

Questions remain after missing woman found

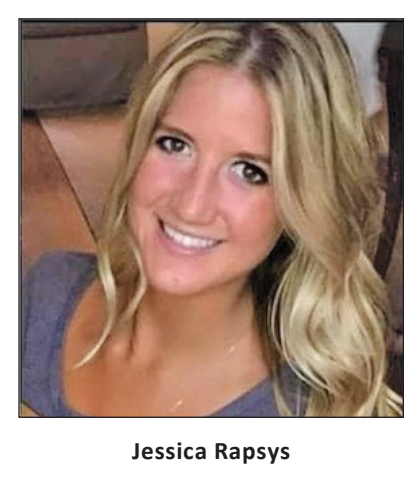
Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

A Florida woman was found alive less than 72 hours after she went missing in Allendale County. Jessica Rapsys, a 27-year-old woman from Jacksonville, Florida, went missing in Allendale on Tuesday, August 13 around 7:30-8:00 p.m. She was found alive and well on Friday, August 16. The search for Rapsys included the Allendale County Sheriff's

Office, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Energy Savannah River Site Security Services and the owners of Creek Plantation, where Rapsys was found, according to a SLED statement. The search involved dozens of volunteers, bloodhounds and the use of helicopters. Allendale County Sheriff James Freeman said Rapsys' car was found stuck on the train tracks along Route 125 near Martin. "When the bloodhounds were

put on the ground, her cell phone and a pair of her shoes were located about 150 to 200 yards from the car," Freeman said. "We tracked all night long until the dogs wore out." Rapsys was found on Friday morning. "A gentleman contacted us who was doing some work on a house on Creek Plantation," Freeman said. "The young lady had walked out of the woods and he could tell that she was all scratched up and everything so he called 911 to find out if we had anybody missing."

After that, Freeman said, Rapsys was taken to the hospital in good condition, aside from bug bites and scratches. Freeman said additional information about Rapsys' case will be released soon. During the search, a self-described neighbor named Donald McBride started a GoFundMe which "aims to cover expenses associated with the search." By the time Rapsys was found, the GoFundMe had raised \$18,030 from dozens of donors, and the



Dylan Carter, a former contestant on The Voice, performs at the Awareness at the Park event on August 10 at Barnwell State Park. Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

Event gives 'voice' to overdose awareness

Donna-Maria Conzalina
Faith Correspondent
www.thepeoplesentinel.com

Messages and songs of hope filled the Barnwell State Park community building. The Axis I Center of Barnwell hosted Awareness at the Park to promote overdose awareness on August 10. Peer support specialists coordinated the event in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day, which is August 31. "International Overdose Awareness Day is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the profound grief felt by families and friends whose loved ones have died or suffered permanent injury from a drug overdose. The opioid epidemic is one of the world's worst public health crises. The overdose awareness campaign creates a safe space for discussions on best practices to intervene and treat opioid use disorders and spread



Several people, including those who've overcome addiction struggles, gave their testimonies at the event. Donna-Maria Conzalina

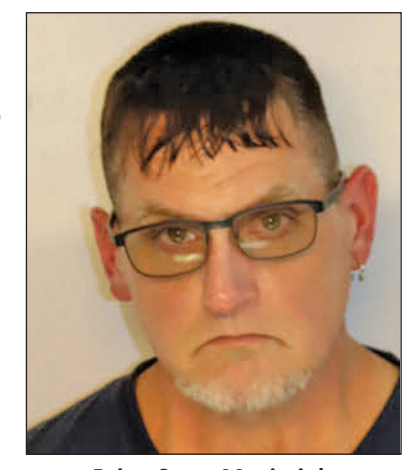
the message that drug overdose and death are preventable," said Pamela Rush, executive director of the Axis I Center. Data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention estimated that in 2022 108,000 lives were lost to opioid-related overdoses. By 2023, the number of fatal overdose deaths declined by 3 percent to 107,500; however, "much work is left to be done to

end overdose deaths," Rush said. In 2022, Barnwell County had 23 fatal opioid-related overdose deaths. In 2023, this number dropped significantly to six fatal overdose deaths. "While we are excited to see the number of fatal overdoses decline, we still grieve those who lost their lives due to overdose. See AWARENESS, 3A

Barnwell man charged in overdose death

Alexandra Whitbeck
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An arrest has been made in connection with the June 2023 overdose-related death of 42-year-old Windy Renee Fogle. On June 22, 2023 around 1:30 p.m., law enforcement responded to a residence on Wildwood Road in Barnwell County. They were met by homeowner Debra Carter, who called 911 after finding her daughter cold to the touch in her bedroom, according to a Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) report. Carter told law enforcement she last spoke with her daughter around 11 p.m. the night before, and all appeared to be normal. She explained Fogle had remained at the residence earlier that day after coming home from work in the afternoon. In conversation with Carter, law enforcement learned Fogle had a history with substance abuse and had been living with her mother in efforts to stop using. According to the report, investigators found drug



paraphernalia on two of the dressers in Fogle's bedroom and .4 grams of narcotics believed to be heroin were located, states the report. The narcotics obtained were sent to the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for testing. During the search of Fogle's bedroom, investigators took her cell phone for evidence. A search warrant for the phone was granted by Judge Susan Anderson on July 26, 2023. Investigators found messages See ARREST, 10A

Accommodations Tax: Nine local groups receive funding for tourism

Alexandra Whitbeck
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Everytime you make a purchase in Barnwell County, a two percent accommodations tax (A-Tax) is included. How municipalities and counties can use the earnings from this tax is detailed in S.C. Code of Laws Chapter 4 Section 6-4-5. From the 2023 A-Tax, Barnwell County received \$92,801.90 in total. Municipalities and counties collecting more than \$50,000 from the accommodations tax must:

1. Allocate the first \$25,000 to the general fund.
2. Allocate 5 percent of the balance to the general fund. (For Barnwell County this totaled \$3,390.09.)
3. Allocate 30 percent to the

municipalities or counties designated marketing organization. (For Barnwell County, this organization is the Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce and this allotment totaled \$19,323.54.)

4. The remaining balance plus earned interest received must be allocated back to community organizations through the recommendations of a designated committee. (For Barnwell County, the remainder of this funding was \$45,088.26 to be split amongst local groups.)

To determine how this \$45,088.26 was distributed into the community, the A-Tax Committee was formed in early spring and tasked with creating a See TOURISM, 2A



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OBITUARIES, 7A

Madeline Yvonne (Prather) Coto - Barnwell	James Sanders - Barnwell
Henry Delk Jr. - Blackville	John Stokes - Allendale
Katherine Ferguson Johnson - Florida	Jerry Wayne Wilson Sr. - Kline
	Jeff Wolfe - Jackson

Barnwell resident among firefighters awarded by Charleston Fire Dept.

Engine 116 of the Charleston Fire Department won a 2023 New Life Award for providing "exceptional service" in assisting in the birth of a child.

This New Life Award was presented to Ryan Delk (Barnwell resident), William Easterlin, Wyatt Baldwin, and Devon Unwin.

"This service exemplifies the dedication, training, courage, and commitment that is the tradition of a Charleston firefighter," stated the department's Facebook page.

On July 29, 2023 around 1 a.m. Engine 116 was dispatched to a scene for a pregnancy. Upon arrival they found a vehicle on the side of the road with the patient in the passenger seat of the vehicle.

"Upon assessment the crew determined delivery



Ryan Delk (right) was one of four Charleston firefighters who received an award for providing exceptional service. He's a resident of Barnwell.

COURTESY: CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

was imminent and the crew prepared for delivery. The baby was delivered and the crew proceeded to suction the baby's mouth and nose,

stimulate them, as well as cut the umbilical cord. The crew then cleaned off the baby and wrapped them in a blanket," states the

department on Facebook. Charleston County EMS arrived on scene and the baby was transported by ambulance.

TOURISM: Projects receive A-TAX funds

FROM PAGE 1A

grant application. On this committee is Carson Alexander, Sunil Tch, Shonda Crawford, Shelby Broomfield, Shawnta Harrison, Russell Hodges, and Evelyn Coker.

The Barnwell County Accommodations Tax Grant Program began accepting applications in May.

"The primary goal of the Barnwell County A-TAX Grant Program is to utilize tax proceeds to foster tourism," states the county's website. "This competitive grants program is dedicated to distributing A-TAX funds to qualifying organizations to achieve the following objectives: maximize the use of county funds and enhance accountability for A-Tax funds."

There were nine total applicants. All were funded, and funding was capped at \$5,000.

- The People-Sentinel for Faces and Places of Barnwell County magazine – \$5,000
- Sweetwater Country Club for the Masters 2025 golf promotion – \$5,000
- Axis I Center of Barnwell for the Barnwell Farmers Market Ag & Art Tour for Barnwell County – \$5,000
- Southern Palmetto Foundation for the BBQ, Blues, & Boos event – \$5,000
- Blackville Music & Arts Festival – \$5,000
- King George Lavender Farm for the Annual Lavender Festival – \$5,000
- Barnwell Sundial Festival – \$5,000
- Williston Disc Golf Club for tournaments and maintenance – \$4,000
- Dreams, Imaginations, & Gifts (DIG) Development Program STEM Festival – \$5,000

This totals \$44,000 for local groups to promote tourism. The remaining \$1,088.26 will roll into next year's A-Tax allotment for grants unless county council instructs otherwise, according to administrator Meredith Wright.

According to Councilman Daniel Alexander, the finance committee reviewed the allocations and commended the A-Tax committee for their work on this project as well as Councilman Houston.

"I would encourage others in the community to apply," Alexander, who made a motion to approve the allocations with a second by Councilman Houston.

The DIG STEM Festival is receiving A-Tax grant funding, and already receives \$5,000 from the county in the budget. However, considering the budget is passed and the checks have been cut, they will receive funding from the county and the A-Tax grant.

In the future, this organizations may have to go through the A-Tax grant application rather than receiving funding directly from the county. However, that will be determined by a future council.

For more information about the A-Tax grants, visit the county website.

Notice

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Branchville Villa complex at Branchville Lane, Branchville, SC

Denmark Gardens Complex at Mimosa Avenue, Denmark, SC

Fairfax Boundary Complex at Boundary Street, Fairfax, SC

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

Barnwell Arms Complex at Thomas Street, Barnwell, SC

Bamberg Villa Complex at Race Street, Bamberg, SC

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

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AG-0003364030-01

Grant funding available for health, early childhood projects

The Tri-County Community Foundation is a community based organization supported by charitable donations to improve the quality of life in Barnwell, Allendale, and Bamberg counties.

Grant funding in amounts up to \$1,000 is available to qualified service providers in the areas of

early childhood education (4K to grade 3) and health/fitness. A total of \$40,000 was awarded last year. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to, churches, public schools, municipal governments, civic groups, or other non-profit health or education entities.

The deadline for applications is

September 10, 2024. Awards will be announced in October 2024.

Grant application and guidelines are online at www.TCCFSC.org or you may call the office.

For further information please contact Edward F. Moore, executive director, at (803) 259-2021 or P.O. Box 160, Barnwell, S.C. 29812.

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.

Randall Taylor Barton, 27, of 549 Coker Street, Denmark, S.C. was arrested on August 14, 2024 by BCSO for 2 counts of Failure to Pay Court Fines. Barton was booked and released to BCDC.

Solomon Johnson, 57, of 1249 Sunshine Road, Blackville, S.C. was arrested on August 18, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Pay Child Support. Johnson was booked and released to BCDC.

Zacharias Jones, 47, of 1905 Davis Bridge Road, Williston, S.C. was arrested on August 16, 2024 by BCSO for Distribution of Cocaine, Trafficking Cocaine, Distribution of Ecstasy, Trafficking Ecstasy, Distribution of Marijuana, Illegal Distribution of Prescription Narcotics, Distribution of Meth, Distribution of Fentanyl, Trafficking Fentanyl, Distribution of Crack Cocaine, Distribution of Crack Cocaine in Proximity to a School, Prohibited Possession of a Firearm/Ammunition of a Convicted Felon, and Possession of a Firearm During a Violent Crime. Jones was booked

and released to BCDC.

Destiny Carissa Knopf, 24, of 3452 Reynolds Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on August 17, 2024 by BCSO for Criminal Domestic Violence. Knopf was booked and released to BCDC.

Brian Scott Maximiek, 52, of 89 Pineneedle Rd., Barnwell, was arrested on August 14, 2024 by BCSO for Involuntary Manslaughter and Distribution of Fentanyl. Maximiek was booked and released to BCDC.

Wesley William Mitchell, 20, of 264 Baker Street, Blackville, S.C. was arrested on August 16, 2024 by BCSO for Burglary. Mitchell was booked and released to

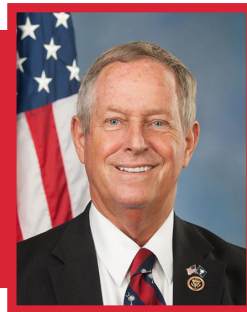
BCDC.

Joe Tyler Morris, 60, of 1141 Double Pond Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on August 15, 2024 by BCSO for Distribution of Meth. Morris was booked and released to BCDC.

Phillip Raymond Padgett, 36, of 888 Lebanon Road, Barnwell, S.C. was arrested on August 18, 2024 by BCSO for Failure to Appear. Padgett was booked and released to BCDC.

Maurice A. Snider Jr., 61, of 240 Marie Street, Williston, S.C. was arrested on August 16, 2024 by BCSO for Conspiracy. Snider was booked and released to BCDC.

CONGRESSMAN JOE WILSON



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AWARENESS: Event promotes overdose awareness, message of hope

FROM PAGE 1A



The family-friendly event included food, activities, live entertainment, testimonies and much more.

Top Photos By: Jonathan Vickery / Publisher

A large majority of the fatal overdoses are due to synthetic fentanyl being manufactured in Mexico and shipped and sold in the United States," said Rush.

The Axis I Center provides outpatient treatment services, Medication Assisted Treatment, Intensive Outpatient Program services, Peer Support services, and the distribution of Narcan and other harm-reduction resources to reduce the impact of opioid use disorders and overdoses. These services are available to anyone in the community.

