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ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29620—WEDNESDAY, April 21, 2021

14 PAGES

“Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it.”

\$\$\$\$\$

Abbeville County gets ready for nearly \$5 million in stimulus funding

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County is slated to get nearly \$5 million in federal funds due to the American Rescue Plan.

Abbeville County Council recently passed a resolution to establish a fund to hold the direct federal aid and to establish procedures for accounting and distribution of funds.

“With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act on March 12, 2021, Abbeville County is scheduled to receive approximately \$4.7 million in direct federal aid (the “Funds”); and, Abbeville County is due to receive approximately 50% of the Funds within 60 days of the bill’s passage,” the resolution states.

The County Treasurer is directed to establish a separate checking account in which the funds are to be

deposited.

So what will all this money be spent on?

“We’re going to wait to get the money before we decide where it’s going to go,” said County Council member Rick Campbell Wednesday.

Council will vote on how the money is going to be spent once the money is deposited into the special account which is being set up, he continued.

Asked what he would like to see the money spent on, Campbell replied that other local governments, including the City of Abbeville, will be receiving money through this piece of federal legislation.

Campbell said he would like to see the money spent on “a water system in the upper part of the County,” including the Lake Secession/Diamond Hill Elementary area.

“We’re just going to have to wait and see if this money can be spent on these particular projects,” he said.

“We need to look back on some of our goals,” said Council member Charles Goodwin.

A prioritizing of the County’s needs and its short-range and long-range goals, would help, he said.

As Campbell indicated, Abbeville County will not be alone in getting federal funding through the stimulus package approved to help America get back on its feet in the wake of the pandemic.

Other local governments will be getting money as well.

“We are still awaiting federal guidance on what/how to utilize the funds,” said County Director David Garner this week.

The Dutchess, which will be a new Abbeville business, won a Historic District Building Grant from the City of Abbeville. Charlye Criger, who is opening the Dutchess, was present at the Council meeting recently. “I really appreciate it,” she told Council. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Abbeville Car Wash has been awarded an Existing Business Grant from the City of Abbeville. At a recent City Council meeting, car wash owner Andy Price thanked the City. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



City honors business grant recipients

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council at its Council meeting Wednesday night recognized recipients of the City’s small business grant program.

The winners included the following:

- Trinity Photography: Existing Business Grant
- Abbeville Car Wash: Existing Business Grant
- Divine Your Space: Historic District Building Grant
- The Dutchess: Historic

District Building Grant Charlye Criger of the Dutchess was present at the meeting Wednesday night. “I really appreciate it,” she told Council.

Criger is establishing a restaurant on the site of the former Dutch Oven on North Main in downtown Abbeville.

Andy Price of Abbeville Car Wash was at the Council meeting also, and he also expressed his gratitude to the City.

In other matters Wednesday night, Council passed first reading an ordinance of the City amending an ordinance No. 10-2018 to update language regarding the economic incentive program.

Council passed first reading on an ordinance of the City amending Chapter 19, Article V, Division 3, regarding sewer use regulations to remain in compliance with state and federal standards.

Good news

City of Abbeville wins award for excellence in financial reporting

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville has won yet again an award for excellence in financial reporting, auditor Marcy Loucks of McKinley Cooper and Co., LLC, told Abbeville City Council last week.

Loucks recognized the City during a presentation she gave about the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and she commended the City’s finance department for its work.

There was more good news for the City. “We gave an unmodified opinion,” she said. “Unmodified’ is good.” An unmodified opinion is

the highest opinion that can be given, and shows that the City’s financial statements were given in line with established accounting standards.

The City also had a healthy fund balance of \$1.6 million for the general fund, enough to cover four and one half months of expenditures.

Loucks said that the audit did not reveal any major areas that needed improvement.

In other matters, Council reappointed Patrick Mulcahy to the Planning Commission. Before the vote to

reappoint, Council heard a presentation from Mulcahy, who said he enjoys serving. “For me it has been a great learning experience,” he told Council.

A city needs care, and proper zoning is an instrument of that care, he said, noting that he would like to serve four more years on the commission.

Council also voted to reappoint Jeff Lewis to the Planning Commission. Lewis had indicated that he would like to continue to serve.



Abbeville’s Boy Scout Troop 62 recently held a dedication program for a new basketball goal at its Scout hut in Abbeville. Members of Troop 62 and Pack 93 recently joined adult leaders in this dedication photo. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Friday deadline for CF Personality nominations

By Henry E. Green

Friday, April 23 is the last day to turn in nominations for the Calhoun Falls Personality of the Year.

In keeping with tradition, this year’s recipient will be recognized for community service during the preceding year—in this case, 2020.

The recipient will be recognized during the Calhoun Falls Springtime in the Falls festival in mid-May.

COVID concerns forced the cancellation of the competition last year, but

this year represents a new beginning.

Nominations may be mailed or e-mailed to The Press and Banner. If they are mailed, they need to be typewritten.

The mailing address is PO Box 769, Abbeville, S.C. 29620.

The e-mail address is henry@bannercorp.net

The award is slated to be presented on the evening of Friday, May 14, at 7 p.m. on Cox Avenue, during the opening night of the Spring-

time in the Falls festival. All nominations need to be turned in by April 23.

No “petition” nominations will be accepted, and the letter must be signed, and a phone number for further information must be provided.

The individual nominated must be someone who has a Calhoun Falls address, and must be someone who has made a positive difference in the Calhoun Falls community.

AAMC quarantines

‘J&J’ vaccine

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Area Medical Center has quarantined its supply of “J&J” vaccine, following Centers for Disease Control recommendations, said Meg Davis, Marketing Director with Abbeville Area Medical Center.

“Our primary care office,

the Abbeville Area Healthcare Center, does currently have the Janssen (J&J) vaccine and has quarantined it per CDC recommendations,” she said Wednesday.

