline Davis.

Wilmer was affectionately nicknamed "The Professor" by one of his daughter's friends because he had a wealth of knowledge. He remembered things and dates in history off the top of his head that no one else could remember. He was an avid reader of the newspaper.

Wilmer worked for The Boston Public School as a Bus Driver and was loved by everyone.

He is preceded in death by his parents, four brothers: Leon H. Allen, Albert Green, Aaron Green Jr., and Eddie Green; and seven sisters: Lillie Mae Tabb, Alberta Evans, Alvilla Lowe, Ericka Robinson, Leather Harris, Lena Johnson and Ida Mae Dunbar.

He leaves to cherish his

memory, wife Earline Salley, three sons, Tony (Lisa) Minus, Demetrius Salley and Wayne Salley; one daughter, Nikia Phillips; five grandchildren, Jurey Salley, Candice Minus, Wayne L. Salley Jr., Matthew Minus and Danielle Durarte Ross; two great-grands, Kyan and Xavier Walker; three sisters: Emily M. Lee of Blackville, South Carolina, Bettye J. Monterio of Hephzibah, Georgia and Carrie Salley of Dorchester, Mass.; two brothers: Hannibal Green and Harry Green of New York, New York; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Wilmer will forever be remembered for his personality. He was witty, funny, and outgoing. He's gone but not forgotten.

Funeral services were held October 18, 2022 at Floyd Williams Funeral Home Inc. (490 Columbia Road, Boston, Mass.).

The People-Sentinel 3/1/23

Robert Copeland

NORTH AUGUSTA - A Celebration of Life service for Robert Melvin Copeland, 79, of North Augusta, will be held at 3 o'clock p.m., Saturday, March 4, 2023 in the Folk Funeral Home Chapel, Williston, with the Reverend Tommy Hutto officiating; burial will follow in the Double Pond Baptist Church Cemetery, Blackville. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service

at the funeral home on Saturday.

Robert passed away on February 24, 2023.

Born in Augusta, Ga., he was the son of the late Harold R. Copeland and Elisabeth Newell Copeland. He retired from Weaver Distributors as an Auto Parts driver.

Survivors include his sisters, Rachel (James) Whisnant and Judy (Roy) Hogland, all of Augusta, Ga.; Sherry

Copeland, mother of their late daughter Robin Michelle Copeland; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

The People-Sentinel 3/1/23

MASSACHUSETTS - On Friday, the Seventh of October 2022 at 4:17 p.m., the train backed up to the Faulkner's Hospital bound for Glory and Wilmer stepped on board.

Wilmer O. Salley was born August 16, 1946 in Blackville, South Carolina to the late Bernice Allen Salley and the late Aaron Green Sr.

Wilmer joined The Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. C. D. Dowling and remained a faithful member until he relocated to Boston, Mass. Wilmer attended Macedonia High School and graduated with

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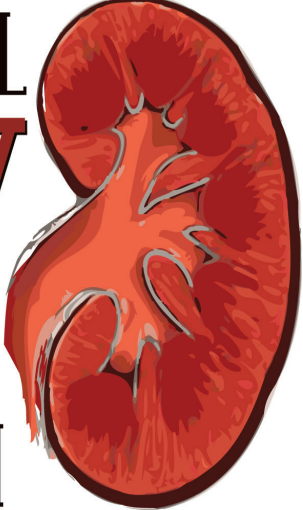


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March is **NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH**



Paulette Rooney
Contributing Writer

Did you know kidney disease is often referred to as a "silent disease" because there are usually no symptoms during its early stages? In fact, as many as 90% of Americans who have chronic kidney disease (CKD) don't know they have the disease until it is very advanced.

I didn't. I didn't know until yearly blood tests showed an increasing number for creatinine. I was officially diagnosed in 2006.

The good news is the earlier you find out you have kidney disease, the sooner you can take steps to protect your kidneys from further damage. Protecting your kidneys may allow you to continue to work, spend time with family and friends, stay physically active, and do other things you enjoy.

In 2008 I listed with the United Network for Organ Sharing <https://unos.org/>

Currently, there are more than 92,000 people on the national transplant list waiting for a kidney.

The wait for me was esti-

mated to be 6 years.

At the time I pursued every and any way to speed that up. Bob and I qualified for paired exchange, I asked for a live donation from family and friends, but I was a B+ blood, somewhat less available. I never gave up and before I knew it 5 years had passed and I received a cadaver donor that matched me very well. I also learned a very valuable lesson in faith. I was not in charge. In spite of all I had done to alter the outcome, the Good Lord led me to his plan in his time. As I was going into the OR I said either I would wake up with a new kidney, or I would wake up with Jesus. I did both!

Finding out if your kidneys are struggling before you have symptoms gives you the opportunity to make changes to help keep your kidneys healthier for longer. Even if you have symptoms, you can take steps to slow the disease.

Even if you feel healthy, if you are over 60 or have risk factors like diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease, consider talking with your doctor about getting tested for kidney disease.

Your doctor can use your test results to work with you to develop a kidney care plan. Having a plan may reduce your risk for serious health problems, like heart attack and stroke, and give you more healthy moments.

Your doctor will use two quick tests to check for kidney disease—a urine test to check for damage and a blood test to check how well your kidneys are removing wastes from your blood. If your kidneys show signs of damage, your doctor may refer you to a kidney specialist, called a nephrologist, or recommend annual or more frequent testing.

Your doctor can work with you to create a treatment or monitoring plan that fits your lifestyle, mobility, health status, and dietary needs. Your plan may include managing your existing risk factors for kidney disease, collaborating with a registered dietician to create a meal plan, or getting help to quit smoking. Because chronic kidney disease is progressive, it is very important to continue to follow your kidney health and to update your care plan as needed.

33% of adults in the U.S. are at risk of kidney disease



Beyond the numbers
We see PEOPLE
Find out if you're at risk at MinuteForYourKidneys.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Allendale County

Notice of Hearing Concerning Community Needs and Priorities

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Brandt Building in the Auditorium (398 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, SC 29810), Allendale County will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities, and economic development. At this public hearing, Allendale County will conduct its annual community needs assessment, addressing development activities which might be undertaken to meet identified needs, including the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Citizen Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Federal HUD HOME program, providing for the participation of the citizens of Allendale County in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve HUD funds.

The Citizen Participation Plan is available for review at the Allendale County Administration Building, 526 Memorial Avenue, Allendale, SC 29810 during regular business hours. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or the Citizen Participation Plan may contact Bert O'Rear, Allendale County Administrator, 526 Memorial Avenue, Allendale, SC 29810, phone number (803) 584-3438, or Brooke Morris, Community and Economic Development Manager, Lower Savannah Council of Governments, P.O. Box 850, Aiken, SC 29802, phone number (803) 508-7069.

Allendale County does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Bert O'Rear, 526 Memorial Avenue, Allendale, SC 29810, phone number (803) 584-3438 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988). Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of handicapped persons attending the meeting upon request. Persons needing special assistance or auxiliary aids should contact Allendale County at (803) 584-3438 seventy-two (72) hours before the public hearing.

Hagood pastor seeks to spread God's word across world

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

A Barnwell pastor is continuing a family legacy of ministry. Dr. Brandon Sandifer recently celebrated his one-year anniversary as pastor of Hagood Avenue Baptist Church. The Blackville native officially began duties in December 2021 after spending nearly 15 years at Pineview Baptist Church in Columbia. "The people in Barnwell are unique in terms of loving people. Hagood has gone above and beyond to make our family feel welcome. It is such an encouraging church. I regularly get encouraging texts from members," said Sandifer, who is married and has three children.

Moving to Barnwell was a homecoming because his grandfather, the late Billy Sandifer, was pastor of Hagood from 1960 to 1965.

"It's neat now getting to serve where my grandfather pastored," said Sandifer, son of Andy and Hazel Sandifer of Blackville.

His father, Dr. Andy Sandifer, is also a pastor and has been an encouragement to Brandon. Andy Sandifer entered the ministry after a long career in education, including as superintendent of Blackville-Hilda Public Schools. Andy served as pastor of Govan First Baptist Church for 11 years before moving to Double Pond Baptist in Blackville. Both are churches where his father Billy previously served.

Though he's now a third-generation pastor, that wasn't his original career path. In fact, he remembers saying he'd never go into the ministry. He originally wanted to be a football coach because of his love for the sport.

In 2000, he accepted an opportunity to be a student assistant coach at North Greenville University. Though he loved the relationships he



Rev. Brandon Sandifer, wearing a blue garment he purchased in Uganda on a mission trip, is shown with his family in front of a stained-glass window at Hagood Avenue Baptist that depicts the nativity. Pictured with him is his wife Mandy and their three kids – Amelia, Noah, and Nathan.

Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

built with students, "I realized I didn't want to give my life to coaching. I did not want it to dominate my entire life," he said.

Being a student assistant coach led to ministry opportunities with student-athletes which sparked his true calling into ministry.

This led to serving in various youth ministries in Barnwell County during breaks from college, including at Williston First Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Barnwell when Lee Clamp

was youth minister. He served at Hagood one year as a summer youth minister.

"The Lord just really blessed us," said Sandifer of Hagood's students growing spiritually. "A lot of fruit from that short summer led to a lot of relationships that are here now. That summer confirmed this is what I want to do with my life."

While in college, Forestville Baptist Church in Travelers Rest (Greenville County) confirmed Sandifer into ministry. He served as student pastor

there for nearly three years and as chaplain for NGU's football team.

"The Lord used that interest in football and coaching," said Sandifer, who graduated from NGU in 2003 with a degree in Christian Studies.

He left Forestville Baptist in 2005 to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After earning a Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry, he was called to serve as pastor of Pineview Baptist in July 2007. He served there until he was called to Hagood.

Leaving a church he pastored for 14 and a half years was not an easy decision. A lot of prayer went into the decision. However, he knew God was calling him to Hagood.

"Pastor Ken (Catoe) was a huge encourager to me," said Sandifer of Hagood's long-time pastor who retired in March 2020. The two previously worked together when Sandifer was summer youth minister.

One goal as pastor of Hagood is to grow the local congregation in "meaningful membership," he said. This means not just having names on a membership roster, but actually having active, engaged members.