The theme of the 2024 Overdose Awareness Day was "Together We Can." As Rush explained, "Together we can prevent overdoses. No one should stand alone in the fight to end addiction and overdoses. Every individual's life matters. We are stronger together as a community when we come together to address this issue."

The Axis I Center of Barnwell is thankful for the community and the event's sponsors, including SRP Federal Credit Union, King Mackerel, Barnwell State Park, Plum Pretty, Barnwell Caribbean, Warhorse Motors, M&M Glass, Barnwell First Steps, Advanced Auto, Huddle House, Russell's Pizza of Williston, and Chick-fil-A.

Kathy B. Witherspoon, deputy director/office manager at Axis I Center, added, "Addiction doesn't choose age, race, religion, wealth, or status in society. I have a friend and a family member who lost their lives due to addiction, but I have seen what recovery looks like and I know the work that we do at Axis I Center is so important. Events like Overdose at the Park brings



Axis I Center staff helped make the event a success and work daily to help those struggling with addictions.



Sponsors of the event pose for a photo with Dylan Carter who provided entertainment.

awareness and opportunities for people to ask questions."

The Axis I Center thanks Dylan Carter, a contestant on The Voice, for providing entertainment. He is a native of South Carolina.

"Many may ask why we would have entertainment at an Overdose Awareness Event – personally, I was hoping Dylan would draw a larger crowd in order to make it easier to spread information and raise awareness. Dylan may not even be aware, but he created a welcoming and supportive atmosphere with his song choices. Little things like that help reduce stigma associated with addiction and provide a sense of community and hope. I know there were those in attendance who are still grieving over their loved one who lost their life to addiction but for a moment, the music began to be comforting and brought smiles and laughter. Music

can be medicine for the soul."

Carter said he was thankful for the invitation. He was also appreciative that Witherspoon's daughter, Laney Fox, drove over four hours to support the event and see him perform.

"This event is underrated in my opinion. There needs to be more events bringing awareness to the dangers of addiction and overdose. Too many people have lost their lives to addiction and overdose, and people struggling need to know they are not alone," said Carter.

Initially, he told Witherspoon he was unable to attend because he had previously scheduled another gig for the same day. Realizing the importance of the overdose awareness event, Carter started thinking he might be able to do both events.

"I knew how much it would mean to Mrs. Kathy

for me to be there and I also knew that I needed to be there! So, I made it happen! I drove two hours there and arrived at 2 p.m., I sang from 2:30-3:30 and then I went back to Summerville! I didn't get to stay for the whole event, but I'm so glad I chose to be there for part of it. I knew I had to be there at this event because the overdose and addiction community needs all the support they can get! I feel as though addiction and overdose is not talked about much and it is a problem that needs to be talked about! I am so glad I was able to shine a light on it, and hopefully I helped someone feel less alone while doing so!" Carter said.

Carter hopes to take his gift of singing "all around the world," he said. "I want to be able to connect to people and make them feel something! I am leaning towards becoming a Christian artist and I cannot wait for everyone to hear my new song coming out later this year called 'Born A Sinner'. I hope my music and my voice will continue to connect with people and make them feel heard and understood!"

Being heard and understood when it comes to addiction was expressed strongly with these sentiments from recovering addict, Gabriel Ethridge, who was addicted to drugs for seven years, overdosed countless times, and "was saved around 50 times or more from Narcan. The Holy Spirit came to me and something changed. When

I was in jail, I realized I was fighting between the spiritual and the world. On the spiritual side of things, when you start looking at it, drug addiction becomes more of a 'How do you want to live? Do you want to be stuck in the world? It's harsh and cruel and it doesn't play fair."

He stressed, "It's important that we keep running events like this because it helps inform the public how to help addicts overcome addiction and save lives. People are more equipped to know what to do if they see someone overdosed. I know I've been saved from overdose, and I wouldn't be here without it. Drugs get you stuck in a loop. When you see the spiritual side of it, you can see outside of that and you're able to overcome it. God's the only one who can give us true understanding of things. I'd be clean then struggle and return to drugs, knowing I didn't want to do that, go through those hardships. I struggled until I connected to the spirituality of life. Now I go to the AA group in Williston, Axis I meetings on Monday mornings and Church of Christ in Williston with my grandparents."

He finished his thoughts by saying, "I think all addicts, when you come out on the other end, you're supposed to take that experience and connect with people that are going through that hardship on a personal level. I try to connect with them, tell them I know it's hard, but you're doing good."

Summer Padgett, one of Axis I's peer support specialists, overdosed twice, did house arrest and is in recovery for five years now, said she "felt hopeless. I didn't know where or which way to turn to go to get help, but I knew I wanted to change my life because I didn't want the next time I overdosed to be the last time."

Rebecca Mercer, who is four years sober, said she overdosed and "when my son and daughter helped save me, I knew I had to change. It only took one time and it's the best decision I ever made."

Karen Falcon, another peer support specialist at Axis I, celebrates five years of recovery. "Addiction can affect anyone, any age, economic group at any point in their life. I know this because I was older when my addiction began. It affected my attitude, relationships, my family and eventually, my career. I was very lucky that my family never gave up on me. It's so important to have family support. My family was a large factor and for some reason, that is why I got my act together. I want everyone to know that for those dealing with substance abuse, it's so important to have family encouragement and support," she said.

For Sara Johnson, she said, "Recovery came late in life. At the depths of my addiction, I lost everything. It's never too late to get help, to suggest help to a loved one. You never know what words, deeds or gestures you may do that help someone change their life. My mother helped get me where I am now. God bless her."

Courtney Barwick, a mother of four, did drugs through each pregnancy, she said. "It's a disease, not a choice, and at that time I loved drugs more than my kids. I lost who I was and no one wanted to be around me. DSS got involved, but even then, I wasn't ready to change. March 2021 I got arrested and I want to thank the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office for the start of my recovery and Axis I for the education of how to maintain my recovery. I'm a peer support specialist with Axis I now, helping others learn that change is possible."

Recovery is possible.

GOOD THINGS

are Happening at

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FOUND: Missing woman located

FROM PAGE 1A

GoFundMe was disabled. "I am trying to stop donations now. ... Control of this fundraiser will be transferred to the Rapsys family when they are ready and then they can designate

their bank account." Renée Wunderlich, Director of Public Information at SLED, said the agency could not provide information beyond what was included in their press release.

"The Rapsys family would like to extend their deepest thanks to everyone who helped find Jessica, and respectfully ask for privacy at this time," the statement said.

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ECM Summer Camp hosts 75 students



Cooking class taught campers a variety of meals to bring back home and prepare for their families and themselves.



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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During the month of June, Williston-Elko Middle School (WEMS) was transformed into a creative and art-integrated wonderland where students could hone their interests in a variety of areas.

Seventy-five middle schoolers from WEMS and Macedonia Elementary-Middle School in Blackville, including a handful of rising fourth and fifth graders, all joined together to take classes in circuits & electricity, crochet, photography, cooking, print-making, music production, and much more.

For the second year in a row, the needed teachers and materials were all provided by Engaging Creative Minds (ECM) at no cost to the school district, bringing free summer fun to Williston and Blackville students.

"It was so successful last year that we knew we wanted to do it again," said program organizer and band director Jessica Pym.

Based in Charleston, ECM is a non-profit funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission and the South Carolina Department of Education through American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds.

For over 10 years, ECM has been hiring and training local artists, STEM professionals, and cultural leaders to guide summer camps, afterschool, and in-school programs. WEMS teachers participating in the summer program are also funded through ECM to lead classes.

Ernest Anderson is one of those instructors. He taught cardboard creations, where students are taking what would otherwise be trash and

transforming it into shields and swords.

Not only were students encouraged to recycle, but Anderson found they were excited to create something and hold their finished product in their hands.

One difference between this summer and last was an increased number of programs and the implementation of student choice. Every student was able to select their first, second, and third choice for classes.

"One of the things we wanted to change this year was implementing student choice, because kids are happier when they get to explore what they like to explore," said Pym. "We couldn't necessarily get them into everything they wanted just based on scheduling options we had, but we were able to get them at least two of their choices."

This style serves as a break from the traditional school-day for not only students, but teachers as well.

"I've really enjoyed talking

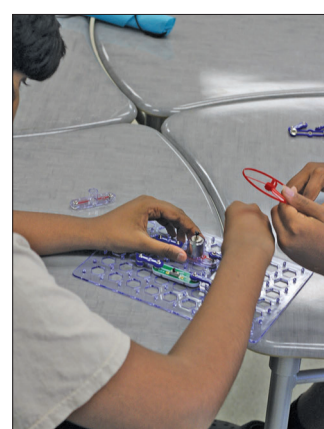
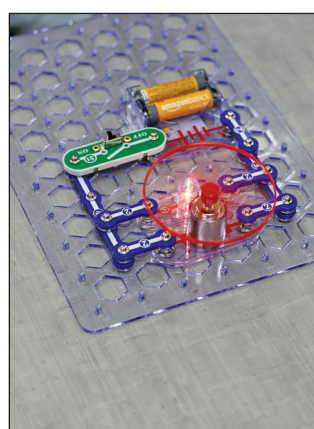
enrolled in the traditional summer school, two are arts-based and three are core curriculum. Mallett enjoys how the arts subjects are broken up throughout the day to provide the students and teachers with a mental break from the usual curriculum.

This format also requires students to travel to their required classrooms independently and work with a different teacher and students each block, providing insight into time management aspects of high school.

To further give these middle schoolers a preview of high school, some of their classes were taught by Williston and Blackville teenagers such as Gabe Refugia.

Refugia is one of the 15 junior counselors paid by ECM to guide summer programming. Junior counselors serve as assistants to teachers and can also lead their own classes with adult oversight.

Refugia was a junior counselor last year, and this year he is leading a class on circuits.



Circuits were one of the many classes offered during the summer camp. Taught by Junior Counselor and Williston-Elko alumni Gabe Refugia, students learned the basics as well as some advanced skills.



An Engaging Creative Minds summer camper is all smiles under an inspirational mural on the wall at Williston-Elko Middle School.



Photography was one of the courses offered to ECM summer campers. Many students left with a portfolio of photos.

to kids I don't normally get to talk to," said WEMS interventionist Emilie Mallett.

At the four-week long camp, students learned both arts-based and core curriculum content in five scheduled blocks. For those also

"He had the students make a drawing, any drawing they wanted, and they put a paper circuit behind it ... so when you touched a certain spot on the drawing, something would light up," said Pym.

One student created a Star

Wars themed lightsaber battle.

Although not in the circuits class, soon-to-be WEMS seventh grader Jade Saturday has been expressing creativity in the kitchen as part of the cooking class. Two stand-out foods she made were walking

tacos and guacamole.

It was Saturday's first year in the camp, and overall she liked "being here with my friends," she said. She also participated in cardboard creations with Anderson.

The students held an end-

of-the-year celebration with performances and a cookout on June 27 described as "bittersweet" by Pym.

For more information about Engaging Creative Minds, visit <https://engagingcreativeminds.org/>.



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NOTICES

LEGALS

on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). For complete terms of sale, attention is drawn to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Order for Sale on file with the Clerk of Court for Barnwell County.

A personal deficiency judgment being demanded, bidding will remain open for thirty (30) days after the date of sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 5.5% per annum. Should the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent fail to appear on sales day, the property shall not be sold, but shall be readvertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent is present.

Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property. Purchaser is responsible for the preparation and filing of their deed.

August 6, 2024
Barnwell, South Carolina
The Honorable James Martin Harvey, Jr.
Special Referee for Barnwell County
2024-157 3tc 8-21-24

NOTICES

LEGALS

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED JACQUALIN STRICKLIN: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to this complaint upon the subscriber, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the complaint, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

June 9, 2023
Barnwell, South Carolina
Shalonda Wilburn, Esquire
Wilburn Law Firm, LLC
135 Chesterfield St. South Aiken, SC 29801
Telephone: (803) 226-0479
scwilburn@wilburnlawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

COMPLAINT

(Divorce)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BARNWELL
IN THE FAMILY COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASE NO.: 2023-DR-06-062
JAMES CARR,
Plaintiff
vs.
JACQUALIN STRICKLIN,
Defendant

Plaintiff James Carr, through undersigned counsel, would respectfully show this Court the following:

1. Plaintiff is a resident of Barnwell County, State of South Carolina.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant was last a resident of Barnwell County, State of South Carolina.
3. Plaintiff and Defendant last shared a residence in Barnwell County, State of South Carolina.
4. Plaintiff has lived in South Carolina for over one year prior to the start of this action.
5. Plaintiff is informed and believes this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the issues and personal jurisdiction over the parties in this action.
6. Plaintiff and Defendant were married to each other on March 5, 2021, in Volusia County, City of Daytona Beach in the State of Florida.
7. Plaintiff and Defendant separated on or about January of 2022, when the Defendant absconded from the marital residence. The parties have remained living separate and apart from each other without cohabitation for more than one (1) continuous year prior to filing this action.
8. There are no minor children of this marriage, and none are expected.
9. The parties have no marital property.
10. The parties have no marital debt.
11. It is unknown whether the Defendant desires a name change in this action.
12. Plaintiff believes that this marriage is forever broken and is that Plaintiff is entitled to a complete and final divorce, a vinculo matrimonii, from Defendant upon the ground of desertion for a period of one year, pursuant to § 20-3-10(2) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; or alternatively, upon the ground of one (1) year's continuous separation, pursuant to § 20-3-10(5) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.
13. Plaintiff does not wish to receive alimony and believes Defendant should be barred from receiving alimony from the Plaintiff.
14. There is no collusion between the parties to get a divorce, and reconciliation of the parties is not possible, WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court grant the following relief:

A. For an Order of divorce, a *vinculo matrimonii*, from Defendant upon the ground of desertion for a period of one year, pursuant to § 20-3-10(2) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; or alternatively, upon the ground of one (1) year's continuous separation, pursuant to § 20-3-10(5) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.
B. For all other just and proper relief as

NOTICES

LEGALS

this honorable court may deem just and proper.