“We have received 500 doses and have given 280 to date. We have an ample

supply of other vaccine to meet our current demands.”

Health authorities had recommended pausing the use of the J&J vaccine while they investigate cases of blood clots among the several million people who received it.

Local firefighters get V-SAFE grants

By Henry E. Green

A number of Abbeville County fire departments have been awarded V-SAFE grants, which are designed to help meet the equipment needs of firefighters, according to a list provided by State Rep. Craig Gagnon. The list was one which Gagnon received from the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and includes departments in State House District 11, which Gagnon represents in the General Assembly. The ones in Abbeville County include the following:

- Sharon--\$29,547.40
 - Abbeville City Fire and Rescue--\$29,943.66
 - Monterey--\$28,419.20
 - Abbeville County Fire Commission--\$29,558.75
 - Antreville--\$30,000
 - McGill--\$30,000
 - Calhoun Falls--\$28,072.30
 - Donalds--\$ 29,082.60
 - Broadmouth Turkey Creek--\$29,114.70
 - Due West Fire & Rescue--\$29,875
 - Keowee--\$30,000
 - Lowndesville--\$29,783.45
- The recipients were among 182 fire departments from 40 counties across the state, according to the Department of Labor, Licensing

and Regulation. V-SAFE stands for Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment. The state handles the administration of the program, and received 203 applications totaling nearly \$5.8 million in requests. An eight person peer review panel reviewed the requests. The funds, meanwhile, will be used to purchase equipment such as personal protective equipment, self-contained breathing equipment, and basic rescue and safety equipment, the Department continued.

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Abbeville High School held its prom on April 17 at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville, and many of the prom-goers gathered in their prom finery on the grounds of the Burt-Stark house for pictures on Saturday afternoon before the big event. Parents and grandparents were among the multitude, seen here from the porch of the old house. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

End of the line Telecommunicators' line of work can be stressful, but is very important

By Henry E. Green

This week is National Telecommunicators Week. Telecommunicators are also called 911 or public safety dispatchers, and their line of work carries with it a truly large amount of responsibility. "They are the true first responders," said Sharmel Miller, Abbeville County E-911 Director. Abbeville County E-911 is located on the first floor of the Abbeville County Administrative Complex. There are 12 dispatchers altogether in E911, which operates 24/7, said supervisor Kayla Rhodes. "We work 12 hour shifts," she said. "We have three shifts." The day shift is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the night shift is 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., "and then we have a floater shift that works during our peak hours" of 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., she said. "Being that we work 12 hour shifts, our hours are 36 one week and 48 the next." Becoming a telecommunicator obviously takes training. "Before starting, you only have to have a high school diploma or equivalent," said Rhodes. "You must be 18 or older, have a valid driver's license, and a clean

background. For our training program, everything is completed in house. There are several certifications that are required, such as Basic Telecommunicator Officer (BTO) from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) that certifies you to give medical instructions over the phone, and several more. "Our training generally lasts around six months. Along with the certifications, you must complete a set minimum number of hours completing the duties of a telecommunicator while being monitored by a CTO (Communications Training Officer)." Rhodes explained the meaning of the E in E-911. "The E in E-911 mean Enhanced 911. This is the improvement of the previous basic 911. E-911 became mandatory in 1999. The Act that required E-911 is the same that made 911 the universal number for the country. With Enhanced 911, we are automatically given the phone number and the location (approximate) on calls received through a 911 line for both land line and wireless calls, though this is not always possible from cell phones. Phones

made before 2005 did not require this feature. " The calls the telecommunicators receive are truly diverse. "We had 40,231 calls last year. This includes 911 lines, administrative, or non-emergency, lines, and officer initiated. "We get every type of call you can imagine. We've talked callers through delivering babies, talked them through CPR, and talked them out of suicide. We deal with anything from murder to pocket dials." "We're not always successful, but we certainly always try our best. " Can the job of a telecommunicator be stressful? That's a definite affirmative, according to Rhodes. "The stress associated with being a dispatcher is hard to explain to anyone who has never experienced it. It comes from our long hours, the types of calls we receive, the amount of multi-tasking necessary, and the helplessness we sometimes feel after we do everything we can, but it wasn't enough. You have to remember, no one calls 911 because they're having a good day. They call because something, or everything, is going wrong."

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Messenger

UCMAC executive director Bill Boone probes transportation need

By Henry E. Green
 “We have a problem.” UCMAC executive director Bill Boone remembers the day the UCMAC medical clinic director came to him and told him those roughly paraphrased words.

Many of the clinic’s clients had trouble making it to their appointments.

The problem? Lack of transportation.

Just how big a problem was it? That question generated a survey which UCMAC coordinated, and the survey in turn seemed to indicate a real need for a public transportation system here in Abbeville County.

The survey was all in keeping with UCMAC’s mission to serve Abbeville County residents with needs. The all-volunteer organization has a medical clinic, an emergency assistance ministry, and a food pantry system with branches in Abbeville, Calhoun Falls and Lowndesville.

And so Boone took the message to the people.

Abbeville County could indeed use a public transportation system, Boone told Abbeville Rotarians, following up on the presentation he made to Abbeville County Council recently.

Boone is the executive director for the United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County. He shared with the Rotarians the results of the survey, which gauged just

how real the need was for

Of the 258 people responding to the survey, over one third need assistance to get to a destination, over one half need assistance to get to a designation, over one half need transportation to doctor’s offices and grocery stores, and 90 percent of the people need transportation to Greenwood and Anderson. “It appears people need the most help in getting to work in the morning every day of the week except Sunday,” said Boone.

The solution could lie in the National RTAP Community Rides Grant, which would fund a one year pilot project, which would take in \$100,000 in funding and would be of no cost to Abbeville County.