"We are striving to grow as a healthy church," said Sandifer, who earned a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2020.

The church has implemented a membership class for people to attend prior to joining Hagood "so they know what we believe and get to know our staff," said Sandifer. However, it goes deeper than just growing membership. Sandifer said it's about growing everyone in their faith so they can go out and spread the gospel to the community.

"We truly want to make disciples and see those who are part of the church continue to grow in maturity," he said. "I want to see us grow and see us impact the community."

The mission doesn't stop inside the boundaries of Barnwell County. The greater goal is to grow the kingdom of God by reaching all nations.

"We want to make disciples of Jesus here in Barnwell and to the ends of the earth. We want to see Jesus praised from unreached people of the world," said Sandifer.

"This aligns with the message of Matthew 28: 19-20: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

the church has worked to live out that mission.

Locally, they partnered with Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Barnwell for a trunk or treat. "It was cool to see how everyone came together. It truly was an intermingling of relationships and churches," he said.

Outside of Barnwell County, Sandifer and some members of his congregation journeyed to Uganda in January for a mission trip. "There are so many unreached people there. The trip was tremendously fruitful," said Sandifer, who is passionate about international missions.

A personal goal for Sandifer is to be an encouragement to other pastors. He said churches should not be in competition with one another, but should instead work together because they share a common mission of seeing more people reached with the message of eternal salvation.

Bible study and Sunday school is held at 9:30 a.m. for all ages followed by the Sunday worship service at 10:45 a.m. Bible studies along with children and youth ministries are held Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Men's and women's Bible studies along with RAs and GAs are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Though he's not coaching players on a field, he is coaching people's spiritual lives.



Brandon Sandifer (center) is a third-generation pastor. He's pictured with his father, Dr. Andy Sandifer (left), and grandfather, Rev. Billy Sandifer (right).

Photo Courtesy: Brandon Sandifer

Lenten services kick off for 2023

Jonathan Vickery
 Publisher
 jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com

What is the aroma of your life? That's was the question posed by Rev. Brandon Sandifer to those in attendance at the Feb. 22 Barnwell County Lenten service at First Baptist Church of Barnwell.

"What exudes from you? An aroma of worship or stench of rebellion?" said Sandifer, pastor of Hagood Avenue Baptist.

He used the story of Jesus being anointed in John 12 to relay his point. Jesus was in the home of Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, six days before Passover. A dinner was held in honor of Jesus.

"Martha served, while Lazarus was among those

reclining at the table with him. Then Mary (sister of Lazarus) took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume," according to John 12:2-3. The perfume was equal to a year's worth of wages.

Only a small amount of perfume was needed to serve the purpose, but Mary "used it all for Jesus because He was worth it," said Sandifer. Mary showed humility by using her hair to wipe Jesus' feet.

While Mary showed an aroma of worship and humility, someone else showed a stench of rebellion.

"But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 'Why wasn't this perfume

sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.' He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it," stated verses 4-6.

"The stench of scorn was coming from the rebellious heart of Judas," said Sandifer.

With the season of Lent underway, Sandifer encouraged the crowd to not look at it as a "religious routine" but rather as a time of true revival. This can be done by being a faithful member of the church who have joyful hearts and give their time and money.

"I pray the aroma of our lives ... that we would give thanks to God for the obedience of Jesus who was will-

ing to go to the cross. Our lives left to self would be the stench of rebellion," said Sandifer.

"I pray our lives give a pleasant aroma of the glory of Jesus as we live lives devoted to you," said Sandifer during his closing prayer.

Lenten services are held every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday through the week leading up to 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. Remaining services are: March 1 at Barnwell United Methodist, March 8 at Ned Branch Missionary Baptist, March 15 at Hagood Avenue Baptist, March 22 at Holy Apostles Church, March 29 at Hagood, and April 5 at Gateway Assemblies.



Rev. Brandon Sandifer was the first speaker of the 2023 Lenten services on Feb. 22.

Photo By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Cold temps and warm hearts: Blackville Community Yard Sale raises funds for Macedonia Elementary-Middle School

Donna-Maria Conzalina
Contributing Writer

spaces were rented for \$25 each and collections supported the cause. All monies from the sale of personal items were kept by the sellers.

"Felicia approached me with the idea. Since the economy is currently so tight for teachers and parents and I love kids and Blackville schools; I wanted to help them as much as possible. I thought it was a great idea. The mayor agreed and approved our request," Pernell said.

The yard sale began at 8 o'clock on Main Street in Blackville on the morning of February 4, across from the Enterprise Bank. While defying the weather and darkness before dawn, Pernell said, "I was out there setting up by 6:30."

And what a great set up she had! Pernell and the other half dozen bundled up vendors who braved the cold had an abundant



Photo Courtesy: Felicia Summers Kinard

Blackville Town Councilwoman Ann Pernell assists yard sale buyers on one of the town's coldest mornings.

supply of this, that and the next thing. Tables featured baked goods, furniture, home and garden supplies, toys, clothes, shoes, makeup, accessories, and so forth.

An additional half dozen

sellers were signed up to participate, but, understandably, the bitter cold temperatures were a deterrent. Still, the day was a success for the cause as they raised over \$200 for donations. Pernell said,

"We're planning to have another community yard sale in May and possibly more beyond that. As long as it's helping me to help others, I will continue to do it."

Pernell expressed her devotion like this. "I believe with all my heart we're put on this Earth to do for each other. To encourage, uplift and serve one another. It just breaks my heart when people just think all about themselves and not their fellow man. I just don't get it."

She continued, "I was really touched by the last customer of the day. An elderly couple showed up and the lady bought the majority of clothes I was selling because she said she 'has two to three families [she helps out.] By helping her out; I cut her a good deal, she could help them out. That's how we all can make a difference. I'd say at least six out of

ten customers were buying for someone else and that's what it's all about."

The community of Blackville seems to be a magnet town for people caring about one another. This was evidenced when "a kind lady who we never met before, showed up and brought hot coffee and opened up her restrooms for us," Pernell said.

Shellie Bumgarner and her husband, Neil, recently relocated to the area from North Carolina and purchased the historic Farrell O'Gorman House on Main Street in Blackville; directly across the street from the yard sale location. Pernell said, "She (Shellie) was so happy to see us out there. She was so excited and supported us with that hot coffee and kindness."

Yes, commUNITY efforts like these will never cease to make even the coldest of days warmer.

Corder's Creative Corner: My recipe for finishing stories

David B. Corder
Contributing Writer

many different interpretations can be taken from the lyrics. But in this case, I think that it is imperative to convey what I find from this bit of verse. I see myself in the song because I, as a writer, fail to finish many of my pieces, just as the poet in the song failed to write an ending to each of his poems.

I have a flash drive filled with many stories in the form of incomplete drafts. Some have endings, some don't. However, whether they have endings or not, most of them are not "finished." They are not ready to emerge from the womb of my creative thought and face the criticism of the world.

In essence, this wouldn't be too much of a problem. I'd just need to sit down and fix all of them. But I don't. Instead, I fixate on starting new projects. When I announced some months ago

that I was writing a book, that unfortunately collapsed under my feet. I was on track writing a book, but I became overwhelmed by the process. I went to new things, chasing them like the chihuahua that sees numerous cars go by. I did not finish the things that I started.

If I'm being candid, it's because I do not have the discipline to sit down and finish something. Plain and simple. I can write a first draft, no problem, but I become paralyzed at the thought of going back and revising and rewriting.

But being paralyzed like a deer caught in headlights does no one any good (especially the deer). So I started looking for answers to my problem. I started looking to other writers that I know, and to ones I don't.

Out of the many pieces of advice that I have found, there were two that stood

out to me. The first was almost like a simple proverb taken out of the Bible. When asked in an interview found on YouTube his number one tip for writers, author Neil Gaiman replied, "Finish things. I mean 'write!' only takes you so far. 'Finish things!' takes you most of the rest of the way." This simple piece of advice is invaluable to me. However, it left me asking, "How do I finish things?"

I pulled down a book I have read before, but I haven't seriously looked at in six years. I flipped through Stephen King's *On Writing* until I stumbled upon his revising process. In the memoir of the craft, King states how many drafts he writes, how he takes notes, and how many critiques he gets from trusted readers (p.208-209). Based off of his revising

style, I have been able to draft my own, one that I think that will help me immensely. Below is what I drafted on a piece of paper and tacked to the wall next to my office desk.

Recipe for Finishing Stories

1. First Draft
2. Let draft sit 2-3 weeks before I look at it again (write other stuff in the meantime)
3. Go through draft, make notes of what to fix.
4. Fix things, write second draft.
5. Send story to several trusted readers.
6. Make notes based off readers' feedback.
7. Write third draft based off readers' feedback.
8. Polish third draft (check for spelling, grammar, etc.)
9. Send story out to a publication.

I hope with this plan, I can finally start producing—not just flawed first drafts, but excellent, polished pieces. I have started using this process for my writing, and I'm optimistic that it will yield results. Time will tell. If it doesn't work, I will try something else.

After all, as a writer, you never stop learning. And I still have a lot left to learn.

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FFA: Barnwell student continues in grandmother's agricultural footsteps

FROM PAGE 1A

anyway, not knowing it would change her life.

"That evening during public comment, I gave my 2-3-minute spill. However, I believe it was the testimony that came after me, which led them to vote yes," said Sandifer.

Black gave testimony to how the FFA and learning about agriculture changed her life, and to this day Sandifer believes she is the reason the program was approved.

"She was determined, if she wanted something, she was going to get it," said

Myers of her grandmother.

Sandifer joined the team in July 2002 as the BCCC Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor with just eight students. She taught agriculture business management, floriculture, and small engine maintenance in that first year.

22 years later, the BCCC FFA chapter has brought over 1,000 students through the program and even another instructor.

"Last year, our board voted in favor of agriculture once again and added a

second ag. teacher, allowing us to offer five new courses in horticulture and ag. mechanics areas of study, doubling our student capacity," said Sandifer, who teaches eight different rotating topics including animal science, wildlife, agricultural business, and forestry.

"She would be so proud of Dorie Jean and of where the program is at now. She fought hard for it," said Allen of her mother.

"My granny would be really proud of what it's become," said Myers.