June 9, 2023
Barnwell, South Carolina
Shalonda Wilburn, Esquire
Wilburn Law Firm, LLC
135 Chesterfield St. South Aiken, SC 29801
Telephone: (803) 226-0479
scwilburn@wilburnlawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiff
2024-160 3tc 9-4-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Allendale County, the address of which is 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, S.C. 29810, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Mary F. Allen
Date of Death: February 13, 2024
Case Number: 2024 ES 03 00059
Personal Representative: Joanni A. Long
Address: 240 Green Street, Allendale, S.C. 29810
2024-161 3tp 9-4-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Victoria Dimitrie
Date of Death: July 24, 2024
Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00150
Personal Representative: David Dimitrie
Address: 1033 Seven Pines Road, Barnwell, S.C. 29812
2024-162 3tp 9-4-24

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7B

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MUSIC 101

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7B

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE CLUES

- ACROSS**
1. Meat chunks
 6. Calendar square
 9. * ___ signature, or notation that describes #34 Down
 13. Hiya or howdy
 14. Down Under runner
 15. West Point student
 16. At full speed
 17. Big Apple
 18. Flounder's domain
 19. *Complementary notes sung simultaneously
 21. *Not sonata
 23. Debate position
 24. Painter Chagall
 25. Munchhausen's story
 28. Casino chip
 30. *R in R&B
 35. Spanish earthen pot
 37. Lobed organs
 39. Nest for an eagle
 40. Bada fide
 41. *Adagio or moderato, e.g.
 43. What a willow did?
 44. *Type of piano technician
 46. Flock member description
 47. Fill beyond full
 48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
 50. Jon Krakauer's book " ___ the Wild"
 52. High craggy hill
 53. Church congregation
 55. Hole punching tool
 57. *A ___, or without accompaniment
 61. *Fast
 65. Not asleep
 66. 2000 lbs.
 68. Acquisition through marriage
 69. Rubber tree product
 70. Director's cry
 71. *Five lines
 72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
 73. 168 in 1 week
 74. Housed
- DOWN**
1. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
 2. Dharma teacher
 3. Resembling wings
 4. Good Year balloon, e.g.
 5. Mexico City state
 6. Say it isn't so
 7. Winehouse or Schumer
 8. New Mexico's state flower
 9. Diplomat's asset
 10. It comes to mind
 11. Not in Impossible Burger
 12. European erupter
 15. Shell-like anatomical structure
 20. *Nine instruments, e.g.
 22. Bobby of hockey
 24. Halle Bailey's 2023 role
 25. *Loud or strong
 26. Part of small intestine
 27. Sometimes follows sauvignon
 29. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
 31. Coniferous trees
 32. October 31 option
 33. On top of trends (2 words)
 34. *Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
 36. Sheltered, nautically speaking
 38. "Wheel of Fortune" move
 42. Based on number 8
 45. Automatic reaction
 49. *Fa follower
 51. Solemn and wise?
 54. Gate holder
 56. *Slow
 57. Pay a visit
 58. Not home
 59. Goose liver dish
 60. Augments, usually with effort
 61. Social insects
 62. Air of allure, slangily
 63. Five-star review
 64. Was in the hole
 67. Possessive pronoun

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Henry Delk Jr.

the church on Sunday. Memorial contributions may be given to the American Cancer Society, 200 Center Point Circle #100, Columbia, SC 29210 or Double Pond Cemetery Fund, 357 Double Pond Rd., Blackville, SC 29817.

Henry passed away on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

Born in Barnwell County, S.C., he was a son of the late William Henry Delk Sr. and Mary Frances Hair Delk. Henry was a graduate of Blackville Hilda High School and was a member of Double Pond Baptist Church. He worked for the Barnwell County Landfill as a heavy equipment operator and was also a truck driver. He enjoyed fishing and eating boiled peanuts. He was in the Barnwell SC National Guard for 6 years.

Survivors include his daughter, Jennifer (David) Duplantier of South Boston, VA; a son, Matthew (Shannon) Delk of Clarks Hill, SC; grandchildren, Zachary, Addison, and Lillian Duplantier and Brantley and Lucas Delk; sisters, Mary Elizabeth (Ian) MacRobbie of Wakefield, MA, Betty (Ronald) Blume of Jacksonville, FL, and Frankie Jo Delk of Irmo, SC; a brother, Robert Bobby Delk of Blackville; a special niece, Lynn Delk Ayers; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

BLACKVILLE - Funeral services for William Henry Delk Jr., 69, of Blackville, SC were held at 3 o'clock p.m., Sunday, August 18, 2024 at Double Pond Baptist Church with the Dr. Andy Sandifer and the Reverends Donnie Delk, Tim Brokaw and Dale Taylor officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, August 17 at Folk Funeral Home, Williston and one hour prior to the service at



Jerry Wayne Wilson Sr.

They remained married until her passing on March 18, 2005. He worked as a Radiographer to Manager from 1969-1989, and ran "Sam's Short Stop" with his wife and family from 1989-1996. He was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and served as a volunteer firefighter for Kline Fire Department. He was also a member of Kline Baptist Church.

He is survived by his spiritual wife of seven years, Brenda Stroud; his son, Jerry W. Wilson Jr. (Jay); daughters, Sheryl Wilson Navarro and Lisa Wilson Biegeleisen; grandchildren Jerry W. Wilson III, Joshua Alan Wilson, David A. Navarro, Andy Navarro, and Virginia Ilderton; great-grandchildren Lillian Wilson, Chloe Wilson,

Catrina Compton, and Noah Compton.

A visitation was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Mole Funeral Home. Funeral services followed on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Kline Baptist Church, with graveside following in the Kline Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jerry W. Wilson III, David A. Navarro, Andy Navarro, and Berni Biegeleisen. Honorary Pallbearers were Manuel Navarro, Jerry W. Wilson Jr. (Jay), and Roscoe Poe. Dr. Thomas Terry officiated.

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

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

KLINE - Jerry W. Wilson Sr., 82, passed away on August 11, 2024. He was born on July 5, 1942 in Greensboro, NC to the late Frank and Emma Wilson.

Jerry graduated from Sumner High School in 1958 at the age of 16. He skipped 4th grade - which happens to be the year they teach multiplication tables, and because of that he had lifelong trouble with multiplication. He married his High School Sweetheart, Shirley Joan Sumner, on July 24, 1960.



John Stokes

John was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed fishing, shrimping, cutting grass, and eating fried chicken. He was loved dearly by family and friends and will be missed tremendously. His family will carry out his legacy by doing all the things he loved to do and say while he was here on earth. We hope Heaven can handle all your jokes "Big Bad John." We love you and miss you so much.

Family members include his wife, Olwen Faye Stokes; sons, John Keith Stokes (June), Darren Ronald Cook and Christian Henry Cook; daughters, Rebecca Marie All (Michael) and Melanie Jayne Davis; 11 grandchildren and 12

great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Jeanett S. Ferguson; a grandson, Kevin Stokes; and a daughter, Louise "LuLu" Goodwin.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, August 19, 2024, at Mt. Arnon Baptist Church with Deanie Hutto officiating. Interment with Military Honors followed at Swallow Savannah Cemetery.

The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

Keith Smith Funeral Service, 128 Water Street, Allendale, was in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at www.keithsmithfuneralservice.com.

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

ALLENDALE - John Hayne Stokes, age 80, husband of Olwen Green Stokes, died Sunday, August 11, 2024.

Mr. Stokes was a native of Allendale and the son of John Patrick and Mattie Lou Wilson Stokes. He was a U.S. Army veteran having served in Vietnam where he earned a Purple Heart. He retired from the Town of Allendale Police Department and Allendale County Jail Administrator.



James Sanders

Besides his mother, Mike is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Michelle Creech Sanders; sons, Brandon Sanders and Braydon Sanders; daughter, Blakeney Sanders (Cam); grandsons who named him Bime, Noah Liddle (aka Best Buddy), Nicolas Liddle (aka Ricky Nicky) and Colson Foster (aka Feety); brother, James (Tator) Grubbs (Tracy); sisters, Missy Faircloth, Rolene Oliver, Tammy (Joe) Brown; step mother-in-law, Debra Creech; step brothers-in-law, Spencer (Jenn) Wilcox, Josh Wilcox (Alisha); sister-in-law, Melissa Creech; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Besides his father, Mike

was predeceased in death by his brother, Bobby Sanders; sister-in-law, Wendy Sanders; father-in-law, Bobby Creech; mother-in-law, Ruth Jeffcoat; step-father-in-law, Michael Jeffcoat; maternal grandparents, Ethel and Monroe Grubbs; and paternal grandparents, Curtis and Lily Still.

The family has entrusted the care of Mike with Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation and Burial.

A Memorial Service has been planned for August 24, 2024, at 4 p.m. at Riverside Campground by the Cambahee River, 16721 Hendersonville Highway, Yemassee, South Carolina.

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

BARNWELL - James Michael (Mike) Sanders, 59, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on July 23, 2024.

He was born on August 25, 1964. He was the son of Ellen Grubbs Sanders and the late Sammie Sanders. Mike was employed by Cleland Constructors, Inc. He enjoyed fishing and hunting in his spare time and loved spending time with his family.

Katherine Ferguson Johnson



passed away suddenly. Together they had four children: Owen Ferguson, Gladys Hobbs, Phillip Ferguson, and Kathy Fox. Katherine later married Donald Johnson and shared several years of marriage together.

Katherine retired in 1987 and spent her time enjoying family, church activities, and watching the FOX news channel. She was an active member of Faith Fellowship St. Pete until her health prevented her from attending.

Katherine was predeceased by her parents, siblings, her first husband Wesley Ferguson, her second husband Donald Johnson, her son Phillip Ferguson, her daughter-in-law Diane Ferguson, son-in-law Donald Fox, and grandson Donald Patrick Fox.

She is survived by her son, Owen (Pricilla) Ferguson, daughter Gladys (Jimmy) Hobbs, daughter Kathy Fox, 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Mole Funeral Home, with funeral services following in the Mole Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m. Graveside will be held at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Cemetery. Pastor David Altman will be officiating.

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

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

FLORIDA - Katherine Johnson, 96, of Saint Petersburg, FL, went to be with the Lord on August 15, 2024 after a long and fulfilling life.

Katherine was born on November 11, 1927 in Barnwell, SC to Eddie and Marion Briggs. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Katherine married Wesley Ferguson in 1942. They were happily married for 38 years when Wesley

Madeline Yvonne (Prather) Coto



Eddie (Dana) Coto and Paul (Amy) Coto. Her joy was multiplied as a grandmother to Kevin (Sarabeth) Coto, Heather (Chris) Still, Emily Coto, and Nickolas Coto, and as a great-grandmother to Garrison, Jeremiah, Emberlyn, Avery Coto, and Kalyn, Bryce, Kyle Still.

For 35 years, Madeline served with grace and humility as the pastor's wife of Life Tabernacle Church in Barnwell, SC. She retired as the finance director from the Allendale-Barnwell Disabilities and Special Needs Board. Madeline was a serious Skipbo player, no matter the age of her opponent, young or old, a master at making peanut brittle, and an exceptional cook of gumbos. Her legacy

as a worshipper and prayer warrior will forever be cherished.

The visitation was held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Life Tabernacle Church, 1189 Clinton Street, Barnwell, SC at 2 p.m. followed by the service at 3 p.m.

Folk Funeral Home of Williston, SC is assisting the family during this time. Visit the online registry at www.folkfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Life Tabernacle Church, 1189 Clinton St., Barnwell, SC 29812, honoring Madeline's commitment to her faith and community. Her spirit and devotion will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

BARNWELL - Madeline Yvonne (Prather) Coto, aged 80, passed away peacefully on August 13, 2024, in Augusta, GA. Born on January 30, 1944, in Washington, LA, she lived a life marked by devotion to her family and her church.

Madeline was the beloved wife of Edward P. Coto and a cherished mother to

Jeff Wolfe



was a son of Linda Elaine Gulley Wolfe and the late Steven Henry Wolfe. Jeff served in the United States Marines from 1984 to 1990. Jeff worked in the construction industry as a welder and previously worked for BAE in Aiken. Jeff enjoyed the outdoors relaxing and swimming at the beach and the lake. Jeff enjoyed military history and visiting historic military bases. Jeff loved nature and walking around historical cemeteries. Jeff loved all animals and was a huge Georgia Bulldog fan, "Go Dawgs." Jeff was a loving father and loved all of his children very much.

mother, Linda Wolfe, survivors include his wife, Kim Kathleen Samsel Wolfe; three daughters, Terra Wolfe and Tarra Wolfe, both of Williston, SC, and Shelby Hatcher of Aiken; three sons, Jonathan Wolfe of Hawaii, Scott Wolfe of Graniteville, and Brandon Wolfe of Aiken.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Marc Wolfe.

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

The People-Sentinel
8/21/2024

JACKSON - Ronald Jefferson "Jeff" Wolfe, 56, of Jackson, SC passed away on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692. No formal services will be held at this time.

Born in Augusta, GA, Jeff

In addition to Jeff's

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the County Council of Barnwell County ("County Council") that a public hearing for the below-titled Ordinance will be held at the Council Chambers of the County Council, 54 Irving Street, Barnwell South Carolina 29812, at 6:00 p.m. on September 10, 2024, in conjunction with regular scheduled meeting of the County Council. Such Ordinance is titled as follows: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2024-06-406".

Subject to the normal rules of County Council regarding appearances, members of the public are invited to attend and make comment concerning the proposed Ordinance. Any persons wishing to submit written comments may submit them to the County Administrator at 57 Wall Street, Room 126, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812 no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2024.

If special accommodations are needed to participate in the public hearing, contact the Barnwell County Council office at 803-541-1000, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

By order of the County Council of Barnwell County, South Carolina.

'I'm gonna fight for my patients': How Barnwell & Allendale counties are navigating America's Rural Healthcare Crisis

Elijah de Castro
Report for America
elijah@thepeoplesentinel.com

Kathy Corley remembers the day that Barnwell's Southern Palmetto Hospital closed. It was an ordinary weekday in January 2016. She and her colleagues were given 48 hours' notice that the hospital would stop serving patients. Shock quickly consumed Corley and the hospital staff. After 26 years of working alongside local health care workers — with yearly Christmas parties and the occasional cookout in between — the hospital had grown to be the center of Corley's life.