The project would focus on providing primary medical-related transportation.

Boone would like to see Abbeville County pass a resolution to support McCormick Area Transit submitting the grant and designate them as the transit provider.

Eighty seven of the respondents worked in Abbeville, and 30 in Calhoun Falls, while eight worked in Iva, six in Greenwood, five in Lowndesville and five in Due West, three in Anderson, three in Hodges, two in Donalds, and one in Honea Path, Laurens, Mount Carmel, Lincolnton, GA, McCormick, Syca-

more, Lavonia, GA, and Ware Shoals.

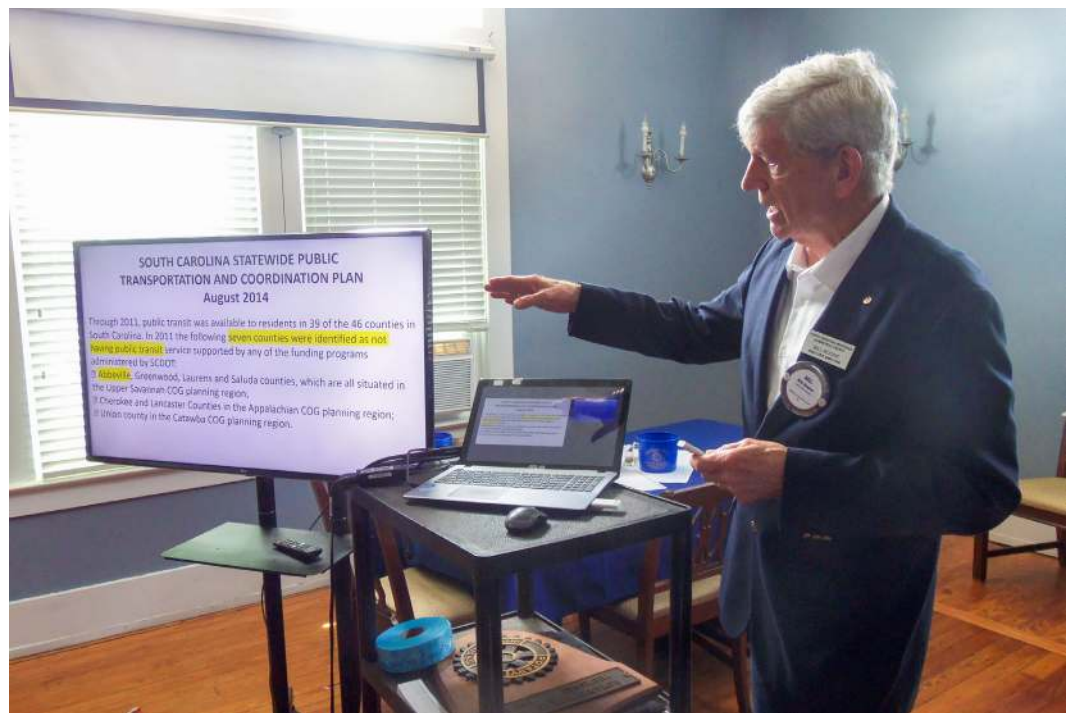
Boone provided information on the National Rural Transit Assistance Program Community Rides Grant Program.

“The National RTAP Community Rides Grant Program offers current recipients and subrecipients of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)’s Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311) program the opportunity to apply for grant awards of up to \$100,000 for projects that develop or strengthen transportation partnerships that improve social determinants of health in rural and tribal communities,” he said in an e-mail. “There is no minimum grant award, and local match is not required. The project duration is fifteen (15) months.”

Boone worked with Ten at the Top in conjunction with formulating the survey, and a committee was formed in conjunction with it as well.

The UCMAC executive director praised committee member Shannon Sears of West Carolina Tel for his work in helping gather the survey data.

In addition to West Carolina Tel, such entities as Erskine, Abbeville Area Medical Center, Upper Savannah Council of Governments and Abbeville County government, just to name a few, were represented on the committee.



United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County executive director Bill Boone spoke to Abbeville Rotarians recently about the need for a public transportation system in Abbeville County. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Man escapes from custody, apprehended

By Henry E. Green
 Law enforcement officers gave chase Thursday to an individual who jumped out of an Abbeville Police Department car, and eventually was apprehended on top of a local industry building, according to a Police incident report.

Abbeville City Police officers observed John Eric Clark, 27, of 108 Coleman Apartments, Apartment 5, Abbeville, in Abbeville and knew that he had active warrants from the Abbeville

County Sheriff’s Office. Officers got out to speak with Clark in reference to the warrants, and Clark was handcuffed in the back while the warrants were confirmed.

He was transported to the Abbeville County Detention Center, and outside the center Clark turned and escaped custody.

Officers were notified by radio of the incident, and an officer, seeing Clark fleeing, observed that “he did not have both hands in his cuffs.

Clark did have one hand free” according to the report.

Clark ran into nearby woods, according to the report.

“The Sheriff’s Department, as well as the police department did set up a perimeter,” the report continued. “Clark was taken into custody shortly after, after being spotted on top of Pro Towels. Clark was then transported back to the Abbeville Detention Center.”

Schools experience ‘lockdown’ last week

By Henry E. Green
 A number of Abbeville County schools experienced “lockdown” situations on Thursday and Friday of last week.

Long Cane Primary was placed on “lockout” shortly after 12 noon on Friday, “said Dr. Skip Hopkins, Director of Student Services with the Abbeville County School District Friday.

“The lockout meant that normal operations took place inside the school but students could not go outside for any reason during the lockout. The was in response to police searching for someone who had escaped in the vicinity of LCP. Around 1:30 police notified the school and the district that the lockout could end. The school resumed normal operating procedures at that time.