Dorie Myers

Myers and Allen remember Black as an environmentalist, a conservationist, and a lifelong learner.

"She was big into taking your own bags. She would

actually take her old T-shirts and cut 'em and make reusable bags instead of using the plastic bags at Walmart," said Allen. "She was a hippie; she was big into us providing our own food and learning how to jar it and can it so that we could live off the land."

Black's contribution to the fruition of FFA in Barnwell County was monumental and she continued to support the program until her death.

Sandifer believes the reason FFA left such an impact on Black was the family feeling of the organization that does not wane after graduation. Once having worn the corduroy jacket, you are always a member of a network of like-minded individuals promoting agriculture.

"I had the honor of teaching her granddaughter this past year. She has made the most of her FFA experience—attending summer camp, convention, and other trips. It is such a full-circle moment," said Sandifer of Myers.

Myers is set to walk across the stage this year but has already finished the required credits. She hopes to continue this agricultural path after graduation by opening a farm to table restaurant. At this eatery, guests can get a better understanding of where their food comes from as dishes will be made from the product of local farmers.

"Ms. Sandifer, she and her husband farm and she's always telling us stories about their farming experience. She really emphasizes the hard work that it takes raising crops and animals," said Myers, who hopes to stay local to Barnwell County as she continues her career.

In the FFA organization, South Carolina is broken up into regions. Barnwell and surrounding counties are in region four. In this region in the 2020-2021 school year, there are 25 high school programs, 33 high school teachers, four middle school programs, and four teachers.

"Barnwell County is full of BCCC FFA alumni now because of Mrs. Camella Black's efforts," said Sandifer.

One of Black's favorite ways to support the FFA was their plant sales. From this year's sale, Allen and Myers are planning on purchasing some lantana—a plant found native in Florida that thrives in South Carolina, just like Black did.

For more information on the Barnwell County Career Center or the FFA chapter, visit <https://www.bccc80.com/>.

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WEHS students drive carefully in Save A Life



Williston-Elko High School students learn about safe driving by taking a ride on the Save A Life simulator.

Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople-sentinel.com

Williston-Elko High School (WEHS) scholars watched each other crash into buildings, trees, and other cars while simulating distracted driving at the Save A Life Tour held in the gymnasium on the morning of February 9.

The Save A Life Tour is a safe driving awareness program that aims to inform, educate, and demonstrate the consequences of poor choices made behind the

wheel. WEHS students participate in this program to give them further knowledge of the dangers of distracted driving and urge them to practice safe driving habits.

According to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, the state averages two crashes every hour involving a distracted driver and teen drivers are involved in a wreck that results in injury or death every 1.4 hours.

WEHS students got behind the wheel one by one to simulate distracted driving. One station required



Scholars from Williston-Elko High School react with smiles and laughs as classmates fail the safe driving simulator.

students to put on a virtual reality headset to mimic drunk driving, and the

other required them to respond to multiple text messages while behind the fake wheel.

While few succeeded in the distracted driving simulation, most crashed. Overall, students were enthusiastic to participate in the program and try their best to stay between the virtual yellow lines.

Students received pledge cards, wrist bands, and signed their names on a poster kept by the school.

For more information about the Save A Life Tour, visit <https://savealifetour.com/>.

THREATS: Authorities investigate series of bomb threats at Barnwell High

FROM PAGE 1A

row. Last week, during one of our threats, there were at least 12 other schools in the state experiencing the same problem. During that meeting, the lieutenant with the SLED Bomb Squad said they've experienced over 30 bomb threats across the state in the last two weeks and those are just the ones that are reported to them," said Stapleton.

So far this school year, there have been 317 false reports of violence in schools around the country, reported The Educator's School Safety Network last week. They report a 600 percent increase in false threats in the last four years.

"It is disappointing these threats continue to happen statewide, and even nationwide, taking time away from what our greatest job is - educating our students. We are fortunate law enforcement responds so quickly and we are able to activate our plans and return to normal operations as quickly as possible; however, any loss of instructional time is too much," said Stapleton.

BHS administration is working with staff to develop a plan on how to address lost instructional time that has happened in the past two weeks. "They will support our students as they catch up on any instruction or skill acquisition they need to recover," Stapleton said.

What's led to the increase in threats?

"The National Association of School Resource Officers has shared the motives for these continued attacks appear to be intentions to cause mass panic or disruption," said Stapleton.

Though the threats have been false, "safety is of the utmost priority in Barnwell School District 45," said Stapleton. That's why each threat is taken seriously by district officials and law enforcement.

"We are so fortunate we have a wonderful partnership with local law enforcement and emergency responders, as well as having a strong safety plan in place with a specific bomb-threat response protocol. Our administrators continue to train our staff members and students on how to execute those plans in the case of an emergency. Part of our plan includes maintaining open communication, providing accurate information to our parents, and striving to be as transparent as possible when informing our families of allegations, such as bomb threats, while still maintaining the integrity of the investigation," she said.

The school district and law enforcement are also exploring ways to improve.

"We will continue to work with the schools and SLED to determine what we can do better in the future," said Cook of better ways to

respond or trace the threats.

With the recurrence of threats, district officials met with SLED's Lieutenant BJ Foster, part of SLED's Bomb Squad and Counterterrorism Dive Unit, in person on Monday, Feb. 27. District officials, school officials, BCSO leaders, and local emergency personnel met to discuss the response to these bomb threats and consider information being presented statewide.

"According to SLED officials when we met, this isn't merely a Barnwell problem, they have seen increases in bomb threats statewide and consider it a huge priority across South Carolina. Having that meeting allowed us to consider other responses to threats such as these, which the Board of Trustees and district officials are currently considering at the recommendation of SLED officials. SLED officials said they have created new guidance considering the extreme rise in bomb threat cases in schools statewide," said Stapleton.

That guidance was shared during the meeting, so it could be considered in strengthening the district's bomb-threat response plan. SLED will present that information to the district's board members on March 1.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, school officials with the assistance of law enforcement searched bookbags at each school entrance at the start of the day. Parents/guardians were notified during and after each evacuation response, and they were notified on Monday afternoon that these searches would take place as a proactive measure.

"Therefore, in a proactive

measure, they checked anyone coming to the school to ensure the campus was secure should another threat be sent. That would allow the school to avoid loss of instructional time should a threat be made. While this is not a long-term solution, random searches may continue and the district will look at SLED's newest recommendations, to determine possible changes to the district's bomb threat response protocol and threat assessment protocol," said Stapleton.

School officials ask parents to encourage their children to report any behavior that could in any way compromise their safety or the safety of others. They also ask parents to express to children the seriousness of a crime such as this.

"If a student is caught making a threat that disturbs the school environment, we will seek consequences to the fullest extent of the law, including criminal charges and expulsion," said Stapleton.

"The investigation is active and ongoing. SLED would like to remind everyone to remain vigilant and report any information on bomb threats to local law enforcement," said SLED spokeswoman Renee Wunderlich.

On behalf of the district, Stapleton thanks the BCSO, Barnwell Police Department, Barnwell Fire Department, Barnwell County Emergency Management, Medshore, and Savannah River Site for their assistance in securing the building. She thanks administrators, staff, and students for quickly executing the emergency response plans.

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.

Richard Adam Fail, 37, of 504 Baker Street North, Blackville, was arrested on February 23, 2023 by Williston Police Department (WPD) for Disorderly Conduct, Open Container, Reckless Driving, and Resisting Arrest. Fail was booked and released to Barnwell County Detention Center (BCDC).

Jamarr Antwan Livings-

ton, 32, of 184 Tracy Street, Barnwell, was arrested on February 26, 2023 by WPD for Domestic Violence. Livingston was booked and released to BCDC.

Eugenio Osorio, 32, of 224 Corley Heights, Barnwell, was arrested on February 20, 2023 by the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Failure to Pay Child Support. Osorio was booked and released to BCDC.

Isaiah Staley, 35, of C-1 Willow Run Apartments, Williston, was arrested on February 22, 2023 by WPD for Burglary/Breaking & Entering. Staley was

booked and released to BCDC.

Coy Roberts, 24, of 138 Annie Laurie Road, Barnwell, was arrested on February 21, 2023 by BCSO for Disorderly Conduct, Giving False Information to Law Enforcement, and Possession of Meth. Coy was booked and released to BCDC.

Bryan Dale Williams, 36, of 270 Thrush Drive, Barnwell, was arrested on February 26, 2023 by BCSO for Petit Larceny and four counts of Fraudulent Check. Williams was booked and released to BCDC.

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Tiera Arnold
Barnwell High School



Grade: 10th
Sport: softball and volleyball
Favorites...
• **Food:** seafood, wings, and fries
• **Movie/TV shows:** *All American, Love and Basketball*
• **Snacks:** M&M's
• **Coaches:** Dad of course! (Ricky Arnold), Mike Beasley, and Coach Jenny
• **Free time activity:** shopping and hanging out with friends
• **Musicians:** various
Goal for this season: "I want to be better than I was yesterday and continue to improve throughout the season, win a Region and State Championship."



Trey Boleman
Barnwell High School



Grade: 10th
Sports: baseball
Favorites...
• **Food:** burgers
• **Movie/TV shows:** *Avatar*, *Outer Banks*
• **Snack:** M&M's
• **Coach:** Will Gee
• **Free time activity:** baseball
• **Musician:** Luke Combs
Goal for this season: "Hit over .350."

Dwayne Garrick named Aiken head football coach

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

Dwayne Garrick has resigned as head football coach of the Barnwell Warhorses and has accepted the head football coaching job at Aiken High School.

Over his eight seasons in Barnwell, Coach Garrick helped return the Warhorse football team into a major force in AA football. Over that period, Garrick led the Warhorses to four Region Championships, and two Lower-State Championships. The Warhorses recorded an impressive 82 wins over the eight-year period. Dwayne Garrick also collected his 200th victory from his 23-year career during this past season. To say that coach Garrick will be missed is an understatement.

"We are grateful for the wonderful job that Coach Garrick did reviving our football program. Coach Garrick is a fantastic football coach that elevated our program to a higher level of success upon his arrival in 2015," said Barnwell High Principal Franklin McCormack. "We are going to miss the positive impact that Coach Garrick had on our campus every day – teaching and mentoring our young men. The Warhorse community wishes Coach Garrick and his family good health as they travel down a new football road."