"It was like losing your best friend," said Corley, a nurse of 50 years who settled in rural Barnwell in 1990 after working in large urban hospitals. Her husband, Ed Corley, was also a volunteer at the hospital. "You've been there for all those years, you've taken care of patients, you've made lifelong friendships with the employees that are there. Some of those people I'll never see again."

Corley and the 90 full-time and 28 part-time health care workers who lost their jobs during the closure were displaced across the regional health care workforce. Corley went on to work at a medical practice in nearby Aiken, working through the pandemic before eventually retiring in 2022. Without a local hospital, EMS drive times spiked as the nearest hospitals were at least a 30-minute drive for first responders until the Barnwell-Bamberg Emergency Medical Center opened in 2019; even a one-minute increase in the length of EMS drives can increase a patient's risk of mortality, according to the *Medical Journal of Surgery* (Barnwell County's struggle with EMS services has been previously reported by *The People-Sentinel*).

But the story of Southern Palmetto's closure is a microcosm of a national issue. In recent years, as rural hospitals across the United States have closed or downsized, rural health care workers have carried the weight of an increasingly strained industry. The structure of the United States' health care payment system, several health care policy experts told *The People-Sentinel*, has created a national situation in which the cost of delivering health care in rural communities eclipses payments.

Despite these adversities, community stakeholders and health care workers have begun filling in the cracks and, in some cases, expanding local health care access through deep local ties and relationships. The story of modern health care in Barnwell and Allendale counties is one of grief and loss, as well as love and resilience.

Closure of rural hospitals
The need for health care in rural America is increasing, and increasing fast.

Rural communities are older and face higher rates of gun violence and deaths of despair (a term used to describe deaths from suicide, alcohol and opioids), according to the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. Even before the pandemic, life expectancy for rural Americans was declining, while life expectancy for urban Americans was increasing. Rural Americans also face unique vulnerabilities to the public health effects of pollution, climate change and other environmental issues. In Barnwell and Allendale, the Savannah River Site's (SRS) legacy of pollution has left many local workers with lifelong work-related ailments, as previously reported by *The People-Sentinel* and other regional news publications.

On average, the CHQPR's research found, for-profit



Kathy Corley, a former nurse at Barnwell's Southern Palmetto Hospital, remembers the day the hospital closed. "It was like losing your best friend."
Elijah de Castro / Report for America

Yet, despite this need, small rural hospitals have been closing at a rapid pace since the beginning of the 21st century. Between 2005 and 2019, 150 rural hospitals across America closed, four of which were in South Carolina, according to a report by the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform (CHQPR). Even more alarming, the CHQPR has concluded that nine additional rural hospitals in South Carolina are at risk of closure, with six of them considered to be at immediate risk.

When the Southern Palmetto Hospital closed its doors in 2016, CEO Michael Patterson stated that the facility had lost \$2.5 million due to a "low patient census and uncompensated care." In 2018, the hospital was sold to Baptist Gardens, a Long Beach, California based religious non-profit, and now sits empty, with the growing cracks in its parking lot becoming a garden for weeds.

Just four years prior, Bamberg County's hospital closed in April 2012 after declaring bankruptcy and similarly citing millions of dollars in losses. Suddenly, 350 rural health care workers had lost their jobs. After multiple attempts to re-open the hospital failed, Bamberg County's 15,683 residents faced the long EMS drive that their neighbors in Barnwell County would four years later.

A money problem
Although the population decline of rural America has contributed to the falling number of rural hospitals, payment models for health care have been the largest factor locally and nationally, the CHQPR report found. The financial structure of the American health care system relies on a complicated blend of public funding, for-profit insurers, and direct payments from patients. For hospitals, this means that income is derived from a variety of payers such as Medicaid, Medicare, Medicare Advantage (a privatized version of Medicare), payments from for-profit insurance companies, and medical debt.

With each different payment source comes a different challenge for both rural patients and rural hospital administrators trying to collect payments on services. Medical debt — a multi-billion dollar industry run by debt collectors and private equity firms — is highest among patients in the southeast, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Publicly funded programs like Medicare and Medicaid typically reimburse hospitals for services close to the full cost, however, the for-profit payers who insure the majority of rural patients frequently fight or delay the reimbursement claims by rural hospitals.

"Everything is micromanaged, not by government, but by [private] payers," said Lari Gooding, CEO of Allendale County Hospital. Having worked in local health care for over 20 years, he remembers when he was able to get paid for nearly every hospital visit. "It's tougher and tougher, and it's not getting easier."

On average, the CHQPR's research found, for-profit

insurers are responsible for 50 percent of the losses taken by rural hospitals at risk of closing. "The private insurance plans are the ones that are causing the problem," said Harold Miller, CHQPR president. "If that health plan doesn't pay enough to support the care, then the hospital is losing a lot of money on a significant proportion of its patients and it has no way to make it up."

This creates a lose-lose scenario for rural hospitals, which provide unconditional care to their communities but receive conditional payment for their services; the more patients they receive, the larger their losses.

"The hospital is putting itself out of business under the current system," Miller said. "An analogy for this is fire departments. We don't pay fire departments by the fire. We pay fire departments to be there."

Regardless of how hospital directors like Gooding set their rates, private health insurance payers will only pay a fixed amount for a procedure. Since small rural hospitals have less administrative staffing and resources than larger urban hospitals, fighting with private insurers for reimbursement is more of a challenge, Miller pointed out.

"We don't have a lot of negotiating power with payers," Gooding said. "We're forced to accept what we can get, and that's tough. ... We take care of patients whether they can pay us or not and that's where we really struggle."

The situation is made even more difficult for Gooding and CEOs of other small hospitals in South Carolina by the state's refusal to expand Medicaid, a decision made in 2012 by then-governor Nikki Haley. In 2019 the state's former Medicaid program head said "several hundred" elderly and poor people likely died as a result of the decision. The expansion of Medicaid using federal dollars, Gooding said, quickly "became political," at a detriment to hospitals and their patients.

The majority of losses that rural hospitals take is from private payers, who spend tens of millions on campaign contributions. Between 1998 and 2023, the health care industry spent over \$5.8 billion on lobbying, reaching record levels during the 2022 election cycle. According to campaign contribution disclosures, the top three campaign contributors in the insurance industry during the 2024 election cycle have been health insurance companies, with tens of millions already spent.

Campaign contribution disclosures show that Allendale, Barnwell and Bamberg county's congressmen — representatives Jim Clyburn and Joe Wilson, and senators Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham — have each taken thousands from the private health insurance companies. Scott and Graham did not respond to requests for comment.

Throughout his political career, Wilson has taken \$20,500 from United Healthcare, \$77,500 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield South Carolina and \$5,000 from Humana, private health insurers.



The former Southern Palmetto Hospital sits abandoned off Reynolds Road in Barnwell. The hospital closed in January 2016.
Photo Courtesy: Adrian Crawford / High Altitude Drone Service

"Supporting programs focused on addressing the health care needs of those living in the rural areas of South Carolina is critical," Wilson said in a statement. "Campaign donations have not and do not impact my policy decisions."

Clyburn has received \$40,500 from UnitedHealthCare, \$14,500 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield South Carolina, \$13,000 from Humana and \$7,500 from Cigna, also a private insurance company.

"I recognize the serious challenges facing rural health care providers and am committed to finding solutions that provide every community with access to quality care," Clyburn said in a statement. "Throughout my career, I've worked tirelessly to support rural hospitals and community health centers across the lowcountry." Clyburn noted that he was the only member of the South Carolina House delegation to support the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provided \$6.2 million in Emergency Rural Health Care Grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to his district, which includes Allendale County. Clyburn did not address the money he takes from private insurers responsible for the crisis in his statement.

Rural health care workforce
The decline of rural hospitals in the United States has occurred concurrent to a growing shortage of nurses and health care workers, particularly in South Carolina, which has one of the lowest patient-to-nurse ratios in the country.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic began straining health care systems around the world, Congress

passed the Provider Relief Fund, a \$135 billion attempt to backstop health care providers by preventing uncompensated losses. This allowed local providers like Low Country Health Care System (LCHCS) to hire additional staff, according to Jennifer Rahn, M.D., chief medical officer of LCHCS. But in 2023, as Congress allowed these programs to expire, an additional burden was placed back onto the rural health care system.

"[Covid] burned us out and changed the way we do a lot of things," said Dr. Ashley Barnes, the chief executive officer of LCHCS. "That little bit of funding to help us get through covid is gone [and] now our expenses are a lot higher."

Larger, urban hospitals have dedicated administrative teams fighting with private insurance companies to collect payments for treatments, Miller said. But at rural hospitals, a lack of staffing makes the fight to collect payment an uphill battle. Although nurses and physicians do not typically deal with insurers, some will call insurers on the phone to argue for their patients over denied coverage.

"If they say no, we're not gonna go along with that," Rahn said, noting that her team cares for the patient's well-being both physically and financially. "I'm gonna fight for my patients."

Having to fight with insurers in addition to providing care, Corley said, was one of the additional stressors of being a nurse, a profession that 100,000 people have left since the pandemic, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). "You'd think that insurance would pay for

this stuff but now it doesn't do that," Corley said. "It infuriates me to think that some office worker in an insurance company now tells a doctor that he can't have treatment done on his patient."

For many health care workers, the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic was their final straw, according to Maryann Alexander, chief officer of nursing regulation at the NCSBN.

"COVID was no doubt a major stressor on the workforce," said Alexander. "Burnout issues increased tremendously. That burnout is not ending."

Alexander said the story of nurses choosing to retire as a result of pandemic-related burnout was a common workforce phenomenon.

"It just got too much," Corley said as one of the reasons she decided to retire. "We never got to sit down all day. ... My husband would have to help me get out of the car [after work] because I was so stiff. Half of the time we didn't get lunch because we were working."

Among rural nurses that remain in the workforce, rates of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorders are higher, surveys by the National Institutes of Health show.

"There were nights when we walked out and everybody was in tears," said Becky Rowell, director of nursing at Allendale County Hospital. "We had patients that were dying here and their families could not be with them. It was quite traumatic for the nursing staff. We hope to never, ever see anything like that again."

Out of a small staff of 17, Allendale County Hospital

See HEALTH CARE, 9A


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HOSTED BY:
BRANDY HENSHAW
AKA 'BEASY BAYBIE'

HEALTH CARE: Dedicated professionals care for local patients

FROM PAGE 8A

has multiple openings for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) and Registered Nurses (RN). Many of the staff at Allendale County Hospital, Gooding said, take on multiple roles.

In addition to confronting a nursing shortage, turnover and a lack of overall workforce stability has impacted Allendale County Hospital. "What I would like to have is a good quality physician that's not going to be here for two or three years and leave," said Gooding. "Those are things that really create frustration for residents in the community: Turnover for physicians."

Competing with larger hospital system salaries complicates hiring new physicians, Gooding added. "If I don't pay at least close to what they're paying, then I'm gonna lose my nursing staff or I'm not going to be able to recruit new nursing staff. As a small rural hospital, we're competing with larger systems."

Longer-serving physicians, Gooding and Barnes told *The People-Sentinel*, help to deepen trust with the community and hold a wealth of knowledge specific to their patients.

"A lot of people in our rural communities, especially people of color, have a different level of trust for our health care professionals," said Teshieka Curtis-Pugh, executive director of the South Carolina Nurses Association. "We've lost people who are the fabric of those communities."

During the peak of the pandemic, three staff members at the Allendale County Hospital died from COVID-19, including a beloved worker who got COVID-19 from a patient.

"Everybody just loved her," said April Long, a nurse at Allendale Co. Hospital. "You would hear her singing the gospel to the patients that were dying of Covid. Any room she went in she spread joy. It impacted all of us around here, because she was the kind that would keep you level and grounded. But out of that you form a bond, and it's a bond that cannot be broken."

Creating solutions
Despite working within a

system that is increasingly abandoning rural health care and its workforce, Barnwell and Allendale's health care systems have recently begun expanding.

"LCHCS started in Allendale County in 1977, and we really pride ourselves in growing from that one medical office, to now 9 clinical sites across 4 counties," said Morgan Reuis, marketing coordinator. "When the hospital in Barnwell closed, we added late night hours and x-ray services to our Barnwell Family Medicine location. In Bamberg County, since the hospital has closed, we have added two offices. In addition to primary care, these offices offer infectious disease care, pharmacy and x-ray services. We want our communities to know we are here to expand services when a need arises. While we don't operate as an urgent care or emergency facility, we are able to provide the primary care and preventative services that can help decrease the need for emergency care."

At Allendale County Hospital, which the National Rural Health Association ranked as one of the top 20 rural hospitals in America, Gooding has been focused on diversifying revenue streams as a path to financial sustainability. After the only Walgreens in Allendale closed in early 2023, Gooding renovated a space in the hospital and opened what is now the only retail pharmacy in the county.

"It's unusual for the hospital to be a retail pharmacy in general, but we are the only retail pharmacy [in Allendale] right now," Gooding said. On August 10, Gooding announced the opening of the hospital's Advanced Wound Care, a specialized outpatient wound treatment center. "Our dedicated clinical staff understands the totality of the patient from a perspective of wound healing. The goal is to treat not only the wound, but the underlying cause of the wound," said Gooding.

The institutionalization of telehealth during the pandemic also created new opportunities for rural providers. "Some of the ways



Jayne Ehrhart, who worked through the pandemic at Allendale Co. Hospital, said close bonds between staff helped them guide through the worst of the pandemic.



Dale Koukos (left) sits with a former patient of her late husband, Dr. Dean Koukos, a physician who served thousands of patients in the Barnwell region.



Lari Gooding, CEO of Allendale County Hospital, is one of many hospital directors in the rural United States navigating a system that he describes as "micromanged, not by government, but private payers."

[the pandemic] changed the way we do things was good, we do a lot more telehealth now," Barnes said. The expansion of rural telehealth has allowed rural health care providers to learn new ways to provide the same care, Rahn said.

In 2023, South Carolina's legislature began addressing the nursing shortage. The state strengthened the S.C. Office for Healthcare Workforce (SCOHW), budgeting \$500,000 for forming a workforce unit dedicated to identifying trends and nuances in health care workforce data. As expected, the SCOHW has found that nurses migrated from the state's rural areas to its urban areas.