“Thursday we had a similar event occur around 2:55 -3:00 which caused Wright Middle School and the Abbeville County Career Center to go on lockout as well. Westwood Elementary would have taken those same precautions if students were on campus. At that time Principal Darren Gray reported that all students had vacated the building and all teachers were leaving. Abbeville area buses were routed to WMS and those students were safely housed there until the lockout was lifted. At approximately 3:50, the sheriff’s department communicated that it was safe to resume normal operations. Students and buses were dismissed at that time. Thank you to school administration, teachers, and other staff for a job well done. We are

pleased that our students remained safe and secure during these events.”

Thursday’s lockdown was due to an incident in which an individual escaped from law enforcement custody before being apprehended later that afternoon.

Abbeville Assistant Police Chief Nick Moore said that a City officer had made a traffic stop about 12:30 p.m. Friday, and had the driver detained, and “he managed to get loose and run into the woods.”

The individual was spotted near Highway 72 East and at press time was still at large.

The Sheriff’s Office assisted with its bloodhound team in learning for the young man, who was wanted on general sessions bench warrants, Moore said.

(See related story.)

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Crafts to be integral part of Festival

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Spring Festival, which this year will be held April 29 through May 1, is known for a great many things, and organizers probably hope it has something to appeal to just about every taste.

Some people like the music, of course, but others like the crafts.

"We expect about 50 crafters," said Emily Bledsoe, special events coordinator with the City of Abbeville, which presents the festival.

There is still time to apply for to occupy a craft booth for the festival, and one should

consult the City Website for more information.

The crafters will be on the Square and in the Livery Stable, on Friday, April 30, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., said Bledsoe.

These crafters will be offering everything from jewelry, to woodworking, to pottery, leather goods, to soap.

"Ready just a wide variety of things," she said.

The City rents out spaces of 10 feet by 10 feet to the crafters, providing a source of revenue from the Festival.

The Abbeville Artist Guild will judge the crafters'

booths, providing an award for Best Booth Presentation and Best in Show Craft Item.

Details on the announcement of the winners are to be announced.

"This will be the first time we've done it for the Spring Festival," said Artist Guild treasurer Jane Agan Wednesday, noting that the Guild judged crafters for the City's Hogs and Hens Festival last year.

Craft items will be judged on qualities such as creativity, and booths on their efficiency of space.



Abbeville High School held its prom on April 17 at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville, and many of the prom-goers gathered in their prom on the grounds of the Burt-Stark house for pictures on Saturday afternoon before the big event. Among them were Ty Price of AHS and Elizabeth Keller of Greenwood High. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Keep it up!

Fully vaccinated people still need to take precautions, according to CDC

By Henry E. Green

So you're fully vaccinated. You've received both of your shots against COVID-19.

Where do you go from here?

Well, according to the Centers for Disease Control, you're not quite out of the woods just yet.

There are certain things you can do, and certain things from which you should refrain.

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people can:

Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.

Visit with unvaccinated

people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.

Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.

Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention

measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for se-

vere COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

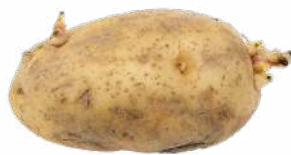
Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.

Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings. Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Follow guidance issued by individual employers.

Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

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4/21/16

City OKs development agreement for ACTS

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Training School project is taking a step forward, thanks to action taken by Abbeville City Council last week.

Council approved an infrastructure development agreement for the project, which involves turning the old Abbeville County Training School on Branch Street in the city of Abbeville into an apartment complex for senior citizens.

The developers of the project have approached the City about entering a memorandum of understanding. "The role of the City would be to ensure infrastructure is made available on the site at a minimum cost of \$35,000, and any additional

cost would need to be approved through an official addendum to the MOU.

"This MOU is nonbinding and it may be terminated at any time before a Notice to Proceed has been issued.

"I am requesting approval to sign the MOU with the understanding that this agreement will help develop a dilapidated piece of property in the City of Abbeville."

City Council unanimously agreed to the proposal for the project, which according to Stone carries with it a minimum investment of \$7 million.

The City and ACTS Community Apts, LLC, would be the parties to the agreement, according to information supplied by the City.

Developer Tonya Haddock

was present "electronically" during the meeting and was available to answer questions from Council members.

The ACTS building used to be a school, and is actually, according to the developers, the last surviving Rosenwald School in Abbeville County.

Through the Rosenwald School project, thousands of schools, primarily for the education of African-American children, were built in the South in the early 20th century, according to Wikipedia.

The developers are considering plans to include with the complex a farmers market, and an auditorium centering on African American history.



Recently Calhoun Falls Councilman Howard Harmon was sworn in to fill the unexpired seat of deceased Wayne Pless. Councilman Harmon will start taking some online courses from the Municipal association, to get more knowledgeable on government operations. He will assume duties as the liaison for the Fire department. Harmon's wife Sarah (left) and Mayor Chris Cowan (center) took part in the swearing in. (Photo courtesy of Chris Cowan).

Obituaries

Graber

Ida Mae Mast Graber, 87, of Abbeville, SC, wife of the late Lavern Graber, died Thursday April 15, 2021 at her home; her family was with her. She was born in East Fairfield, PA to the late Joseph A. and Ida Christner Mast.

Mrs. Graber enjoyed the outdoors, spending much of her time in the garden and keeping her yard in pristine condition. Her other hobbies included painting, along with wallpapering. She and her husband, Lavern, founded, owned, and operated the Dutch Oven restaurant, a staple of the Abbeville community. Mrs. Graber was a member of Whispering Pines Mennonite Church.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Graber Nisly; a brother Olin Mast; and sister Ruby Miller.