Barnwell Athletic Director and assistant football coach Derek Youngblood said, "Our administration is thankful for all Coach

Garrick has done for us at Barnwell High School. His impact on Barnwell High School is more than just football, because of the relationships that he has built with all of our students and staff. He is a first class man and I know that he will make a tremendous impact in the lives of the students and student-athletes at Aiken High School. Coaching football is what he does, but it is not who he is. He is going to work hard to develop lifelong relationships with his players and use the game of football to mold them into productive young men. It has always been more than X's and O's with him and it will continue to be that way at Aiken."

When asked about his time at Barnwell, Garrick responded by saying, "I can't say enough about the players and coaches at Barnwell High School and how much they have meant to me over the past eight years. The administration has supported me 100 percent since day one and for that I am grateful."

This was Garrick's second time at Barnwell High. He first served the Warhorses as an Assistant Football Coach in 1997, and was promoted to Head Coach and Athletic Director in 1999. He left Barnwell in 2002 for a position as Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Hillcrest High School. He went on to serve in similar capacities at Dorman, Williston-Elko and River Bluff, before returning to Barnwell as the school's Head Football Coach in 2015.

"I send a special thanks to (former BHS Principal) Mr. Jon Burdge for giving me this opportunity



Dwayne Garrick is being interviewed after collecting his 200th win.

Photo by: Mike Beasley

eight years ago. We won a lot of football games and reignited some old rivalries. I wish nothing but the best for Barnwell and the players in the future," said Garrick. "I look forward to joining Aiken High and building relationships with them."

While Garrick doesn't officially begin his new role as AHS Head Football Coach until June 10, he plans to get started soon for March's open season.

"Football in high school is a year-round sport," said Garrick. "Dedication, commitment, teamwork, all of those things will be big for our players. Athletics will be a steppingstone for these young men as far as life is concerned. We'll teach those things on the football field that will help them achieve success in their lives."

Many of Garrick's players have earned awards and scholarships, but he also has won many coaching accolades, including Region 5 Coach of the Year (2018-2019), CSRA Coach of the Year (2018),

South Carolina Football Coaches Association (SCFCA) Class A Upper State Coach of the Year (2010), Class A Division II Coach of the Year, and High School Sports Report (HSSR) Class A Division II Coach of the Year (2009). He has also been named coach of several post-season teams, including South Carolina's Head Coach in Border Bowl (2018), North-South All Star Game Head Coach (2018), and Shrine Bowl Assistant Coach (2010).

On a personal note, I have known Dwayne Garrick for many years, and I have admired how he has done things "the right way." He is one of the best high school coaches in the entire State of South Carolina, but he is also a man of very high morals and expectations. Aiken High School is getting a great man for their head football coach.

Barnwell will definitely miss Dwayne Garrick, but I hope everyone joins me in wishing coach Garrick the best of luck in his new position.



Coach Garrick and Barnwell's Tyler Smith at the 2022 North-South All-Star game.

Photo by: Jeff Miller



College signing day, early in coach Garrick's Barnwell time, with Earl Bostick Jr. (currently preparing for the NFL combine) and Marcus McKethan (2022 draft choice by NY Giants).

Photo by: Mike Young

Barnwell's LaKota Scott competes at State Wrestling Tournament

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

Barnwell's LaKota Scott competed in the South Carolina Individual State Wrestling Championships held at the Anderson Sports & Entertainment Center in Anderson this past Friday and Saturday, February 24th and 25th. The two-day event featured the top wrestlers throughout the state, each of who had to qualify the previous weekend at the State Qualifiers.

LaKota competed in the 195 lb. weight class on Friday and started off with a win in the quarterfinals pinning his Liberty High School foe at the 1:26 mark of the first period. LaKota was behind on the scoreboard, but found a way not only to win, but to pin the Liberty wrestler to earn the win. The win meant LaKota would get a chance to wrestle again on Saturday.

Scott earned victories over wrestlers from Liberty and from Ninety Six that eventually earned LaKota the third place medal for

the 195 lb. weight class. He did lose a match to his 195 lb. counterpart from Abbeville, but the Abbeville wrestler went on to win the tournament for the 195 lb. division.

"LaKota has definitely earned it this year. He has put in a lot of sweat and work to make it this far. Most of the season he has been on the winning end of his matches. In the practice room, he pushes the other guys to not only make himself better, but to better them, too. A lot of times he's in there being a player coach, giving tips, and working well with his teammates. All of that effort got him to State," said Barnwell Coach William Barnes.

Coach Barnes and the Warhorse wrestling team will miss LaKota Scott next year! Congratulations on a great season!



Barnwell's LaKota Scott received the 3rd place medal in the 195 lb. class at the State Wrestling Championship.

Photo courtesy: Michael Lollis / www.lollisphotography.com

Mike Beasley and Barnwell softball team off to great start



Barnwell softball went 4-0 in preseason tournament last weekend.

Photo By: Felicia Devore

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

Mike Beasley is no stranger to Barnwell softball, having helped in the past. He is also no stranger to being the head coach of a high school softball team, with many years under his belt. Now,

we bring the two together as Beasley starts his first year as head softball coach for the Barnwell Warhorses. The Warhorses went 4-0 this past weekend in Beasley's debut. In a preseason tournament this weekend, Barnwell defeated Branchville, Calhoun County, Wagoner-Salley, and Andrew Jackson Academy. Not a bad

way to start the 2023 softball season. When asked about the 2023 Barnwell softball team, Beasley replied, "I'm very excited to work with the softball program here at Barnwell High School. This program has tradition and is supported by the parents, community, administration, and board of trustees. Our

players will work hard each day to compete in a championship manner." When asked about this year's players, he said, "We return nine out of 12 players from last year's team and bring in some talented JV players to fill the squad. The expectations are high and we hope folks will come out and support our young ladies

this year." Returning players are Jaidyn Devore, Tiera Arnold, Bre Buckmon, Karrie Bolen, Kah'Miyah Williams, Abigail Corley, Makayla Creech, Kendall O'Berry, and Cailyn Morris. New to the varsity squad are Brooklyn Gordon, Laney Grubbs, Jessica Williamson, and Bre Croft. "If each player works hard

and develops their skills, each player can contribute. This team is a talented group of young ladies this year. As long as we work to be a better squad each day, I feel we will be strong competitors this year in our games and in our region," Beasley said. Good luck to the Barnwell Warhorses for a successful 2023 softball season!

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 22 No. 13 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

How many mittens?

Count how many mittens in each box and circle the number that matches.

	2 4		1 3 4
	5 7 9		4 7 8
	8 6 10		5 6 7

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.

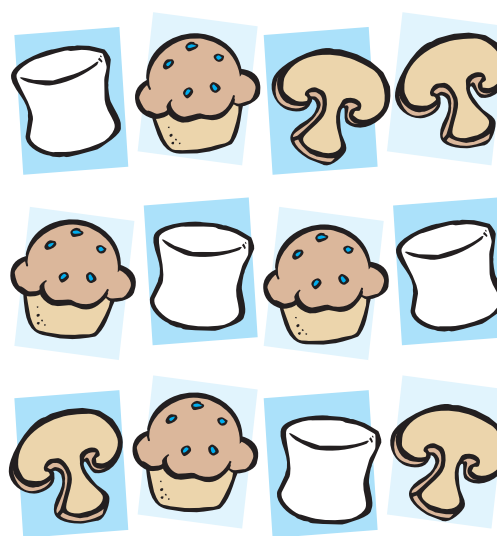
My Letters

M is for Mittens
m is for mittens



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

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

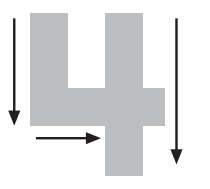


My Numbers

How many marshmallows?

How many mushrooms?

How many muffins?



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

My Rhyme Time

The three little kittens, they found their mittens,
"Oh, Mother, dear, see here, see here,
Our mittens we have found."
"What? Found your mittens? You're good kittens,
And you shall have some pie."

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.

Mittens are _____



Sunday

Letter Identification

With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter M in mittens.

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

Silly Me

Draw an oval on a blank piece of paper. Look through the newspaper to find different parts of a face (eyes, nose, mouth, ears). Cut out the parts and glue them onto the oval to make a silly face.

Wednesday

Who needs mittens?

Look through the newspaper and count all the people. If each person needs a pair of mittens, how many pairs would that be? And how many mittens? Count by twos with your child to find out how many mittens.

Thursday

Spell Mom's Name

Show your child how to spell the name of his/her mother, grandmother or special adult friend. Then find in the newspaper the letters that spell that name. Draw a line to connect the letters in order, while spelling the name out loud.

Friday

Lifesize Portrait

Tape pages of newspaper together to make one large sheet as tall as your child. Have your child lie down on the paper and trace around his/her body. Cut out the body tracing. Have your child paint it look like his/her self.

Saturday

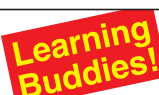
Counting Book

Get 10 sheets of blank paper. Glue a newspaper picture of a solitary object or animal onto the first page and write a large 1. Find two pictures of some object or animal and write a large 2. Repeat until you have a counting book that goes to 10.

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

Learning Buddy's signature

Date



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

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

Barnwell baseball competes in preseason tournament



Kaleb McCormack will be seeing plenty of time behind the plate for the 2023 Warhorses.

Photo By: Shannon McCormack

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

The Barnwell Warhorses and head coach Will Gee are off to a good start for the 2023 baseball season. They competed in the Windham Sports Turf Invitational this weekend and picked up two wins. The tournament

continues this week and will end on Saturday.

The Warhorses opened against local rivals and long-time baseball powerhouse Bamberg-Ehrhardt. Cam Austin took the mound for the Horses and gave up only one hit in his five innings on the mound. Austin struck out eight to help the Warhorses seal the 4-0 win.

Offensively, Barnwell was led by senior Clay Pender who had three RBIs.