"People like to think in terms of shortage or surplus, but the issue is really more nuanced," said Katie Gaul, the director of the SCOHW. "Our group here likes to think more in terms of maldistribution. There's definitely a disparity between rural and urban in terms of the number of providers and other health professionals we have."

SCOHW uncovered another issue: South Carolina has an accompanying

shortage of health care educators in nursing schools, creating classroom challenges for incoming nurses. During the 2022-23 legislative session, the state allocated \$10 million toward nursing educators as well as another \$10 million for tuition reimbursement for nursing students.

"It's harder and harder to find nursing educators," said April Wolfe, a clinical instructor in the Department of Nursing at the University of South Carolina (USC) Salkehatchie, whose campuses are in Walterboro and Allendale. "Nurse educators don't get paid much. The numbers are not where we want them to be."

Wolfe has been one of the leaders of USC Salkehatchie's Rural Nursing Initiative, which partners resources across the USC system to offer four-year nursing bachelor's degrees programs. The Rural Nursing Initiative also has a simulation lab for prospective nurses to gain on-the-job experience. Wolfe and others in nursing education are hoping to increase "home grown nurses"; nurses who work in the communities where

they were raised.

LCHCS is hiring more medical providers to meet the health needs of the community. They recently hired a new MD for Barnwell Family Medicine and three new mid-level medical providers for the Fairfax location and Padgett Family Practice location in Bamberg.

"We are always recruiting and want to attract doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses to our practices. We recently began working with USC Salkehatchie's nursing program as well as Aiken Regional Medical Center's residency program to offer educational opportunities to those students as well as improve our workforce pipeline," said Barnes.

The state and federal government have used taxpayer dollars to backstop some aspects of rural health care; in 2019, the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Center was opened with a \$3.6 million Transformation Fund Grant from the state of South Carolina.

Yet, Miller notes that larger, upstream changes must be made to support rural health care and hospitals.

"The challenge in rural

communities is that it costs more to deliver care," Miller said, noting the importance of health care in rural communities. "Most of the food people are eating in urban areas is coming from rural areas. If you don't have health care in rural areas to support the people who work on farms and ranches, you don't have food."

The growing lack of appreciation of rural communities was a concern for Dr. Dean Koukos, a local physician who died in February. For 20 years, Koukos would make a four-hour round trip each day from Bluffton, South Carolina to work at LCHCS in Barnwell where he saw thousands of patients.

Dale Koukos, Dr. Koukos' widow, believes her husband's local legacy highlighted a growing divide in American health care. The rise of specialization in medical fields, as opposed to community-based care, was one of Dr. Koukos' concerns. Prior to moving to South Carolina, Koukos worked in Pittsburgh, known for its high number of medical colleges and institutions.

"I can't even tell you how much less money he made here," said Dale Koukos, noting her late husband's frustration with the corporatization of health care. "I would ask him: 'Why are you taking that position? You won't make anything.' It was because he likes these people. They're salt of the earth, they work for a living. He was giving care to people who appreciated it and respected him."

Every rural healthcare worker and provider interviewed by *The People-Sentinel* said that building trust between community health care providers and the rural communities they serve has been the path to local sustainability and resilience.

"One night we admitted a patient and she had [cardiac] arrested and her husband was sitting in the chair while I started CPR on her," said Corley, the now-retired nurse. "We got her right back and she stills sees me today and says thank you. That's what you remember; coming into work and it feeling like home."

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Williston recreation receives donation, honors winners

Alexandra Whitbeck
Reporter
reporter@thepeoplesentinel.com

Barnwell County's Dixie Softball World Series champions, the Barnwell Ponytails, were recognized by Williston Town Council at the August 12 meeting.

"On behalf of the Town of Williston, we just wanted to recognize you girls and coaches, and not only are y'all the world series champions but your parents deserve recognition too," said Mayor Brett Williams. "It's great when people from a small, rural community can go and represent the state of South Carolina like that."

Mayor Williams expressed how many people at home were rooting for the team to succeed via Facebook live streams. The team received fist bumps and plaques from the council.

RECREATION DONATION
A \$1,100 donation was made by First Baptist Church of Williston's Vacation Bible School (VBS) program to the town's recreation department.

"Our hopes are that it will help sponsor some of the children who cannot afford to play sports," said VBS director Cathy Smith.

Smith, alongside Next Gen Pastor Joshua Helms, developed this summer's program with a couple competitive edges to raise money for a cause close to the church's heart – providing recreational opportunities for local youth.

"God really blessed our VBS this year in a lot of ways, so really we were just the hands for it all, but God did all the blessings," said Smith.

According to Helms, who is new to Williston, this year's VBS program is hoped to serve as a launching point for the church to have more impact on parents, students, and teachers, as well as the



The Barnwell Ponytails were awarded plaques by the Town of Williston for their championship win in the Dixie Softball World Series.

entire community.

"I thank God for blessing First Baptist Church, I thank God for allowing Him to keep y'all's minds on our youth," said Williston recreation director Ronnie Tobin.

"There are so many things that you all probably could have done with this," said Tobin as he held up the check. "But you chose us, chose our recreation department, and I thank you all."

Administrator Beasley shared that when Tobin first began as recreation director, they spoke about reaching the children whose families could not afford recreational options offered by the town.

"We talked about not turning away any kids from participating in anything no matter if they could afford it or not, and now God is blessing with this opportunity," said Beasley.

EVENT INSURANCE
Events on town property held by organizations, groups, and individuals now must have insurance coverage.

"The municipal association recommends that the town have a policy for individuals, like an umbrella policy type, for individuals that post events on town property," said Mayor Williams.

The council authorized Beasley and Clerk to Council Kayla Jerkins to begin constructing an insurance policy to bring back before council for approval. Beasley and Jerkins plan to work quickly on this to cater to upcoming events.



First Baptist Church of Williston Vacation Bible School (VBS) director Cathy Smith, FBC Pastor Joseph Sanders, and Next Gen Pastor Joshua Helms make a donation to the town's recreation department after a successful summer of VBS. They are pictured smiling with recreation director Ronnie Tobin.

Coverage costs will vary depending on factors such as the type of event, number of attendees, if food will be served, and more. It will not be a set fee.

"The town would not make a penny off of this," said Beasley. "This is a safeguard...It's for the protection of not only the town, but the person holding the event too."

Organizations or individuals holding events on town property must now contact their insurance provider to have the Town of Williston listed as an additional insured for liability purposes. A copy of this policy with the town added must be provided before the event can be approved.

The town also offers event holders to gain coverage through their avenues with the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC). On the town's website, event holders can submit

their event to see the cost of insurance through the town's "umbrella policy," as Mayor Williams said.

"It is good business to have coverage at the event, not only the Town of Williston is covered by the one sponsoring the event is too," said Beasley.

This event coverage is not applicable to town entities such as recreation department events which are already covered by town insurance policies.

COUNCIL INSURANCE
Currently, council members are considered employees of the town and therefore are entitled to benefits and insurance offered by the town.

If the council decided to remove themselves as employees, they would have to pay taxes on any stipends through a 1099 form at the end of the year. As employees, taxes are already taken out of any stipends received.

Council voted to continue being deemed as employees.

GRANT UPDATE
Three grants to improve the town's wastewater and water systems are underway.

The Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) and the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) are funding the installation of a new sewer line for a filtration system.

The construction process began in July and, according to Beasley, backwash and testing has been witnessed and approved. The completion date for this project is March 20, 2025.

The S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) awarded the town roughly \$6 million to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility, including pond liners and equipment replacement.

Currently, the town and associated entities are waiting for sludge disposal approval from state offices before moving forward with this part of the project.

Wells on Industrial Boulevard and Elko Street are set to be replaced as well. Water systems plans and specifications are to be submitted for review in August.

Work is set to begin in January 2025 and these projects are set to be completed by December 31, 2026. Construction using SCIIP funding must be completed by June 2025 per SCIIP deadline.

ADMIN REPORT
• Council authorized Beasley to approve events.

Before, events were approved by the council at public meetings. However, when events were scheduled before the next council meeting, they were unable to be approved by council and therefore held. Now, Beasley can okay events unless he feels they require council's approval.

• The Williston Fire Department is holding their annual Smoke Alarm Blitz on September 7. Residents can call (821) 824-1077 to sign up before August 31. More info is at town hall.

• Beasley and Jerkins have an upcoming meeting with Badger Meter, a water meter software company, to begin the process of all town meters being radio read, rather than manually read. The town already utilizes Badger Software, and will discuss training for town employees on how to fully utilize its functions as well as make upgrades.

• A new officer is graduating from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy on Sept. 6, and another is heading to the academy to finish training. The graduation of these two individuals marks all certified officers on staff at the Williston Police Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Council approved three upcoming events. On Saturday, Sept. 14, author Ronnie Jowers is holding a book signing at the Williston Town Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jowers is known for publishing two titles, Even A Shepherd and children's book Well, Not Really.

• A kickball tournament will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the softball field at the town park (301 Barnwell Road, Williston). Teams are Williston, Barnwell, Blackville, and Bamberg.

• The annual homecoming parade will be held on October 25 at 5 p.m. from West Main to Warren Street.

ARREST: Barnwell man charged in overdose-related death

FROM PAGE 1A

between a male suspect and Fogle that were indicative of a drug transaction taking place two days prior. The male suspect was determined

to be Brian Scott Maximiek, 52, of Pineneedle Road in Barnwell.

Over a year later on August 14, 2024, investigators

obtained a warrant for Maximiek's arrest. He was charged with involuntary manslaughter and two counts of distribution of

fentanyl.

A day after his arrest, Maximiek received a total \$25,000 surety bond for the charges; \$5,000 for

involuntary manslaughter, and \$10,000 for each drug charge. Bond has not been posted at the time of publication.

In South Carolina, bond is granted when the offense is not violent in nature and the individual charged is not deemed a flight risk.

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 <p>2020 FORD RAPTOR Stk#7120 \$60,995</p>	 <p>2023 FORD F-250 XL Gas, 4x4, 7k Miles, Stk#7121 \$54,900</p>	 <p>2022 RAM 1500 4x4, Hemii, 30k Miles, Stk#7072 \$36,900</p>	 <p>2020 FORD F-150 4x4, V8, Lariat, One Owner, Stk#523901 \$34,900</p>
 <p>2023 FORD F-150 Stk#15124 Was \$72,745 \$61,745 with 72 months @0%</p>	 <p>2020 FORD F-150 Long Bed, 4x2, One Owner, Stk#523801 \$24,900</p>	 <p>2022 FORD ECOSPORT Great Fuel Saver, Stk#7111 \$20,900</p>	 <p>2023 FORD ESCAPE ST Line, Stk#7113 \$27,900</p>
 <p>2015 FORD EXPLORER 115k Miles, 7 Passenger, Stk#522702 \$13,900</p>	 <p>2020 LINCOLN NAUTILUS Reserve, Stk#7108 \$30,900</p>	 <p>2018 FORD F-150 Lariat, Moonroof, 4x4 \$31,995</p>	 <p>2012 FORD F-150 4x2, Lariat, Blue \$15,995</p>

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Football

Preview

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

The People-Sentinel

1B

Horses are looking for another playoff ride

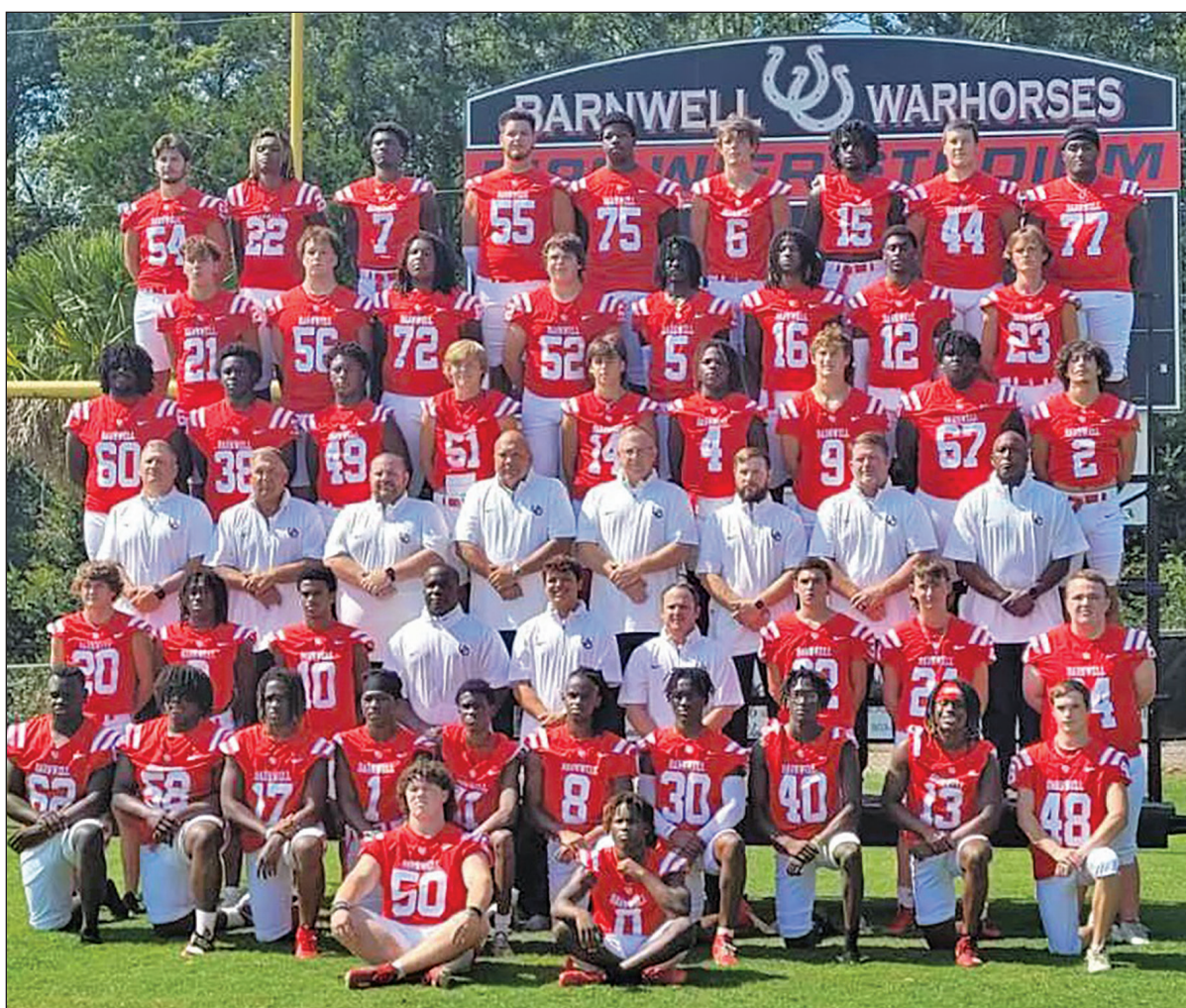
Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The 2023 Barnwell Warhorses were the surprise team of the South Carolina AA football playoffs last year. The Horses and new head coach, Brian Smith, advanced to the final eight teams in all of AA football last year, with the likes of Oceanside, Abbeville, Gray Collegiate, Silver Bluff, and more.