Mrs. Graber is survived by her son Gary Gra-



Ida Mae Mast Graber

ber (Debbie), of Athena, OR; a daughter, Sandra Hershberger (Wesley), of Abbeville; a son-in-law, Jason Nisly, of Greeley, CO; five brothers, Joseph Mast (Betty), Walter Mast (Betty), Jerome Mast (Julia), Paul Mast, and Ernie Mast (Helen); four sisters Esther Overholt, Mary Ellen Overholt (Lewis), Viola Overholt (Victor), and Elsie Overholt (Rudy); her grandchildren, Wendell Hershberger (Rose), Heather Horst (Myron), Sherilyn

Kemp (Lyle), Gordon Hershberger (Dionne), Hannah Hershberger, Rebekah Hershberger, Abigail Hershberger, Grant Nisly (Julia), Alyssa Hopkins (Daniel), Mandy Burkey (Hans), Joel Graber (Joanne), Jonathan Graber (Breanna), and Michael Graber; and twenty great-grandchildren.

The family received friends 5:30PM-7:00PM, Sunday, April 18, 2021 in Whispering Pines Mennonite Church, 7085 Highway 20, Honea Path, SC 29654. Funeral services were 10:00AM, Monday, April 19, 2021 in the church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

The family is at the home in Abbeville.

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting www.harrisfuneral.com.

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Abbeville is assisting the Graber family.

Obituaries

Driggers

Mr. Gene Autry Driggers, 83, of Anderson Street, Calhoun Falls, SC, husband of 64 years to Betty Willis Driggers, passed away on Sunday, April 18, 2021, at Self Regional Medical Center in Greenwood.

Mr. Driggers was born in Orangeburg County, SC on August 7, 1937, son of the late Rev. Herman Leon "H.L." Driggers and Florence Elisabeth Lovern Driggers. He retired from WestPoint Stevens Textile Mill after many years of service.

Survivors, in addition to his wife Betty, are two daughters: Angie Mobley and Michelle Cox, both of Calhoun Falls, SC; four grandchil-

dren: Chris Mobley, Kayla Mobley, Amanda and Bubba Dooley, and Stevie Cox; four great-grandchildren: Elaina Mobley, Jordan Mobley, Ryder Dooley, and Neveah Mobley; nieces: Sandy and Roger Purdy of Abbeville, SC, Molly and Roger Shaw, Phyllis and Melvin Ball, and Joann Etheridge, all of Orangeburg, SC; nephew, Jody and Allison Driggers of Abbeville, SC; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his siblings: Jimmy Driggers and Nancy Ray.

Graveside services celebrating Gene's life will be held on Wednesday, April

21, at 3 o'clock at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Abbeville, SC. Rev. Wayne Tyler and Rev. John Tyson will be officiating.

The family is at the residence and will greet friends immediately following the service at the cemetery.

Contributions may be made in his memory to Calhoun Falls Church of God, 810 Fairfield Street, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628.

Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at www.berryfh.com.

Berry Funeral Home & Crematory of Elberton, GA is respectfully in charge of arrangements for Mr. Gene Autry Driggers.

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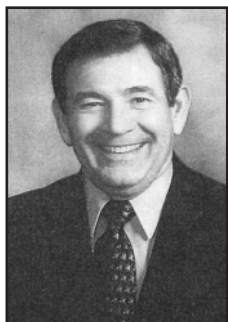
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a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith

F.A.I.T.H.



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Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Corrie ten Boom was the courageous Dutch woman who was interned in a Nazi prison camp during World War II because her family helped hide Jewish people from the Gestapo. During her imprisonment, Corrie endured some of the worst degradation a person can experience. Her sister, Betsy, died in the camps. But through all her suffering, Corrie never lost her faith in God. In fact, Corrie liked to define faith as: F—A—I—T—H. Fantastic—Adventuring—In—Trusting—Him. That definition of faith could also fit Noah. Because of his faith, Noah experienced a fantastic adventure. Let me share three thoughts about Noah's fantastic faith.

First of all, look at the contrast of Noah's faith. Noah's faith in God set him apart from his own generation. The generation in which Noah lived was extremely evil. In fact, his generation was so evil that God was sorry that He had created man. God was so grieved in the wickedness of Noah's generation that He made the decision to destroy the entire human race.

But Genesis 6:8 informs us that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

The word "found" indicates that God was looking for someone to bestow His marvelous grace on and Noah was the only one He was able to do that. I believe that God wanted to show His grace on others but could only find Noah. To me that means God was looking and only Noah was able to receive it. Noah stood out in stark contrast to your generation or do you blend in?

Secondly, Noah's faith condemned his generation. His faith condemned his fellowman because he obeyed God and built the ark. All the while Noah was building the ark, his fellow men had the opportunity to believe God and be saved—but they would not. It took Noah many years to build the ark and while he built the ark he no doubt shared with his fellow man why he was building the ark. I can just imagine people asking Noah, "what are you building?" His reply, "an ark." Then the people would ask, "Why are you doing that?" His reply, "because God told me that He is going to destroy the whole earth with a flood."

Their next statement

would be a question, "What is a flood?" Up until that time, it had never rained, let alone flooded. When Noah would tell them that it was going to rain, they would dismiss him as a crackpot. This went on for years until one day the rains came and the wicked generation that failed to believe were all drowned.

Third, Noah's faith conquered destruction. His faith in God's word saved not only Noah but his entire family. Everyone else perished in the flood. The whole world had an opportunity to be saved but their unbelief led to their destruction.

In Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus said, "For as in the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. And did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

It is exciting to follow God in faith. Noah discovered that, and I hope that you have, too.

Belmont Inn owners weather tough year

By Henry E. Green

The month of April marks a special anniversary for Jim and Susan Botts Petty.

It was one year ago this month that Jim and Susan bought the Belmont Inn, the iconic Abbeville hotel which has been a part of the city scene for more than a century.

Jim and Susan, who reside in Greenwood, have presided over the hotel during what has been a decidedly tough year. "Very tough," Susan laughed.