On Saturday, Hayden Pierce took the mound for Barnwell against Ridge Spring-Monetta and struck out three in his two innings on the hill. Kaleb McCormack had two doubles and three RBIs as Barnwell cruised to a 16-2 win. Barn-

well will continue the tournament playing Silver Bluff on Tuesday, Feb. 28 and then finish up Saturday, March 4.

Coach Will Gee was asked about his 2023 team and responded saying, "Lots of new faces for us this year. Kaleb McCormack will take over behind the plate, Ryan Owens and Jaevin Santos will both see time at first.

Seth Ray and Trey Boleman both start on the infield. Kiez Roberts will play right field. We had a disappointing ending to last season after losing back to back for the district championship, so we have a little chip on our shoulder. There are a lot of new teams back in AA with the reclassification, so we will have our work cut out for us to try and

get back to where we were last year. Cameron Austin, Clay Pender, Haiden Sanders, and Hayden Pierce are our four returners who will all see time on the mound and play significant roles offensively."

Good luck to coach Gee and the Warhorse baseball team!

Williston-Blue Devils go up to bat

David B. Corder
Contributing Writer

The Williston-Elko Blue Devils are warming up to hit a homerun for their 2023 baseball season.

The team has been prepping for the season, winning a scrimmage against Swansea on February 21 with a score of 8 to 2 in five innings.

"I was pleased with how we swung the bat early on," Head Coach Alan LeRoy said. "I thought we pitched decently but we have to throw strikes more consistently. I was proud of

our defense throughout the scrimmage. I thought we had good energy throughout the scrimmage and we have to carry that into every game we play."

Now that the warmup is out of the way, the Blue Devils are itching to take to the baseball diamond. Their first game will be on Monday, March 6th, at Ridge Spring-Monetta.

LeRoy is adamant about the season ahead. "We are looking forward to a great year and can't wait for the season to start. We have several team goals and are ready to achieve those goals!"

The team has been work-



BASEBALL

ing hard in the preseason, boasting a team full of returners so that, as LeRoy puts it, they are at a point where they need to be early in the season.

"Our focus in the preseason has been to improve our offensive production," he said. "We are just trying to be better 1-9 in the lineup and be more consistent at the plate."

With a scrimmage victory already under their belt, things look promising for the Williston-Elko Blue Devils' baseball team. Be sure to catch them at their first game to watch them hit it out of the park!

Roster:

- #1 Omarion Williams 12th
- #2 Tylan Parker 9th
- #3 Grayson Moody . . . 7th
- #4 Quaide Overton . . 10th
- #5 Markel Sanders . . . 12th
- #6 Riley Jeffcoat 11th
- #7 Brice Yelton 10th
- #8 Grant Whitman . . . 10th
- #9 Dakota Kitner 12th
- #10 Lucas Creech 9th
- #11 Chad Chisolm 11th
- #13 Ben Jenkins 9th
- #14 Peyton Rimes 11th
- #16 Morgan Givens . . . 12th
- #17 Jarrett Wootten . . . 12th
- #18 Colby Baker 12th
- #20 Ivan Jamison 11th
- #25 Chase Morris 12th

FHLBank Atlanta Heirs' Property Prevention and Resolution Grant Initiative Award Announcement

Charleston, S.C. – February 22, 2023: Center for Heirs' Property Preservation® announced that it has been awarded \$100,000.00 in funding from Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (FHLBank Atlanta), one of the 11 district banks in the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

The award is through the FHLBank Atlanta Heirs' Property Prevention and Resolution Grant Initiative, announced last August. Funding through this initiative was made available to organizations that submitted pilot initiatives during the Heirs' Property Prevention and Resolution Funders' Forum, held on December 2, 2021.

"The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation® has been a 501c3 non-profit organization since 2005," said Dr. Jennie L. Stephens, CEO for the Center. "Our mission from day one has been to protect heirs' property and promote the sustainable use of land to provide increased economic benefit to historically under-served families. We are pleased to be one of the organizations recognized

by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta for our expertise and appreciate their support in our critical mission."

Kirk Malmberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of FHLBank Atlanta, congratulated the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation® on being selected for an award. "We are pleased to offer this award and we commend CHPP® for working to solve and prevent issues associated with heirs' help property," said Malmberg.

Arthur Fleming, FHLBank Atlanta's Senior Vice President and Director of Community Investment Services, joined in congratulation CHPP® and noted that aside from resolving heirs' property issues, the goal of the initiative is to raise awareness among state and local governments, developers, and other organizations. "The funding we are providing to CHPP® will not only help provide tangible relief to families and communities impacted by heirs' property, it will also help bring more attention to this issue and hopefully spur additional involvement from other key stakeholders that have

a vested interest in resolving and preventing heirs' property," said Fleming.

Heirs' property occurs when a real property owner dies without a will that designates a successor owner, or without a recorded deed. It also occurs when property is left to multiple beneficiaries, resulting in a fractured or tangled title that is unmarketable and, if left unresolved, prevents the ability to sell, collateralize, improve, or otherwise transfer the property. Heirs' property is a barrier to the accumulation of generational wealth, leads to neighborhood blight, and is pervasive issue that disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minority, low-wealth, and distressed urban and rural communities.

The Center is a non-profit organization that protects heirs' property and promotes the sustainable use of land to provide increased income to historically under-served landowners. Its services include legal and forestry education, direct legal services to resolve heirs' property title issues, forestry land management

services, technical assistance and connection to programs, and financial assistance to make these families' land more profitable.

About the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation®

The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation™ has been protecting heirs' property through legal education and direct legal services since 2005. In 2013, the Center began promoting the sustainable use of land through forestry education and services to provide increased economic benefit to low-wealth family landowners. The Center provides legal and forestry services in Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg counties.

To date, the Center has provided 3,569 persons with free, one-hour "Advice and Counsel" (A&C) with 1,425 clients receiving direct legal services to clear title. A total of 1,501 simple wills have been drafted at free, com-



munity Wills Clinics; more than 574 families (who collectively own more than 40,000 acres) have benefited from various levels of education and expert resources to develop and implement sustainable forestry management plans and 330 titles have been cleared on family land with a total tax-assessed value of \$21 million.

About the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

FHLBank Atlanta offers competitively-priced financing, community development grants, and other banking services to help member financial institutions make affordable home mortgages

and provide economic development credit to neighborhoods and communities. The Bank's members are commercial banks, credit unions, savings institutions, community development financial institutions, and insurance companies located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. FHLBank Atlanta is one of 11 district banks in the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Since 1990, the FHLBanks have awarded approximately \$7.3 billion in Affordable Housing Program funds, assisting more than one million households.

Keep Allendale County Beautiful Donates Trees to USC Salkehatchie



Members of Keep Allendale County Beautiful (KACB) donated and planted three new trees on USC Salkehatchie's Allendale Campus on Tuesday, January 31. Two of the trees were also donated and planted at Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in December. KACB initially received the trees by being a recipient of Palmetto Pride's 2023 Tree Grant.

"We are so amazed with the hard work and efforts of the Keep Allendale County Beautiful committee," says Southern Carolina Alliance's Graci Hiers. "The new trees on USC Salkehatchie's Allendale campus are a great addition to the public green spaces that are enjoyed by all students!"

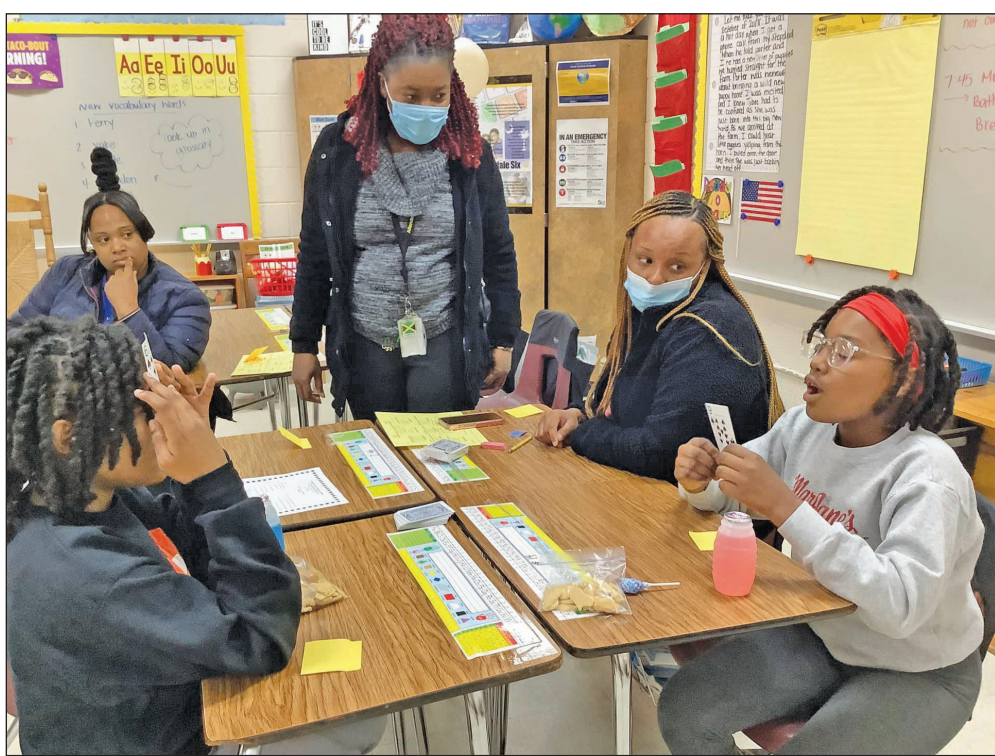
KACB Chairperson Cindy Deer, KACB Board Member David Free, volunteers James Deer and Summer Long, and USC Salkehatchie's Dwight Shabazz worked together to plant two Red Maple trees and one Cypress tree along the campus' entrance and around the pond.