What will be different for this upcoming 2024 AA football season? None of the teams named above will be in the AA state playoffs, that is, unless Barnwell returns. Oceanside and Silver Bluff will be competing in the AAA ranks. Abbeville is returning to single A. Gray Collegiate will move all the way up to AAAA competition.

Barnwell has a great shot of making another strong playoff run in 2024. Despite the exodus of several perennial powerhouses, Barnwell will still have some major obstacles in their way, if they hope to compete for a State Championship. Teams like Chester and Clinton have been very strong AAA teams and have moved down to the AA ranks. Philip Simmons, Hampton County, Saluda, and Andrew Jackson are also very strong. Barnwell has been picked as the number five ranked team by the South Carolina High School League preseason high school football media poll. Kevin Thomas of "Movin' the Chains" (a SC high school football site) has Barnwell making it all the way to the State Championship game. Other media outlets have Barnwell listed at several different preseason ranks, but they all agree that Barnwell is a preseason contender, with most ranking the Warhorses as a top five team.

Barnwell has twenty-one seniors on the roster for the upcoming season. Senior quarterback Cam Austin, a South Carolina Gamecock baseball commit, has great speed at the quarterback spot and has a strong arm to go with that speed. Senior receivers Logan Sturkie, Ja'Quan Peoples, and Kahzeer Wesley lead a talented group of targets for Austin and the Warhorse offense. Put these together with another senior,



2024 Barnwell Warhorse football team.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

season, Coach Smith said that "Cam, Kahzeer, Logan and Ja'Quan have had great pre-seasons and off seasons. Tony Cherry worked really hard this off season." He also mentioned another senior, Lane Evans, when he said, "Lane Evans will be an asset to us in the kicking game." This proved to be true when the top five ranked Barnwell Warhorses defeated another top 10 team, Saluda, 6-0 on two Lane Evans field goals in this past week's Jamboree.

"Our goals each year at Barnwell will always be the same, win the region championship and make a long run in the playoffs hopefully culminating in a trip to the State Championship game," said Coach Smith. "We have a chance to be really explosive on offense. Our defense has a ton of returners and is leading the way in the preseason."

As far as the region goes, Hampton County and Whale Branch should be strong teams to keep an eye on this season. The region title will be a hard-fought battle, but Barnwell should be right in that mix, and are favored by many to win the crown.

The Warhorse football coaching staff is one of the best in all of AA football and just got even better. Former Barnwell and Aiken head coach, Dwayne Garrick, has rejoined the Warhorses and will coach the offensive line. Former Berkley assistant coach and Newberry College running back, Jon Burdge, has joined the coaching staff and will help coach wide receivers.

If this team can stay healthy and stay together, this could be a very special season for the Warhorses and a very exciting team to watch. The season starts with a local in-county rivalry game as Barnwell will travel to face the single A top ten Blackville-Hilda Hawks on Thursday, August 22. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 and they are expecting to sell out, so plan to get there early.

You don't want to miss this week one clash of top ten teams. It should be a great way to kickoff the 2024 high school football season!

BARNWELL WARHORSES

 @ Blackville-Hilda 8/22	 @ Silver Bluff 9/27
 Williston-Elko 8/29	 @ Lake Marion 10/4
 Bamberg-Ehrhardt 9/6	 @ Hampton Co. 10/18
 South Aiken 9/13	 Edisto 10/25
 @ Swansea 9/20	 Whale Branch 11/1

Jordan Peeples, coming out of the backfield as a dual threat to run or catch the ball, and the offense looks very promising. Senior Tony Cherry leads a solid offensive line that will need to protect Austin and clear the way for Peeples and company from the backfield.

Defensively, senior Lex Thomas should once again be one of the area's leading tacklers. Senior linebacker Jeremiah Eady is another key defender for Barnwell. Klayton "P-nut" Zissette, another senior, has been a strong force on the defensive line for the Horses. The Peeples

brothers contribute a lot to the defense, as does senior defensive back Jayden Pinkney. By no means is this a one- or two-star team. There are several more offensive and defensive athletes that are ready to step up and help the Horses.

When asked about the pre-



2024 Barnwell Warhorses



#30 Jayden Peeples

#32 Tanner Cato

#38 Adrian Saxon

#40 Kenneth Tyler

#44 Klayton Zissette

#48 Ryan Sutherland

#49 Kalvin Peeples

#50 Brandon Beasley



#51 Kaleb Wilson

#52 Cordie Handberry

#54 Jackson Bedingfield

#55 Copeland Owens

#56 Davison Owens

#58 Carl Hines

#60 Lamar Buxton

#64 Tagan Youngblood



#67 Traveon Wilson

#72 Emmanuel Greene

#75 Tony Cherry

#77 Jahlien Carter

Alan LeRoy, WR Coach

Brian Smith, Head Coach

Britt Pender, H Backs-TE Coach

Cody McCollum, STC-DB Coach



Derek Youngblood, RB Coach

Dwayne Garrick, OL Coach

Isaac Cooper, Def. Coordinator

John Burdge, DL Coach

Paxton Yon, WR Coach

Rob Roth, Athletic Trainer

Thomas Davis, ILB Coach

William Hammonds, OLB Coach

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"We are looking forward to the 2024 Football season. Our players and staff have been working very hard since January to put the best product on the field as possible. We have a really good schedule this season and we hope you will come out and support our Warhorses."

—Principal Derek Youngblood



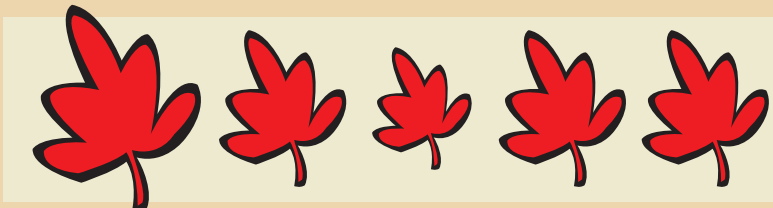
Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

Kid Scoop Junior

Vol. 23 No. 38 © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

Little Leaf, Large Leaf

Look at each line. Each leaf looks the same, but they are different sizes. Draw a circle around the smallest leaf in each line. Draw a triangle around the largest leaf in each line.



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.



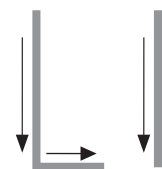
My Rhyme Time

Five little maple leaves,
Clinging to a limb before
Another blast of breeze
And then there are four.

My Letters

L is for Leaf

l is for leaf



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.

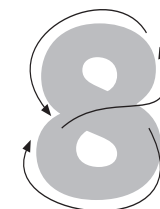
How many words or pictures can you find on this page that have the sound that the letter L makes in the word leaf?

My Numbers

How many ?

How many ?

How many ?



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

My 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 fall leaf is _____



Sunday

Letter Identification

With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound the letter L makes in the word leaf.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature

Date

Monday

Math Play

Point to the number 8 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Little and Large

Look through the newspaper for pictures of leaves. Cut out eight leaves and have your child glue them onto a sheet of paper in order from smallest to largest.

Wednesday

Lunchtime Funtime!

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. After a week, sort the pictures and "make lunches" for everyone in the family!

Thursday

Look and Remember

Show your child a picture in the newspaper. Tell your child to look at the picture closely. Then cover the picture and ask your child to tell you what he/she remembers about it.

Friday

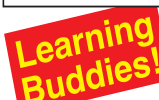
We All Start Little

Look through the newspaper for pictures of things that show how plants and animals start their life. For example, people start as babies, dogs as puppies and plants as seeds. Find as many little and grown-up pairs as possible.

Saturday

Left, Left, Right, Left

Put a sheet of newspaper on the ground. Give your child directions like "Put your left foot on the bottom of the paper," "Put your right on the top part of the paper," "Hop up the left side of the newspaper."



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.

Blackville-Hilda Hawks soar into top 10

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The Blackville-Hilda Hawks and coach Kevin Jones had a successful 2023 football season, making it to the Upper State Championship game, but they are not satisfied with making it to the final four. They have a bigger goal in mind. They want to bring another State Championship back to Blackville-Hilda High School. This team has the athletic talent to make a good run deep into the single A playoffs if they can stay healthy and continue to improve.

Last year's single A final four teams were Christ Church, Southside Christian, St. Joes, and Blackville-Hilda. Blackville-Hilda is the only team from those final four teams that remains in 1-A football for the upcoming 2024 season. That is the good news. The bad news is that single A football has gotten even tougher now that the 12-time State Champion Abbeville Panthers are back in the mix. Most local media have picked Abbeville to make it to the Championship Game, but they all agree that the Hawks are poised to make another deep run and challenge for the title.

Coach Kevin Jones was asked about his expectations for the 2024 season and said, "Our expectations are always pretty simple. We want to be as prepared as possible for every opponent and to play with a lot of effort each game. We feel like we have some talented kids and if we can do those two things that the outcomes will be positive more times than not."

Jones went on to say "Everyone is familiar with Jaquel Holman and he is indeed a great player. That said, Samari Williams has been very impressive in pre-season and will be starting his 4th year at QB. Other returners that we have high hopes for are Namair Anderson, Timothy Beard, Jayden Dash, Jabarius Johnson, Isaiah Greggs, Jalen Brown, Kaiden Aiken and Messiah McFadden." As far as



2024 Blackville-Hilda High School Hawks.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Barnwell 8/22	@ Ridge Spring-Monetta 10/4
Edisto 8/30	Wagener-Salley 10/11
@ 96 9/6	Calhoun County 10/18
Silver Bluff 9/13	@ Hunter-Kinard-Tyler 10/25
@ Denmark-Olar 9/20	@ Williston-Elko 11/1

new players go, "we are really excited about what transfer Jamarion Kirkland has brought to the team. Ricky Richburg is a junior LB that plays fast and violent. FB Jayden Jackson is a bruiser and senior Brandon Priester adds quality depth on defense and at RB."

For those who are new to the area, Jaquel Holman is an incredible athlete. Holman won three gold medals at the single A State Track and Field Championships, winning the 100 meters, the 200 meters, and the 4x100-meter relay. Holman has

committed to play football for the University of South Carolina next year. In addition to Holman, Blackville has several other track medal winning athletes on this very athletic team. These Hawks can "fly."

The Hawks are another team that will rely on their senior leadership. With 12 seniors on a single A team, they are not lacking in experience and hope that translates into success on the field. Coach Jones is quick to point out the success of the Blackville-Hilda track team. Many of the star athletes from

Blackville-Hilda compete in both sports. Couple the great track training with the strong off season workout program, and you get players who are bigger, stronger, and faster. If you watched the Hawks play last season, they definitely have some very gifted skilled position athletes.

"We are always going to be a team that runs the ball and tries to control the clock but we have looked better throwing it this summer. We have some talented pass catchers that can really run and Samari has worked hard on

his passing game so that we can open the field for our offense," Jones added.

As far as region play goes, Jones said, "Our region is always going to be one of the tougher regions in 1A. It starts with Calhoun County who always has a quality team under coach Wayne Farmer. HKT had a great year last season and I know they are really excited about what they can do this fall as well. Williston-Elko, Ridge Spring, and Wagener-Salley all have the talent and coaching to beat anyone on any given Friday night."

In addition to the region schedule, Blackville-Hilda has added some very strong competition to the schedule. They open with the top five ranked AA Barnwell Warhorses. They play AAA's Silver Bluff and AA's Ninety-Six. The strong competition helps the Hawks, according to Jones. "Our non-region schedule is very difficult and it starts with an outstanding Barnwell team with almost all their starters back from a very good team last year. We feel like we will be battle tested when it comes to starting region play and that should serve us well."

All coaches know that need to stay healthy, continue to improve, and hope that the odd shaped ball bounces their way sometimes. If this happens, the Blackville-Hilda Hawks are definitely a team to watch. The state sports writers (media poll) has Blackville-Hilda as the 6th ranked team in the state. Several other outlets have the Hawks as a top five team. Any way you look at this team, they are very explosive and should be a force to deal with, come playoff time.

Come out and support the Hawks as they open the season in a clash of local in-county, ranked rivals, when the Barnwell Warhorses trot into town Thursday for a 7:30 game. This game promises to be one of the best match-ups in the whole state. The stadium will be packed, so come out early. You don't want to miss this one!

					<p>"Our coaches and players have put in many hours during the summer to prepare for what will be an exciting year. We have a large number of returning players and some that will be stepping up to fill the vacant spots left by those that graduated, but as always the drive and determination of our team is what separates us from everyone else. We are looking forward to a great season at Blackville-Hilda High School and the future of many seniors as they showcase their talents on the field."</p> <p>—Principal Christina Snider</p>		

JDA enters 2024 as defending State Champions

Jeff Miller
Sports Writer
sports@thepeoplesentinel.com

The 2023 Jefferson Davis Academy Raiders football season was a special one, with the Raiders winning the ultimate prize, the State Championship. After winning the top prize, what will JDA and head coach Anthony Reitenour do for an encore? How about try to win back-to-back State Championships?