"But we have survived this year by having the support of the community and the surrounding counties," she

continued. "We appreciate all the concern and the help that has been given by neighbors and friends. We're especially grateful to Mike Clary and the City of Abbeville. They have supported us by having guests staying with us, and they're bringing us business by having the shows at the Opera House. And we appreciate Mayor Edwards for his help."

"We hope to continue this year with our guests having the best hotel and restaurant experience they can in their travels and locally."

"We appreciate our loyal staff and the hard work that

they do—especially now in the time that most of the hospitality industry is short-staffed."

"We ask that our guests be patient with staff when visiting the restaurant, bar and inn."

"We have enjoyed our venture here in Abbeville, and hope to continue serving our neighbors and friends."

"Please like our Facebook page to stay up to date on music, special events, and our menu."

"Don't forget our Simply Southern Sunday Lunch."

For more information, one may contact the inn directly at 864-459-9625.

Jim and Susan Potts Betty bought the Belmont Inn one year ago. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Read Local

Local company.
Local journalists.
Local stories.

Haigler Street Church of Christ

will serve as a COVID-19 vaccination site on Wednesday, May 5th, 2021 from 4-6 p.m. Please call 864-366-4931 to schedule an appointment.

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Phone records show 'Hero' cat complicit in Chamber bat attack

Story continued on page 92

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Council elects Greeson as Mayor Pro Tem

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville City Council elected this past Wednesday City Council member Benji Greeson to be Abbeville Mayor Pro Tem. Greeson, who was nominated by Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards, defeated Council member Chris Crawford, who was nominated by Council member J.J. Jackson.

Council actually voted twice on the Mayor Pro Tem, with Greeson coming out on top.

Voting for Greeson were John Sutherland, Greeson, Trey Edwards, Jason Edwards, and Marcus Gambrell.

Voting for Crawford were Crawford, Louise Aikens, J.J. Jackson, and Faye Thomas.

After the first vote, Crawford said that the motion to elect a mayor pro tem had originally been tabled several months ago.

Edwards noted that the vote had already been taken, but eventually a short recess was taken in the meeting to review the matter.

After reviewing the minutes, City Manager Blake Stone announced that the vote had been indeed tabled back in December.

Council then, upon a motion by Council member Faye Thomas, voted unanimously to "un-table" the matter.

Abbeville wins

Abbeville won all three of its games last week, and has secured a playoff berth, AHS coach Nick Milford said.

AHS defeated Dixie 12-0 in varsity baseball action Wednesday.

Hunter Overholt gave up one hit and struck out six for the Panthers on the mound.

Taylor Scott came on in relief for one inning and had one strike out.

Evan Sellars and Trent Delgado both finished two hits.

Card of Thanks

Perhaps you sang a tender song
Or came to pay a call;
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If so we saw it there.
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As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
But just thought of us that day.
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Rates based on minimum (1x4) local rate. Photos returned in self-addressed, stamped envelope. Deadline is Friday, 5pm for Wednesday publication.



Commentary

Public Safety Bond Issue?

If we are not mistaken, county council began budgeting public safety concerns which include air packs and new vehicles. County is now wanting to borrow \$2 million dollars through a general obligation bond to purchase.

We have also been made aware that Abbeville County is to receive over \$5 million dollars from the federal government as COVID-19 relief funds.

Question: does Abbeville County have \$2 million dollars in any type of savings account from which they could take or borrow the \$2 million dollars without borrowing the money through a general obligation bond?

Let's wait and see how the Fed money can be used.

We are sure county council realizes a \$2 million dollar obligation bond will cost the county (YOU) a 15% upfront fee paid to general obligation lawyers. That's \$300,000 off the top plus interest on the loan itself. A \$2 million dollar loan at a 7% interest rate (we have no idea what interest rate County would receive, so this is only an example) could mean a 20 year loan with a monthly payment of \$15,500 per month x 20 years x 12 months = \$3,725,000 + the \$300,000 to general obligation law firm equals \$4,020,000 pay back. This means we pay over \$2 million dollars in interest and fees to borrow \$2 million dollars.

We are sure the equipment is needed and is necessary. We also know it is a

budgeted item and we also know "Good Ole Uncle Sam" is in the process of printing the money as we speak,

and if Biden is good on his word, he will be sending us almost \$5 million dollars of our money back to us.

Should we not wait and see before we give away \$2 million dollars in fees and interest?



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You also won't want to miss purchasing a chance to win a beautiful piece of jewelry from **The Jeweler's Bench** - the perfect Mother's Day gift if you're the lucky winner!! Chances are \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00 and can be purchased on the auction site.

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Pet of the Month Say hello to Radar. He is a 3-year-old mixed breed at 45 lbs. He is neutered and ready to go home with you today. He was found as a stray in January of this year and is ready for his forever home. Radar has a great personality and is dog and people friendly. Come meet him and you will fall in love with his personality.

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Apr. with support of Greater Abbeville Humane Society. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.



Pet of the Month Kyra loves to play and loves the attention of others. She is a mixed breed, 2-years-old, 45 lbs. She is already spayed and is heartworm negative and is ready to go home with you. Kyra loves people and would be a wonderful addition to your family. Come visit her today and experience her playful nature.

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Apr. with support of Greater Abbeville Humane Society. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.



Pet of the Month Meet Ralph! He is a male, 2-yr.-old domestic shorthair mix. Ralph was found as a stray in February of this year and would love to find his forever home. Already litter trained and ready to be your new companion. Come meet him and when you look into his sweet eyes you will want to take him home today.

Adoption Fees are only \$15 thru Apr. with support of Greater Abbeville Humane Society. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.





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Good humor man

Comedian James Gregory coming to Abbeville Opera House this week

By Henry E. Green

"Funny is funny," comedian James Gregory will tell you.