Family Math Night adds up to learning at AFES



Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School held Family Math night on Jan. 26 following the PTO meeting led by guest speaker Patricia Hall. She came bearing lots of manipulatives and games for our pre-K and kindergarten students. Door prizes were given away. Contributed Photos



CREEKWOOD APARTMENTS

1523 WATER STREET EXT.
ALLENDALE, SC 29810
803-584-3410

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE SITE OFFICE
MONDAY & FRIDAY, 8:00 AM UNTIL 4:30 PM

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- ♦ CENTRAL HEAT/AIR
- ♦ CARPET/STOVE/REFRIGERATOR/BLINDS
- ♦ WASHER/DRYER CONNECTIONS
- ♦ PLAYGROUND
- ♦ LAUNDRY FACILITY ON SITE

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REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS



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FAIRFAX, SC 29827
803-632-1530

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ACCESSIBLE UNITS

TTY RELAY #1-800-735-2905

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS



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ESTILL, SC 29818
(803) 625-4385

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WEDNESDAY, 8:00 AM UNTIL 4:30 PM

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Housing is for persons 62 years of age or older or persons with disabilities.

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- ♦ FURNISHED KITCHEN
- ♦ ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS
- ♦ SPACIOUS LIVING & DINING AREA
- ♦ MINI-BLINDS

COMMUNITY AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- ♦ ON-SITE LAUNDRY FACILITIES
- ♦ PICNIC AREA

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

ACCESSIBLE UNITS

TTY RELAY #711

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



LEGALS

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: Richard Boatwright
Date of Death: August 5, 2022
Case Number: 2022 ES 06 00201
Personal Representative: Elliott Williams
Address: 105 Elsie Street, Blackville, S.C. 29817
Attorney: Clyde C. Dean Jr.
Address: P.O. Box 1405, Orangeburg, S.C. 29116
2023-33 3tp 3-08-23

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,

LEGALS

the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Helen J. Thompson
Date of Death: January 14, 2023
Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00029
Personal Representative: Summer H. Gaaney
Address: 617 Colt Drive, Williston, S.C. 29853
2023-34 3tp 3-08-23

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: Mary Workman
Date of Death: January 8, 2023
Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00026
Personal Representative: Ricky Workman
Address: 1549 Kingfisher Road, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
2023-36 3tp 3-15-23

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

LEGALS

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: Willie Walker
Date of Death: February 15, 2023
Case Number: 2023 ES 06 00034
Personal Representative: Willie Walker Jr.
Address: 3 Suntrace Court, Columbia, S.C. 29229
2023-37 3tp 3-15-23

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is a cooperative program financed from federal, state, and local funds. We are subject to the rules and regulations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. "Clemson Extension Service offers its programs to all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer". Accordingly, persons who believe they or their organization to be subjected to discrimination by the Extension Service may file a written complaint. Such complaints should be sent to either:
Director, Cooperative Extension Service
103 Barre Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, S.C. 29634-0110
Administrator,
Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250
Secretary of Agriculture
2023-38 3tp 3-15-23

CROSSWORD

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

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS

- Adam and Eve's son
- Blink of an eye, for short
- Tricep location
- Laughing on the inside, in text
- ___ bowl, frozen dish
- Bid on a house, e.g.
- Show off
- Actor's role
- Nostrils
- "Everything Everywhere All At Once" or "The Fablemans" nominee
- Trampled
- Humpty without t
- *Cate Blanchett's 6-time nominated movie
- Store in a silo
- Tiny crustacean
- Chop off
- Not digital
- Cut with a beam
- Empty spaces
- Not good
- Relating to pond scum
- Capri or Catalina
- Lament
- ___ Khan
- Full event
- *He's won the most academy awards
- Jump key

DOWN

- Key often used with ctrl
- Gold rush, e.g.
- Purse with notions
- Leechee, alt. sp.
- Dandruff locale
- This bird gets the worm?
- Give a traffic ticket
- Big do
- Cattail, e.g.
- *"___ Harris Goes to Paris," Best Costume Design nominee
- Tarzan and such
- Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
- *"The Banshees of Inisherin" nominee

- Polynesian dance, pl.
- Dress like Ancient Greeks
- *Austin Butler's gyrating character
- Gallows loop
- Oil crisis
- *Last year's Best Picture winner
- Like a Druid, e.g.
- Missouri River tributary
- Flying nuisance
- Lend a hand in crime
- Order's partner
- *"Guillermo ___'s Pinocchio"
- "My wife can vouch for me," e.g.
- Address to a boy, slangily
- Bucolics
- Desert traveler's hope
- Bikini Bottom locale
- Variation of meow
- Skirt shape
- Past tense of bid
- Roman remain, e.g.
- Cry of glee
- Like a full-fledged Mafia man
- Leo or Libra
- Jared's competitor
- Allow

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INVITATION TO BID

Low Country Health Care System will be receiving "Bids for Construction" of a 500 SF Addition to the Family Medical Center of Blackville, Blackville, SC on March 14, 2023.

Bid Documents may be obtained by contacting the Architect: Hughes, Beattie, O'Neal, Law & Associates, PC 1075 Brookhaven Drive, Aiken, SC 29803 803 648-9612 Email: dharper@hbolarchitecture.com.

Ashley Barnes, CEO, Low Country Health Care System, Fairfax, SC

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

Ongoing
Golden Harvest Food Pantry
Gateway Church, 8678 Marlboro Ave., Barnwell
2nd & 4th Fridays
9am-12pm

Wed., March 1
Spring Revival
Guest speaker Dr. Terry Lanford will explain how Jesus cares for us by examining His five miracles.
Elko Baptist Church
7467 Bay St., Elko
7pm

Sat., March 4
FREE Cat & Dog Vaccines
Christ Presbyterian Church,
848 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell
9am-1pm

March 6-Apr. 12
Mondays & Wednesdays
Line Dance Workshop
A FREE healthy lifestyle line dance workshop to offer health education to citizens.
Presented by Low Country Health Care System.
Williston Town Hall.

For more info, contact Angela Youmans at (803) 632-2533, ext. 1104 or (803) 686-0229.
9:30-10:30am

March 11
Varina Beauvoir Gun Raffle
Two winners. Only 200 tickets to be sold. Drawing on March 11. Donation of \$50. Proceeds benefit Jefferson Davis Academy.

March 16
“Let’s Talk”: Veterans Supporting Veterans Platform
Guest speaker Jennifer Foster from Clemson Extension will discuss “Healthy Choice”.
Barnwell County Agricultural Building (Clemson Extension), 34 Pechman St., Barnwell
6pm

Thurs., March 23
Blessing of the Crops
A new outdoor dinner for agriculture producers and supporters to pray for a bountiful harvest, discuss latest trends in the agricultural sector, and enjoy a meal created with ingredients from producers in the region.
King George Lavender Farm (490 Daisy Lane, Barnwell)
Tickets include dinner and admission. \$20 for Chamber members/market vendors or \$30 for general admission. Reserve a table (8 tickets) for \$350. Order tickets at www.southernpalmettochamber.org/events. Presented by AgSouth Farm Credit and hosted by Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce and Barnwell Farmers Market.
5:30-7:30pm

Fri., March 24
9th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser
Christ Presbyterian Church,
848 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell
Proceeds benefit the Barnwell County Animal Shelter.
Foundation. Plates are \$10 and include spaghetti and

meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert. Dine-in includes drink. Vegetarian sauce available. Delivery available to local.
11am-1pm & 5-7:30pm

Fri., May 12
Allendale-Barnwell Relay for Life
Tiger Stadium in Allendale. To join or form a team, please contact Artheen Fitts at 803-584-3368 or Margaret Maner at 803-686-0109.

Meetings

The Barnwell County Republican Party invites the community to the following events:
Mon., March 13
Biennial Precinct Reorganization Meeting, Barnwell County Courtroom
6:30pm
Mon., March 27
Makeup Meeting, Barnwell County Courtroom
6:30pm
Mon., April 17
County Convention, Barnwell County Courtroom
6:30pm

Location is Barnwell County Courthouse, 141 Main Street, Barnwell.

March 14
Allendale County Transportation Committee Meeting
James Brandt Building
398 Barnwell Highway
Allendale, SC 29810
6pm

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

Barnwell Library Events

March 10
Sandlapper SPUDS Luncheon: Sponsored by the Sandlappers League of Barnwell
Holy Apostles Church (9357 Patterson St, Barnwell) eat in or take out. Lunch includes their famous baked potato, salad and dessert.
This year’s fundraising event benefits Barnwell County Public Library.
Tickets are \$10 and can be picked up at the Barnwell County Public Library.
11:30am-1pm

ADULTS
Adult Craft Night
Thur., March 9
It’s almost time to decorate for Spring! Drop by to learn how to make a mesh wreath.
5-6:30pm

Potluck Book Club
Tues., March 28
We will be discussing *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny.
4pm

TWEENS/TEENS
Ages 8-18
Maze Egg Hunt
Thurs., March 30
Come by for an a-maze-ing egg hunt.
5-6:30pm

CHILDREN
Ages 3 and Up
Leprechaun Coin Craft
Mon., March 6
Mold and create your own coins out of modeling clay.
4-5pm

Ages 3 and Up
Lucky Charm Catapult STEM Activity
Thurs., March 16
Build your own catapult to see how far you can launch lucky charms.
4-5pm

Ages 3 and Up
Standing Rainbow STEM Activity
Mon., March 20
Find out how many Froot Loops it takes to build a rainbow.
4-5 pm

VIRTUAL STORY TIME
Thurs., March 2, 9, & 23
Videos will be posted on Facebook
11am

STORY TIME
at the Library
Thurs., March 16 & 30
Children’s Room
11am

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Local Directory

Barnwell Library

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

Blackville Library

Hours of Operation
19420 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville
(803) 624-2295
Mon, Tues, Thurs
10am-1pm
2pm-6pm

Williston Library

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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

2023 Lenten Services

The Barnwell County Ministerial Coalition would like to invite you to join us in our annual community Lenten Services.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 MAR 12:00 PM | BARNWELL UNITED METHODIST 236 MAIN ST. / PASTOR LISA WAY |
| 08 MAR 12:00 PM | NED BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH 10620 DUNBARTON BLVD./ PASTOR AL RIVETT |
| 15 MAR 12:00 PM | HAGOOD AVENUE BAPTIST 1144 HAGOOD AVE./ DR. BILL CLARKSON |
| 22 MAR 12:00 PM | HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH 9357 PATTERSON ST./PASTOR BOBBY DUKES |
| 29 MAR 12:00 PM | HAGOOD AVENUE BAPTIST 1144 HAGOOD AVE./ DR. BART KELLEY |
| 05 APR 12:00 PM | GATEWAY ASSEMBLIES 7678 MARLBORO AVE/PASTOR CHARLIE MORRIS |

The Barnwell County Ministerial Coalition, along with local churches, has hosted the community Lenten services for more than 30 years. This annual event is hosted by local downtown churches each Wednesday from Ash Wednesday through Palm Friday. The host church will provide a light lunch for community members to fellowship together, beginning at 12:00pm, followed by the Lenten service at 12:30pm in which community

All offerings provide for the Barnwell County Ministerial Coalition Community Benevolence Fund which may assist with utility bills for those in need and emergency hotel shelter.