Coach Reitenour was asked about his team's goals for 2024 and said, "Our ultimate goal this year is like every year, to be the last team standing and hopefully give JDA back-to-back championships in football for the third time in school history. We also want to reach the full amount of our potential and grow as team and a family and have no regrets at the final whistle whether that be on the top of the mountain or on the path. As far as expectations go, players are expected to treat every snap as if the game is on the line that very moment. If the guys come out and give that kind of heart and effort, I truly believe this could be another very special year for us."

When asked about his returning players, Reitenour replied, "Colson Loadholt and Payton Payne are returning this year and should cause a lot of havoc on the opposing offenses. They were second and third on the team in tackles last year and both are incredible weapons offensively. I expect a lot from them this year. Also, we have a big chunk of last year's running game returning in Nas Void, James Grubbs, and Keaton Crouch. The three rushed for a combined 2,571 yards and 30 touchdowns last season. We return only one season long starter from last season on our front line in our center Landon Williams. This will also be the year for some key younger guys to step up into bigger roles. Reece Still and Fischer Robinson are two sophomores expected to be starters



2024 Jefferson Davis Academy Raiders football team.

PHOTO BY DONNA MILEY

transferred in and have shown some potential at defensive back and wide receiver."

Coach Reitenour knows that he will need to fill a few holes, especially on the line. There are a few other holes to fill to get back to another State Championship game, but he thinks he may have the right people to step up to that challenge.

"I feel we have a lot of experience on the field this year to lead the younger guys. A lot of younger guys are trying to make a name for themselves like Judson Bowers and Bryson Livingston who have made the most of some limited opportunities here lately and will compete to contribute more this season. I feel, while small in depth, we are very versatile with many guys like Nolan Craig and Dalton Nix who could line up in multiple positions for us. This allows us to continue to be a very balanced team on both sides of the ball and bring that very physical style of play that has been successful for us," said Coach Reitenour.

Just like the rest of the state, SCISA 8-man football has seen some teams change classification and this makes for some interesting challenges. "This year is somewhat of a blank canvas in the region. A few teams are out of the region and a few 11-man teams have dropped down to play 8-man football, so there is a lot of unknown. We plan to just go out each week and do our job and win every battle in front of us regardless of the teams we see in our region," Reitenour stated.

The JDA Raider fans and community will get behind this team, no matter what new challenges are ahead. There may be a few bumps along the way, but JDA will undoubtedly rise to face those challenges. Good luck to coach Reitenour and the Raider football team as they enter into this unknown 2024 SCISA 8-man football season. Let's go Raiders!



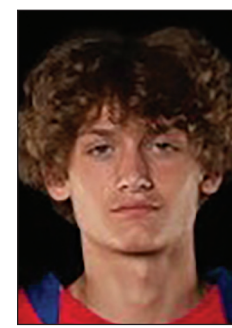
Jefferson Davis Academy

 PAC 8/16	 Holly Hill Acad. 9/20
 @ Cross Schools 8/23	 Cross Schools 9/27
 @ GSIC (Hephzibah, GA) 8/30	 Cathedral Acad. 10/4
 @ Conway Christian 9/6	 Conway Christian 10/11
 @ King's Academy 9/13	 King's Academy 10/25
 @ Holly Hill Acad. 11/1	



and will have to grow immediately for us to be successful. Cole Creech transferred back to JDA to give Landon another familiar face on the front line and Riley Todd and Tanner Williams both

Meet your 2024 Raiders

 #1 Nolan Craig	 #2 Colson Loadholt	 #4 Landon Williams	 #6 Tanner Williams	 #7 Nasir Void	 #8 Keaton Crouch	 #9 Jacob Brant	 #10 Reece Still
 #11 Dalton Nix	 #17 Payton Payne	 #21 Judson Bowers	 #22 Landon Williams	 #23 Riley Todd	 #30 James Grubbs	 #40 Jake Harrington	 #52 Stance Youngblood
 #54 Cole Creech	 #55 Fischer Robinson	 #88 Bryan Montejano	 #95 Bryson Livingston	 Anthony Reitenour, Head Coach	 John Calloway, OL-DL Coach	 Matt Lightsey, Def. Coordinator	 Mitchell Webster, Asst. Coach

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Blue Devils looking to bounce back in 2024

Jeff Miller
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The Williston-Elko Blue Devils are looking at the 2024 football season as an opportunity. With the new season comes a new chance to improve and make strides to get back to playing Blue Devil football and winning Williston-Elko style.

The returning players, coaches, and the new players have been working hard in this off season to make 2024 a season to be proud of.

Williston-Elko head coach Kenneth Lipsey was asked about his expectations for the upcoming season and said, "Our goals this year are to get better every week and be competitive. We would also like to try and make the playoffs."

Coach Lipsey named wide receiver and defensive back Carlos Drayton, wide receiver and defensive back Willie Brown, running back and linebacker Corey Newman, linebacker Kadin Wright, and wide receiver, defensive back, and kicker Quaide Overton as some of the key players to watch this season. As far as the new players, Coach Lipsey mentioned that running back and defensive back Markel Brown and offensive and defensive lineman Randy Robinson have really looked good in the preseason.

The strengths of the 2024 Blue Devils team are the wide receivers and the defensive unit. It is early and the other groups will continue to improve, but early on the defense will be relied upon to help Williston-Elko defeat their challengers. The skill positions should have some



2024 Williston-Elko Blue Devils football team.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Williston-Elko FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

 AT PELION, 8/23	 AT CALHOUN CO., 10/4
 AT BARNWELL, 8/29	 AT RSM, 10/11
 CALHOUN FALLS, 9/6	 HKT, 10/18
 AT EAU CLAIRE, 9/12	 WAGENER-SALLEY, 10/25
 AT FOX CREEK, 9/27	 BLACKVILLE-HILDA, 11/1

explosive moments and could prove the difference makers in close contests.

As far as the region goes, Coach Lipsey says, "There is lots of talent and some really great talent throughout the region. Look no further than right down the road at Blackville-Hilda. They are probably the favorites to win the region."

The 2024 roster looks to be improved. The off season workouts were good for the Devils. As this group plays together, look for improvements and a steady growth as they work towards their goal of reaching the playoffs.

"We had a great summer and have had a great preseason thus far. I am hoping that that translates to Friday nights," said Coach Lipsey.

Come out and support these hard-working young men as they open the 2024 season at Pelion on Friday, August 23. This is a change in previously posted schedules. Good luck, Blue Devils!



"We are looking forward to a successful season for our football teams. The players and coaches have been working hard in the offseason and are eager to get back on the field to get the season started. Good luck to the Williston-Elko Blue Devils and our wish is for everyone in Barnwell County to have a safe and great season!"

—Principal
Anthony Flowers



Not pictured

- #8 Joc'Quise Washington RB, LB 12th
- #12 Josh Epps WR/DB
- #13 Kemarion Reddingburg WR, DB 10th
- #16 Jamurre Rauch WR, DB 12th
- #50 Keith Richardson OL, DL 10th
- #60 Myles Gibson OL, DL 9th
- #63 Nathan Infinger OL, DL 9th
- #64 Bryce Jamison OL, DL 10th
- Billie Infinger, Def. Coord. LB coach



Juanyee Jenkins, Asst. Coach

Kenneth Lipsey, Head Coach

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\$25⁰⁰ 1st Place Weekly
\$10⁰⁰ 2nd Place Weekly

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ENTER WINNERS ONLY - NO SCORES

1. Anyone can enter except employees of this newspaper and their immediate family. Only one entry per person per week.
2. Contestants in this weeks games are listed in each ad on this page.
3. Your entry can be delivered each week to The People-Sentinel, 22 Burr Street, Barnwell, SC 29812, or emailed to jvickery@thepeoplesentinel.com. Form must be completely filled out on the newspaper to be eligible. If emailing, scan or send a photo of the filled out form from the newspaper.
4. Children under 12 years of age do not qualify to enter. Winners will be announced following each contest.
5. Decisions of the judges will be final.
6. A new contest will be announced each week.
7. In case of a tie, awards will be equally divided among the winners.

GET YOUR ENTRY IN TODAY!

BUSINESS	WINNER
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

TIE BREAKER
 Fort Mill vs Ballantyne Ridge

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

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We also have Calzones, Pastas, Salads, Subs/Wraps & More!
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 2. Bamberg-Ehrhardt vs Edisto

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3. Allendale-Fairfax vs Hunter-Kinard Tyler

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1. Aiken High vs. Aynor

Red Hill GRILL

SANDWICHES & SHAKES
 EST 2024 • BARNWELL, SC

COMING SOON FOR LUNCH & DINNER:
THURS-MON
11AM-9PM
 7. Jefferson Davis Academy vs Cross Schools
 16 BURR ST. BARNWELL
 REDHILLGRILL.COM

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9. Capron vs Catawba Ridge

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 DOT physicals | DOT Drug Testing | Auto Accidents
 Neck Pain | Lower Back Pain | Sciatica

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 Thurs. 2PM-6PM | Fri. 9AM-2PM | Closed on Tues.
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 RIBBON CUTTING 11AM

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 11. Denmark-Olar vs Wagener Salley
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10. Ware Shoals vs Blacksburg

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5. Williston-Elko vs Pelion

Floral Mark-It
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6. South Aiken vs Silver Bluff

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12. Patrick Henry Academy vs Academic Magnet

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Follow us on:

This week's deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Thursday, August 22.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events

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

Monday AA Meetings
 Free. Open to the public. The Axis I Center, 179 Fuldner Rd., Barnwell. 803-541-1245. www.axis1.org. **10:30-11:30am**

1st Tuesdays
Barnwell Development Association Inc. (aka BDA)
 20 Wall St., Barnwell. BarnwellDA.com. BDAinc029.com. **8am**

Weekly on Tuesdays
Free Food Distribution
 Long Branch MBC, 922 Hopewell Rd., Gifford. Food products will be available while supplies last. **3:30-5:30pm**

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Senior Dance Lessons
 Blackville Community Center. For all Barnwell County Seniors 60 and over. Call 803-259-4592. **3-4pm**

Every Thursday
Allendale Line Dance Classes
 Allendale National Guard Armory (368 Court House Square, Allendale) These free line dance exercise/fitness classes are open to anyone 18 years and up. Sponsored by Allendale County Office on Aging and led by instructor Angela Doe Youmans. **6-7pm**

Every Fourth Monday
Barnwell County Republican Meeting
 2269 Ashleigh Road Blackville, SC **6:30-7pm social time 7-8 pm meeting**

Fridays
The Gateway Church Food Pantry
 The Gateway Church food pantry is also looking for volunteers to help with food distribution activities. If you would like to volunteer, please leave Pastor Jamie Sheppard a message at 803-450-6825. **9am-12pm**

Mon., Thurs., Sat.
Virtual Class Dancing For Joy
 Exercise should be fun! Dancing for Joy is a fun way to dance and move to the beat and gain coordination, muscle tone and cardio fitness. Classes are free. We ask that you support your local food bank or pay it forward in any way you wish. Classes are virtual. To participate, email Elizabeth at egalaida@yahoo.com or text 301-473-3418 to get the Zoom information. Zoom links and codes are emailed out prior to every class.

Mondays 3:45-4:50pm
Thursdays 9:15-10:30am
Saturdays 10:15-11:30am
First Sunday Monthly GIFT: Growing In Faith Together! Grief and Loss Women's Group. An all-women's small group offering support and encouragement after the loss of a loved one. First Baptist Church, Bldg. A Rm. 200 (nook). **3-4pm**

Thurs., Aug. 22
Allendale Barnwell Counties Disabilities and Special Needs Board
Board of Directors meeting via telephone conference. **12pm**

Let's Talk: Veterans Supporting Veterans
 This month's topic is "caregivers." Guest speaker is Christy Robinson from Dorn VA Medical Center. 34 Pechman St., Barnwell (Agricultural Building) **6 p.m.**

Thru Mon., Aug. 26
Barnwell Soccer Club Fall 2024 Registration
 Boys and Girls ages 3-12 3-8 year-olds \$50 9-12 year-olds \$75 Visit https://barnwellsoccerclub.com. Registration will not be accepted after August 26. Follow us on our new Facebook group: BSC Barnwell Soccer. For questions 803-300-0221.

Sat., Aug. 24
Barnwell County Democratic Party is sponsoring a Fashion Show at the Barnwell County Career Center, 5214 Reynolds Rd. Blackville. Tickets : \$5.00 and \$8.00 at the door. For ticket information contact: Jean - 770-875-3401 or Betty - 803-300-9488 **4pm**

Sun., Aug. 25
New Home Baptist Church of Red Oak Community, Barnwell, 3rd Pastoral Celebration
 Honoring Rev. Bennie Wiggins Jr. Speaker will be Rev. Glenn Edwards and the Chapel Hill Baptist Church. **2pm**

20th Reunion Choir Concert Anointed Voices
 Union United Methodist Church, 245 Union Circle, Kline Pastor Lisa Way **3pm**

Sat., Aug. 31
Barnwell Labor Day Fun Day
1pm Sponge Dodge **2:30pm** Tie-Dye with a Ranger (\$10 per shirt, \$5 if you bring your own) **7pm** S'mores Night Barnwell State Park

Sat., Sept. 7
Allendale County's 2024 Community Day
 Fun and games for the whole family. Renewed Faith International Ministries, 470 Water St., Allendale **11am-6pm**

Multi-family Yard Sale
 841 Forrest Drive, Barnwell Call 803-259-0323 or 803-943-3027 for more information. All proceeds go toward supporting Edith Ridling's dog, Sam, who is battling cushing syndrome. Sam is a 14-year-old terrier mix, and his owner loves him very much. **8am-5pm**

Setup for Barnwell 9/11 Memorial
 Volunteer to help set up flags honoring all the lives lost on 9/11 **2 pm**

Sun., Sept. 8
Ned Branch Missionary Baptist Church Anniversary
 Guest speaker will be Dr. Leonard O. Griffin, Pastor of Old Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, North Augusta, SC. **1pm**

Wed., Sept. 14
Cultivating Light in the Darkness Walk
 Sponsored by the Aiken-Barnwell Recovery Foundation. A walk to bring awareness to suicide prevention and support the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center. Veterans Memorial Park, Barnwell. **10am**

Ronnie Jowers Book Signing
 Williston Town Hall **10 am- 1pm**

Sat., Sept. 21
Entrepreneur Day 4 Kids Pop-up Market
 Fuller Park in Barnwell. Children 16 & younger will have an opportunity to set up booths to sell crafts, jewelry, artwork, baked goods, home decor, and other fun products. (\$25 booth fee). Vendor application form: https://form.jotform. **11am-2pm**

Sat., Sept. 28
Law Enforcement Expo
 Barnwell Regional Airport 155 Airport Rd., Barnwell. Fun for the whole family. Fun activities for kids. Variety of law enforcement agencies and BSCCO community partners. Contact Lt. Eric Kirkland, 803-300-9992. **10am-2pm**

Town of Hilda's Festival Beauty Pageant
 Barnwell Elementary School, 10524 Marlboro Ave, Barnwell. Beauty, Western Wear, hair, eyes, smile - \$60 Groups: (Age as the day of the pageant) Boys: 0/1 mos, 12/23mos, 2/3, 4/6, 7/9, 10&up Girls: 0-11 mos, 12-23 mos, 2yr, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13-15, 16-19, 20&up For more information or applications contact Melissa Goliver 803-300-8299 or Jeanette Knight 803-671-3570 Email to mbonnette1@gmail.com. **Deadline for applications is September 14, 2024.**

Tues., Oct. 1
Barnwell County National Night Out 2024
 Rescheduled from Aug. 6, due to projected inclement weather. Details will follow for this event later in the year.