The same humor "the funniest man in America" uses in Birmingham, Alabama, he uses in Portland, Oregon.

"And they still laugh," he said in a telephone interview Monday.

Audiences in Abbeville will get a chance to see for themselves later this week, when Gregory comes to the Abbeville Opera House for shows on Thursday and Friday.

This will be a return trip to Abbeville County's county seat. Gregory played the Abbeville Opera House a number of years ago.

Abbeville is just one of many places that Gregory takes in in his life as a comedian. He has been in 38 of the 50 states, and he's been north of the border as well--Nova Scotia has been paid a visit by the comedian, and so has Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where he braved temperatures around 40 degrees below zero.

He is especially proud of the trips he has taken overseas to entertain the American military.

It is not a bad life for a man who calls the Peach State home.

"I was born and raised in

the Atlanta area," he said.

He now lives in Woodstock, also in the Peach State, and, to quote Ray Charles, he still has Georgia on his mind. "I get my mail here in Georgia," he said.

The Atlanta area was also the place of his birth as a comedian, so to speak.

"I kind of stumbled into the comedy business," he said.

He remembers the stumbling date well--Feb. 17, 1982.

It was amateur night at a comedy club that had just opened--the first, he said, in the Southeast. His friends dared him to get on stage, and he said "yes."

"That's how I got my foot in the water," he said.

Gregory, mind you, was not an overnight success. He did have his "starving artist years", but today, well . . . "I have over 800,000 followers on Facebook," he said.

With that kind of following, he has found, obviously, a measure of success.

So what is his secret?

"I do the kind of show that people can relate to," he said. His show is always "family friendly. I stay away from foul language."

Television provides him with considerable amounts of fuel for his comedy, and the little quirks of every

day life.

You go to a grocery store and find a lemon pie, made with artificial lemon, while just a few aisles over you find furniture police made with real lemon.

What's wrong with this picture?

And in the process of probing life's little idiosyncrasies, he does not have stage fright.

Well, in the early years he did, but now he feels comfortable on stage. Being on stage, he said, is to him not work at all.

No, the worst part about the comedy business may be the travel--packing and unpacking,

He flies once a year, perhaps, but most of his traveling is done by automobile, and he typically rides with someone.

"I always have an opening act," he said, adding that sometimes that opening act rides with him to the shows.

After nearly four decades of making people laugh, Gregory feels that he has attained a measure of confidence.

"I've done it enough so that I know what I'm doing," he says.

(For more information, one may call the City of Abbeville.)

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Answers on back page

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: FICTIONAL MOTHERS

ACROSS

- Build a collection
- Economic measure acronym
- *Beverly Goldberg's schmoopie
- Use an épée
- Neither here ____ there
- Tall ancient monument
- Daisy-like bloom
- Much of it about nothing?
- Commotions
- *She's 'Bow' to Dre in TV sitcom "Blackish"
- *Mother to Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth March in novel and movie
- Before tac
- Ripped
- Part of Super Bowl entertainment, pl.
- Homesteader's measure
- **"Game of Thrones" Lannister and mother to Joffrey, Myrcella and Tommen
- Douses
- Adjutant
- Article of faith
- Genuflecting joint
- *TV mother to Alexis and David, "friend" to Jocelyn Schitt
- "Will be," as sung by Doris Day
- Perform in a play
- Load sixteen tons, e.g.
- Peacock's pride
- *Mowgli's adoptive mother
- Apartment
- Skeleton in a lock
- Part of a jousting outfit
- Spelling competition
- *Mother to Carlton in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"
- "Well, I'm a-standin' on a corner in ____, Arizona," from the Eagles "Take it Easy"
- Country's LeAnn ____
- Hoover's agency acronym
- Piano practice piece, e.g.
- Church song
- What Usain Bolt did
- Poisonous substance
- *Wife to Papa, mother to Baby
- Sum it up
- Go on a buying spree

DOWN

- Way, way off
- ____ Verde National Park
- Naysayer's favorite prefix?
- What bloodhound is after
- Croatia's neighbor
- Nibble away
- Affirmative action
- Movie trailer, e.g.
- Elementary particle
- *Claire Dunphy and Mitchell Pritchett's mother
- Soothing lotion ingredient
- Bell and Barker, e.g.
- Christopher Kimball's "Milk ____"
- ____'s razor
- Part of a circle
- Tiresome
- Questioner
- **"Mamma Mia!" mamma
- Do this or forever hold your peace
- '80s band "Quiet ____"
- Catch one's breath
- ____ a peak
- Bone-chilling
- Europe's "boot"
- Short for seconds
- *She played Ricky Schroder's stepmom on "Silver Spoons"
- Defendant's excuse
- Religious belief
- ____ Khan
- Plural of #39 Across
- Below, prefix
- Impede
- "Everywhere you want to be" credit card
- Muslim holy man
- Plural of velum
- *Ellen, Scarlett's mother in "Gone with the ____"
- Like the best accommodations
- War god in Norse mythology
- Make one's way
- Dashboard acronym
- *Kunis, Hahn and Bell as " ____ Moms"



Screenings were held for Abbeville County School District at the Abbeville Civic Center last week, and the Abbeville Lions Club helped out with the vision screenings. Here is Lion Mike Allen (left) screening four-year-old Cay'Den Marshall of Abbeville with a screening device. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Wilson Hill to get restroom facilities

By Henry E. Green

Wilson Hill park will get bathroom facilities, and an agreement to dredge the Rocky River/Lake Secession area has been extended, thanks to action taken by Abbeville City Council last week.

Following the recommendation of Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone, City Council unanimously agreed to accept the bid of General Construction Services at \$58,600 to provide a "brick style" building with two stalls for the Wilson Hill park.

The bathroom facilities will be handicapped-accessible.