SERVICES

Anglican Church of the Holy Apostles
228 Hagood Ave., Barnwell
Sun - Holy Eucharist service 10:30am
Sun School at 9:30am
Wed Morning prayer/breakfast 8am
Vicar Bill Clarkson

Barnwell United Methodist Church
236 Main Street, Barnwell
803-259-3331
Sun. Services & activities:
9:15am Coffee Fellowship in Crenshaw Hall
10am Adult Sunday School in Crenshaw Hall
10:15am Youth Sunday School
11am Traditional worship service and Children's Sunday School
Monthly activities:
United Methodist Women - date announced each month
Barnwell Soup Kitchen - 10:45am every 3rd Monday at First Baptist
Crochet Comforters - 10am on 4th Saturday

Bells Chapel Pentecostal Holiness
83 Week Ave., Olar
Sundays - 10:30am
Pastor Thomas Caldwell - calth02@yahoo.com (803) 335-9121 (803) 671-6369

Boiling Springs Chapel
5475 Boiling Springs Rd., Barnwell
Sunday Worship 5pm

Center of Hope Community Fellowship
(542 Main Street, Barnwell; beside IGA)
Sunday School 11:30am-12:15pm
Sunday Worship 12:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
Pastor/Founder Bishop Charlie D. Gillison

Christ Presbyterian Church
848 Hagood Ave., Barnwell
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:30am
Bible Study Wednesday 6pm
803-259-5653

First Baptist Church of Barnwell
161 Allen St, Barnwell
Contemporary Service
Sundays 9am
Traditional Service
Sundays 11am
Sunday School at 10:10am
Watch on facebook or listen in the parking lot over 90.5

Friendship Baptist Church Sunday School
5801 Friendship Rd., Barnwell
Sundays - Assembly 9:45am
Sunday School at 10am
Worship at 11am
Discipleship Training
Sundays - 6pm
Worship at 7pm

Hope Community Church of God
785 Main St., Barnwell
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 7pm

Jordan Missionary Baptist
200 Skyland Farm Road, Williston
Sunday School
2nd - 5th Sundays 9:30am
Worship
2nd-5th Sundays 10:30am

Life Tabernacle Church
1189 Clinton St., Barnwell
Sunday School 10am
Sunday worship 6pm
Wednesday service 7pm
Monday night prayer 7pm

Long Branch Baptist Church
3223 Highway 37, Williston
SUNDAY
9:15am - Sunday school
10:30am - Morning worship service
5pm - Bible study
6pm - Evening worship service
WEDNESDAY
6pm - Prayer service

Mt Lebanon Christian Church
420 Christian Rd., Barnwell
(803) 259-1438
mtlebanoncc@gmail.com
Sunday School at 10am
Sunday am worship 11am (blended music)
Sunday PM Bible Study 6pm (mid July-April)
www.mtlebanonchristianchurch.com
Minister Ron Franklin

Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church
10620 Dunbarton Blvd., Barnwell
Inside Services: Sunday school at 9am and services at 10am.
Bible study is held Tuesdays at 6:15pm. Please wear a mask.

Rosemary Baptist Church
151 Emerald Lane, Barnwell
In-House service on second and fourth Sundays at 12:15pm.
CDC guidelines will be used.
Pastor Sarah Perkins

Second Baptist Church of Barnwell
181 Church St., Barnwell
In person worship service. Masks and social distancing is encouraged. Temp. checks upon entrance.
Sundays 10am
For more info: Pastor Elder Lamonte Boyd (803) 259-1385
www.facebook.com/SBCBarnwell

Seven Pines Baptist Church
Snelling. Small community church welcomes visitors.
Sunday School: 9:50am
Service: 11am, 6pm
Pastor Mark Watford

Springfield Missionary Baptist Church
132225 Hwy. 278, Barnwell
Sundays, in-person worships services, masks are encouraged.
Pastor is Freddie Wright
11am

St. James Anglican
150 Pascallas St., Blackville
Sunday Worship service with Holy Communion: 10:30am
Thursday Evening: 6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th of the month: 6:30pm
stjamesanglicanblackville@gmail.com
803-671-0676 (mobile)

St. Mary Baptist Church
474 Hwy. 125, Martin
Mask and social distancing required.
Pastor is Rev. Fredrick Quattlebaum.
2nd & 4th Sundays - 10am

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Snelling
Park & Praise Service
2nd & 4th Sundays - 10am
Face masks should be worn at all times.

St. Peter Baptist Church
7110 Bay St., Elko
Mask and social distancing required.
Pastor is Rev. Anthony F. Gadson
Sunday Worship: 11am

Unity Baptist Church
Pastor Brian Howard
5504 Hilda Rd., Blackville
Sunday School: 9:45am
Sunday Worship: 11am & 6pm
Mid week service: Thursdays JAM kids (supper provided) 6pm and Adult service 7pm

Victory Baptist Church
3361 Hwy 70, Barnwell
Sunday Worship at 11am
Interim Preacher Terry Woodside

Word of Life Full Gospel Ministries
6254 Hwy 278, Barnwell
Wednesday Bible study/prayer Service 7pm
Sunday school 10:45 am
Worship Service 12pm
Facebook @wordoflifefgm



Education

Rotary awards students for selfless service

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeople sentinel.com

The Rotary Club of Barnwell County awarded three seniors with the Service Above Self Award at their February meeting— all of which coincidentally have aspirations to start a career in the medical field upon graduation.

“We are so proud of y’all, I speak on behalf of all the Rotarians when I say, Jakori, Maurice, Ryley, we are so proud of what you’re accomplishing right now and the impact you’re making in school and community,” said Club President Dr. Crissie Stapleton.

The Service Above Self Award is given to students from each school in Barnwell County who exemplify the club’s motto.

Maurice Odom is a senior at Barnwell High School (BHS). Odom is currently a dual enrollment student, as well as a member of the Beta Club and National Honor Society.

“I just want to let you know he is the ideal student, the model student,” said BHS Principal Franklin McCormack. “He is so dedicated academically, and he’s academically gifted as well.”



The Rotary Club of Barnwell County awarded three students with the Service Above Self Award for the month of February. From left to right, Barnwell School District 45 senior Maurice Odom, Blackville-Hilda High School senior Jakori Williams, and Jefferson Davis Academy senior Ryley Anderson.

Not only is Odom a line-backer for the Warhorses, but he also plays on the basketball and wrestling teams. For the past three years, Odom has started on the football field and was named All Region Player two years in a row as well as All State Player this year

by the South Carolina Football Coaches Association. He was also chosen to play in the Border Bowl.

Odom is also an active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

“After school, I plan to attend Limestone University to continue my football

dreams and my academic career, which is nursing,” said Odom, who recently signed with the university.

Jakori Williams is a senior at Blackville-Hilda High School (BHHS) and currently in the running for valedictorian.

“Thank y’all for the opportunity and picking me for Rotary Student of the Month, it’s really a blessing,” said Williams.

Williams is the president of the Beta Club and president of the Student Council. As a dual enrollment student, Williams will be graduating BHHS

with an associate’s degree in science, pre-med associate’s degree, and a general associate’s degree allowing him to step into college as a sophomore or a junior.

Williams plans to further his education at USC Columbia studying pharmacy

Ryley Anderson is a senior at Jefferson Davis Academy (JDA) who is in the running for valedictorian.

At JDA, Anderson is a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, and varsity basketball player. She also became a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) through training at Denmark Tech.

“My future plans are to attend Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College in radiology,” said Anderson, who was introduced by JDA educator, Shannon Chavez.

Sidney Mason was named the Williston-Elko High School Service Above Self Award recipient but was unable to attend and will be recognized at next month’s meeting in March.

“Thank you for exemplifying service above self in all you do,” said Dr. Stapleton in closing. “When your road leads you back to Barnwell County, we hope you will become a rotarian as well.”



Photos By: Alexandra Whitbeck / Reporter

JDA senior Ryley Anderson poses with her parents at the Rotary Club of Barnwell County’s February meeting, where she was awarded the Service Above Self Award.



BSD45 Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton and BHS principal Franklin McCormack stand with senior Maurice Odom after he was awarded the Service Above Self Award.



Blackville-Hilda High School principal Christina Snider stands proudly with Jakori Williams, a BHHS senior who was awarded the Service Above Self award.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 22 No. 12 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name: _____

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

Which is less?

Two is less than six.

Circle the number that is less in each row of lemons and limes.

7 [7 lemons]

5 [5 lemons]

4 [4 lemons]

6 [6 lemons]

6 [6 lemons]

5 [5 lemons]

My Letters

L is for Lime
I is for lime

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

My Rhyme Time

Patty Cake, Patty Cake,
Baker Man!
Find me something GREEN
As fast as you can!

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

My Numbers

How many lightbulbs?
How many lollipops?
How many lettuce leaves?

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

My Sentence

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

A lime tastes

Sunday

Letter Identification

With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter L in lime.

Monday

Math Play

Point to the number 2 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it’s large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

L-to-I Dot-to-Dot

With your child, find and circle six uppercase Ls on one sheet of the newspaper. On the same sheet of newspaper, find and circle six lowercase Is. Have your child connect the “dots” to make a silly picture.

Wednesday

Look for Less

With your child, look at two pictures in today’s newspaper. Ask the following questions: Which picture has less sky? In which picture is there less of a crowd? Which portraits have less hair?

Thursday

Little and BIG

Look through the newspaper for two pictures, one of something little and one of something big. Cut them out and make a “Little and Big” book or picture.

Friday

What’s for Lunch?