Sat., Oct. 12
Williston Craft & Vendor Event
 Williston Hope Lodge, 13088 West Main St., Williston Jo Owens 803-300-0404 Tammi Butler 803-480-3416 **9am-3pm**

Sun., Oct. 13
2024 Aiken Buddy Walk
 Hosted by Upside of Downs of Aiken on the Quad on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus (471 University Parkway Aiken SC 29801). We hope you will join us for a fun and heart-warming day promoting awareness, acceptance and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome. https://charity.pledgeit.org/aikenbuddywalk. The Aiken Buddy Walk is a free event. For more information, please contact Jenny Hall at info@aikenupsideofdowns.org or 803-646-4043. **Check-in and family fun activities start at 1pm with the walk starting at 3:21pm.**

Sat., Oct. 19
Autumn Candlelight Tour
 Ninety Six National Historic Site, 1103 Hwy 248, Ninety Six. Explore history by candlelight along the one-mile trail as living historians present historical scenes. Tours last about one hour and 15 minutes. Final tour starts at 9:00pm. A FREE event but reservations are required. **Reserve your spot through Eventbrite after September 8th.** Phone: 864-543-4068 ext. 3, email Adrian_Stewart@nps.gov, website: www.nps.gov/nisi/ **6:30-10pm**

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 19 & 20
Autumn Encampment
 Ninety Six National Historic Site, 1103 Hwy 248, Ninety Six. Experience what life was like in the Carolina backcountry at the start of the American Revolution. Featuring guided tours, interpreters in period clothing, musket demonstrations, cricket games, National Park Museum & film. FREE event! 864-543-4068 ext. 3, or email Adrian_Stewart@nps.gov. Website: www.nps.gov/nisi/ **Sat. 9am-4pm Sun. 9am-3pm**

Fri., Oct. 25
Williston Homecoming Parade West Main to Warren Street in Williston **5 pm**

Sat., Nov. 2
Halloween Fun Day at Barnwell State Park
1-3pm Pumpkin carving contest (\$5 per pumpkin) **3:30pm** Judging for the pumpkin carving **4-5pm** Halloween crafting hour (\$3 per person, kids 5 and under free) **7-9pm** Hay ride Come dressed in costume.

Fri., Dec. 6
Stuff a Bus Barnwell County! Toy Drive
 Walmart Supercenter, Barnwell. Pack a school bus full of toys. **8am-4pm**

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

Barnwell Library Events

ADULT
Adult Craft Night
Thurs., Sept. 26
5-7pm
 Stop in and do a fall craft with us. We will be using wooden boards to make scarecrows or pumpkins. Registration is required please call 803-259-3612 or stop by before September 23rd.

CHILDREN/FAMILY
CATCH for Kids
Mon., Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
3:30-4:30
 Join Ms. Hannah after school for a fun and healthy program just for kids. CATCH promotes physical activity and healthy food choices for children from preschool through eighth grade. This program is in partnership with Snap-Ed.

Crafter-Noon for Kids
Fri., Sept. 13
4-5pm
 Drop in and make backpack/badge keychains with us.

STEM for Kids
Wed., Sept. 25
4-5pm
 Join us outside for a fun Mentos Geyser Experiment – Mentos & Coke Experiment. This activity may get a little sticky.

STORYTIME
Read, Rattle, and Roll Storytime
Thurs., Sept. 5
10:30 am
 A fun and engaging story and activities for up to five years old. We'll help you get started with developmental screening. You can complete one in 30 minutes at the library or later at home. In partnership with Help Me Grow SC.

Virtual Storytime
Thurs., Sept. 19
Videos will be posted by 10:30 am. Follow along with Mrs. Amanda as she reads a funny fall story.

JUST READ
Forever Never
 4 Stars
 by: Lucy Score
 Amanda BCPL Manager

The Blue Castle
 4.5 Stars
 by: LM Montgomery
 Carol BCPL Clerk

When Crickets Cry
 4 Stars
 by: Charles Martin
 Carol BCPL Clerk

Banners for Veterans

Does your family have a veteran or serviceman/woman that you would like to see honored on special occasions such as Veterans Day?

The Blackville Museum (Blackville Area Historical Society) would like to honor veterans of all wars with banners that would be displayed on Main Street in Blackville on special occasions. If you have a veteran you would like to see honored or remembered on a banner, you may order one through the BAHs. The cost of making the banners is \$60.00 each. We would need a good photograph of the veteran, his/her branch of service, and dates of service. If you are interested in purchasing a banner, please contact Marla Jameson at 803-300-0520, or Shellie Khatod at 828-302-7611. You can also email ednrsing@yahoo.com.

BARNWELL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER INTRODUCES

Pets FOR VETS

NO COST ADOPTIONS

1st and 3rd Wednesday Every Month

MUST SHOW DD214 OR MILITARY ID UPON ADOPTION

PAW

ADOPT FOR SERVICE TRAINING OR AS COMPANION

FREE SERVICE DOG TRAINING BY OUTSIDE SOURCE IN AUGUSTA, GA

BARNWELL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
 55 DIAMOND RD, BARNWELL SC 29812
 (803) 259-1656

Local Directory

Allendale Library

297 Main St., Allendale (803) 584-2371
 Hours of Operation
 Mon.-Fri.
 9am-5pm
 Sat.
 10am-2pm

Barnwell Library

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

Blackville Library

19420 Solomon Blatt Ave., Blackville (803) 284-2295
 Hours of Operation
 Mon., Tues., Thurs.
 10am-1pm
 2pm-6pm

Williston Library

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

BARNWELL SENIOR CENTER

Mondays-Fridays
 Gail Reyes Senior Center/
 Generations Unlimited
 (11403 Ellenton St., Barnwell)
 803-259-4599

BLACKVILLE SENIOR CENTER

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

Eat, Drink, Shop LOCAL

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Puzzle on Page 6A

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution


Puzzle on Page 6A

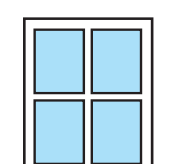
5	3	1	4	2	8	7	6	9
8	7	4	1	9	6	5	3	2
6	2	9	3	5	7	1	8	4
2	6	3	9	8	1	4	7	5
1	4	7	2	3	5	6	9	8
9	8	5	7	6	4	3	2	1
7	1	6	8	4	2	9	5	3
4	9	8	5	7	3	2	1	6
3	5	2	6	1	9	8	4	7

SUMMER JOBS FOR KIDS

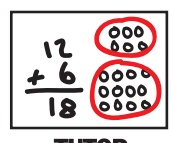
Are you looking to earn some money this summer? You can become an **entrepreneur**! That's a person who starts a business.

Fill in the missing vowels to discover some ideas for types of businesses YOU can start this summer!


 H _LP ELDERLY
 P _OPL_ WITH
 EL_CTR_NICS


 CL _N
 W_ND_WS


 P_LL
 W_DS


 TUTOR
 A Y _NG
 K_D


 R_N
 RR_NDS


 H_LP
 C _CH
 A SP_RT


 HAVE A
 Y_RDS LE


 P_T ON A
 P_PP_T SH_W


 M_KE
 SM _TH_ES


 P _NT
 F_NGERN _LS


 S_LL
 Y _R OLD
 T_Y S OR B_KES


 S_LL
 P_PC RN

What's an entrepreneur?
 An **entrepreneur** (on-trah-preh-nyur) is a person who sees a way to earn some money by solving a particular problem.

For example, lots of kids have learned that thirsty people on hot days will pay for a cold glass of lemonade.

Entrepreneurial Thinking
 Can you see the job opportunity in each of these pictures? Look at each picture. What problems do you see here? What kind of help might they be willing to pay for?



Standards Link: Economics: Students know that entrepreneurs are people who use resources to produce innovative goods and services they hope people will buy.

Who wants to make money?

One way to make money is to get a job. But that is not possible for everyone. Often times kids can't get jobs because they are too young.

But that hasn't stopped kids around the world from finding clever ways of earning some cash. Some kids, like Jason, turn doing something they love into a way of earning money.


Look at each of the following pictures. Write down ways a business you could start might be able to help.

PROBLEM: Litter around the neighborhood.



SOLUTION:

PROBLEM: Neighbor who works all day has new kitten.



SOLUTION:

PROBLEM: Weather heat wave.

98°	101°	104°	106°	103°	99°	95°
SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

SOLUTION:

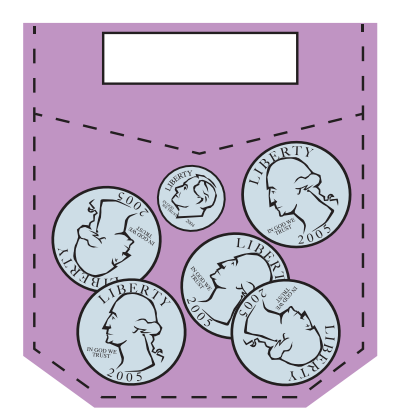
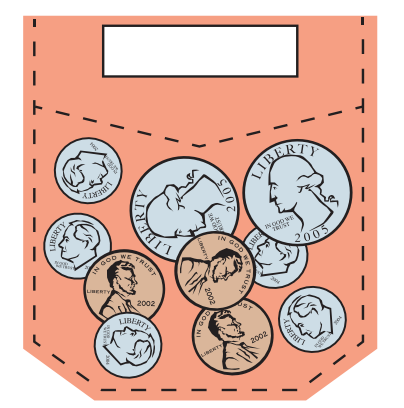
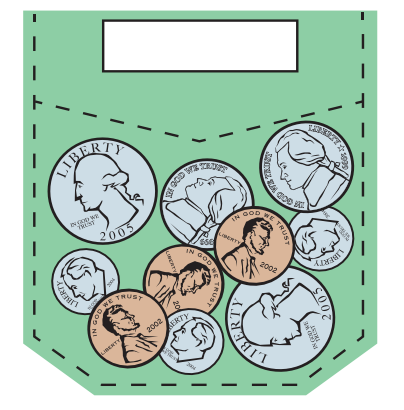
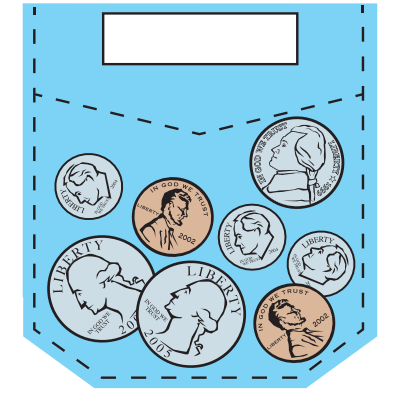
Extra! Extra!
Business Search

Look through the newspaper and make a list of all the businesses mentioned. Group these businesses into groups such as restaurants, stores, manufacturers, etc. Put each list into alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Research: Organize information from research into categories.

Label each pocket with each person's name.

- Chris: \$1.35
- Beth: 87¢
- Kate: \$1.03
- Amy: 93¢



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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
OPPORTUNITY

The noun **opportunity** means a chance, especially one that offers some kind of reward.

Taylor got the **opportunity** to see his name in print when his essay was published in the newspaper.


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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Do the math to reveal the answer to this riddle.

What has a mouth but doesn't eat, a bank with no money and a bed but never sleeps?

$\frac{\quad}{22}$	$\frac{\quad}{26}$	$\frac{\quad}{5}$	$\frac{\quad}{27}$	$\frac{\quad}{9}$	$\frac{\quad}{26}$
$13 + 9 = A$	$33 + 6 = G$	$15 + 11 = R$	$24 - 6 = D$	$28 + 4 = H$	$18 + 7 = S$
$17 - 8 = E$	$16 - 11 = I$	$34 - 7 = V$			



Standards Link: Number Sense: Addition and subtraction to 40.

Double Double Word Search

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

LEMONADE

SOLUTION

BUSINESS

THINKING

PROBLEM

IDEAS

START

OFTEN

JOBS

CASH

HELP

MAKE

BANK

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

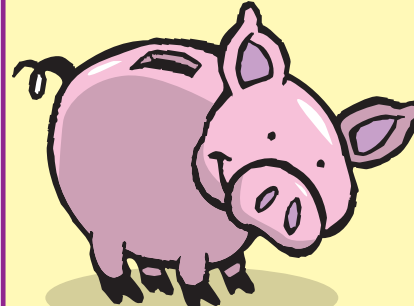
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Round It

Look through the newspaper for five prices under \$100. Round each one to the nearest dollar. Then look for five prices over \$100 and round them to the nearest dollar. Have a parent or friend check your work.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Round to the nearest dollar.



Why is an empty piggy bank always the same?

ANSWER: There's never any change in it!

Write On!

What's the Difference?

What is the difference between a "want" and a "need"? Give an example of each.



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