Look through the newspaper to find pictures of things you like to eat for lunch. Cut them out and put the pictures in a paper bag. Add pictures each day. Then sort the pictures and “make lunches” for everyone in the family!

Saturday

Draw on the Lines

Turn one page of the classified ads to a horizontal position. Use the lines that divide the columns as guides for early writing practice. Have your child draw straight lines or “stripes” in the columns. The lines of type will provide a visual guide.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy’s signature _____ Date _____

Learning Buddies! Kid Scoop Junior comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill. **Step by Step Success** 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Monument Fun Facts

Have a family member take a guess at answering these questions. Use the code to check their answers.

- = 0
- = 1
- = 2
- = 3
- = 4
- = 5
- = 6
- = 7
- = 8
- = 9

1. How tall are the faces on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet tall

2. How wide are the eyes on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet wide

3. How long are the noses on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet long

4. How wide are the mouths on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet wide

5. How tall is the face on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet tall

6. How long is the outstretched arm on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet long

7. How long is the pointing finger on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet

8. How tall is the horse's head on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ stories tall

Learn more about these monuments by visiting: crazyhorsememorial.org www.nps.gov

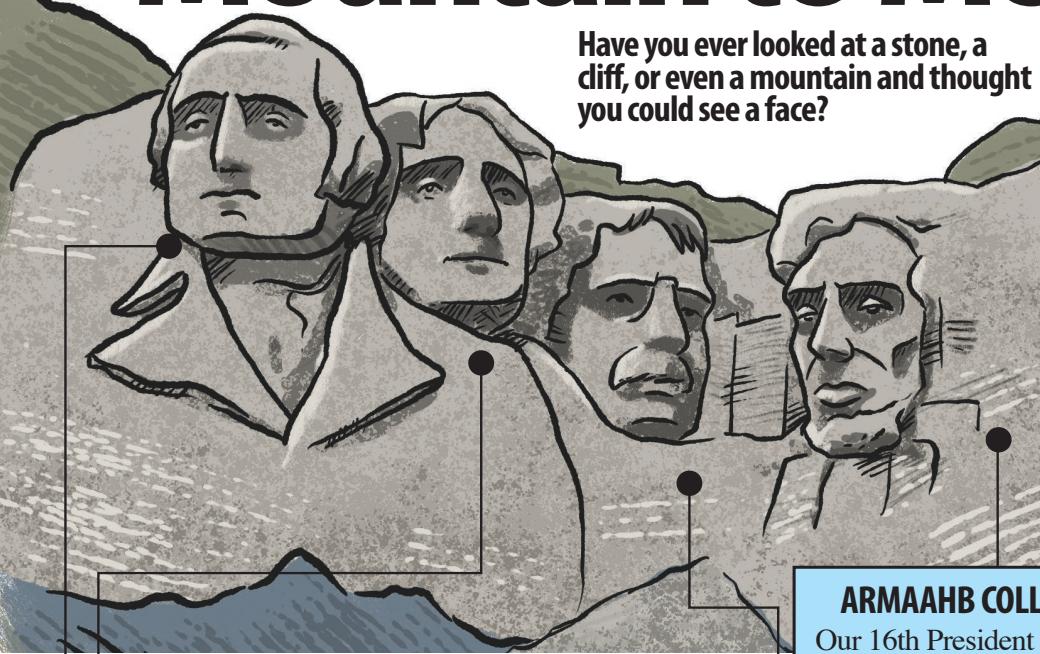
Mountain to Monument

Have you ever looked at a stone, a cliff, or even a mountain and thought you could see a face?

In 1924, the American sculptor Gutzon Borglum was invited to the Black Hills in South Dakota to turn a mountain into an enormous sculpture. When he looked at one of the mountains, he saw that he could carve the faces of four of our presidents there.



The people of South Dakota hoped the monuments would attract tourists to their state. And attract tourists they do. Nearly 3 million people visit Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial every year.



Who is carved into Mount Rushmore?
Four presidents were chosen to be carved into Mt. Rushmore. Unscramble the name of each president. The clues will help you.

ARMAAHB COLLNNI
Our 16th President ended the Civil War and slavery.

OREGEG TAWGONHISN
The first president of the United States.

MOTSHA FEFEJORSN
Third President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence.

DOORTHEE VELSTROEO
The 26th U.S. President helped to grow the country at home and abroad.

Crazy Horse Memorial

A mountain in the Black Hills is being carved into the shape of a man. It is a giant carving of Crazy Horse, a fearless and famous Lakota war leader.

When finished, the Crazy Horse Memorial will be the biggest sculpture in the world.

Chief Standing Bear and other Native American chiefs invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to carve the Crazy Horse Memorial out of a mountain. Work began over 70 years ago, and it will take many more years to complete it.

Extra! Extra!

Carve Out the ABCs

Choose one page of the newspaper. Find five or more words and write them on another sheet of paper in ABC order.

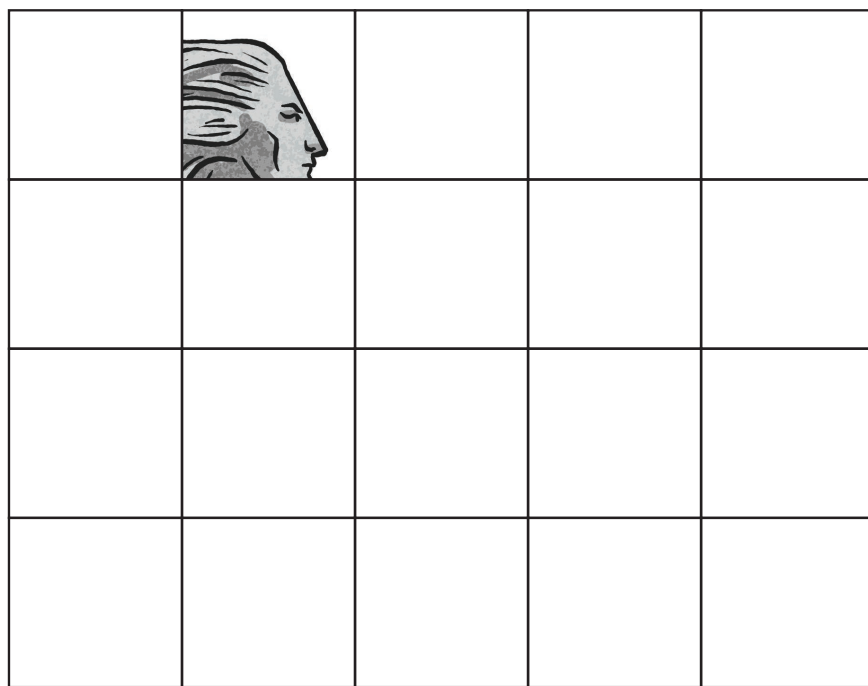
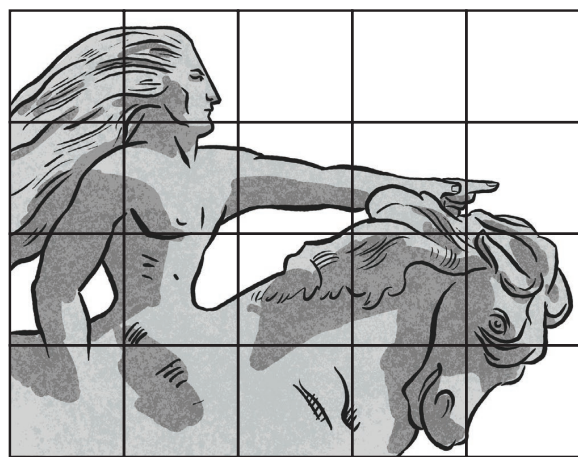
Standards Link: Identify cause and effect using visual cues.

Grow a Picture

You can make a small picture larger in much the same way Borglum and Ziolkowski expanded small sculptures into mountain-sized ones.

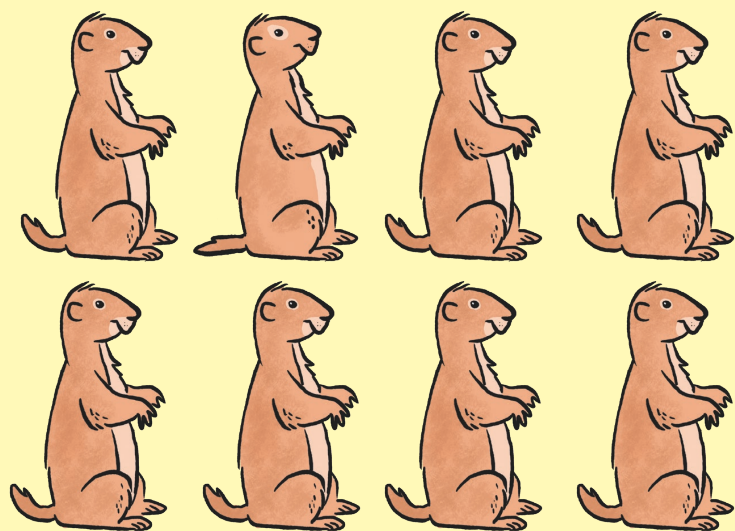
Look at the small drawing of Crazy Horse. It is drawn in a grid of small boxes.

To the right is a grid with larger boxes. Copy the drawing of Crazy Horse, one box at a time, and you will make a drawing that is larger than the original. One box is done for you.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Black Hills are filled with wildlife. Prairie dogs romp and play in the fields and meadows. Can you find the prairie dog that looks different than all the others?



Double Double Word Search

- AMERICAN
- CARVED
- CHIEF
- FACE
- FOUR
- GIANT
- GRID
- HILLS
- HORSE
- NATIVE
- PRESIDENT
- SCULPTURE
- STATE
- VISIT
- WORK

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

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **MONUMENT**

The noun **monument** means something built in memory of a person or event.

Mt. Rushmore is a **monument** that honors four U.S. Presidents.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Memory Buddies

Play this game with a buddy. Choose a picture from the newspaper. Study the picture for one minute. Then cover the picture and take turns telling each other everything you can remember about it.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Summarize main ideas in writing.

How do you inspire an artist?

ANSWER: Easel-y!

Write On!

If I Were President

Imagine that you have been elected President of the United States. What would you do? What would you change?



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Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.