Council also agreed to

extend the agreement for an additional three years with Easley-based Cooper Sand for dredging in the Rocky River and the backwaters of Lake Secession.

"The dredging helps reduce build up in the tributaries and makes the area safe for traversing for boats," he said.

Stone also provided a Spring Festival update.

The following measures will be implemented for the event, which he said will run Wednesday, April 28, through Saturday, May 1:

--Signs and advertisements encouraging anyone with COVID symptoms to stay home.

--Masks are strongly en-

couraged for attendees and vendors.

--Mobile hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, and masks will be available.

--Disinfectant will be sprayed intermittently.

"Stations for associated City staff will be in their normal positions," Stone said.

Stone also voiced plans for a workshop in May to discuss new proposed projects for a City capital improvement plan.

Projects that are currently on the plan include the wastewater treatment plant, the McGowan Avenue waterline, the Mill Village waterline, and the Opera House renovations.

Abbeville County School District

Vision, hearing screenings conducted

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County School District held its vision and hearing screenings last week for potential K-4 students.

The screenings were conducted at the Abbeville Civic Center, and about 100 youngsters, all of pre-school age, were tested.

"This was for our K-4 pre screening," said Kathy Ber-

nard, the District's director of special services.

The screenings include those for vision and hearing, said Bernard, who thanked the Abbeville Lions Club for their help in conducting the vision screenings.

The School District's health science students, from the Abbeville County Career Center, helped out as well.

The students, who were all second year students in the health science program, earned some hours toward their course requirement by helping out with the screenings.

"Thank you to the Abbeville County School District staff who helped", and the parents who brought the youngsters, Bernard said.

Council, Police probe crime prevention

By Henry E. Green

An anti-loitering ordinance is being considered but has not yet been presented to Abbeville City Council.

The ordinance is being proposed by the Abbeville Police Department, and would seek to curb loitering. The ordinance would be a crime prevention tool.

City Mayor Trey Edwards told City Council recently that he wants to see the proposal on next month's City Council agenda.

The ordinance would be intended to curb loitering in the City, loitering particularly in such places such as apartment complexes, explained City Police Chief Ron Bosler and Investigator Duane Balchin to City Council last week.

The proposed measure comes against a backdrop of crime, much of which is

committed by people from outside the Abbeville community.

Often police officers will arrive at the scene, and would-be wrong doers will simply go inside apartments and stay until the law enforcement officers leave.

Council member Louise Aikens wondered if the Police Department could benefit from a K-9, a trained police dog.

A police dog, said Bosler, involves considerable time and effort, and considerable record keeping as well.

"It's hard for a small department (to take care of a dog)," said Bosler, who himself used to take care of the City's Police dog, Maja, who has since passed away.

It is very costly for a police department to keep a police dog. It would cost well over \$100,000 a year for the

initial start up of keeping a dog, according to the Police Chief.

A police dog is typically used for tracking, for finding drugs or both.

Much of the City's crime--more than 35 percent-- is generated in a small area of the community, formed by Cambridge Street, Adams Drive and Virginia Drive.

The discussion was brought up by City Council member Marcus Gambrell during the "new business" segment of the meeting.

Gambrell was concerned about recent shootings in the City.

"We have had three different shootings within the last couple of months," Bosler said Monday. "We had two within 30 hours of each other."

Community calendar

Hash sale planned

There will be a hash sale at Cold Spring Fire Department on Saturday, April 24, beginning at 7 a.m.

The hash is \$10 per quart, and the fire department is located at 2106 Highway 20.

"First come, first served!" a spokesman said. "Over 1,000 quarts will be avail-

able."

For more information, one may call Chuck Bagwell at 366-5512.

Daddy Daughter Dance planned

The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce will present its annual Daddy Daughter Dance from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 23, at the Livery

Stable in downtown Abbeville.

For more information, one may call the Chamber at 366-4600.

Hospital board to meet

The Abbeville Area Medical Center Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 26, at noon.

Police apprehend Greenwood man

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Police Department has caught a man who ran away after he was detained at a traffic stop, according to an Abbeville Police Department news release.

On April 16, 2021 Officer's with the Abbeville City Police Department conducted a traffic stop on Highway 72 East near the Amoco gas station, according to the release.

Officers had prior knowledge that the driver of the vehicle was 29 year old Nicholas Octavis Tillman of 116 West Pointe Dr in Greenwood, SC. Tillman was wanted on outstanding bench warrants from

failing to appear in General Sessions Court on multiple charges including drug and gun violations, according to the Police.

During the course of the traffic stop Tillman was detained in handcuffs outside of the vehicle while a probable cause search of the vehicle was being conducted, the news release continued.

"During the search Tillman took off running and ran down behind 38 Grey Rock Estates and into the woods. Officers did pursue Tillman but lost sight of him in the wood line. Deputies with the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office and Officer's with the Police Department set up a

perimeter around the area. The Abbeville County Sheriff's Office Tracking Team did deploy a bloodhound in the area and did track the suspect into the woods but was unable to locate him."

At approximately 2030 Officers with the Abbeville Police Department as well as Greenwood Police Department and Greenwood Sheriff's Office went to a location in Greenwood, where they located Tillman hiding in a closet in the house, which belonged to a relative of Tillman, according to the Police news release.

Tillman was arrested and taken to the Abbeville County Detention Center, according to the Abbeville Police.



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Philip Said

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"Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." — Isaiah 62:10

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Isaiah 59:19



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Vaccination effort reaches milestone

By Henry E. Green

A milestone has been reached in the process of vaccinating Americans against the coronavirus.

More than 50 percent of American adults have now received at least one shot, according to reports.

Meanwhile, there are reports that South Carolina is not among the top states in the vaccination effort.

According to quotewizard.com, 20.6 percent of South Carolina residents are fully vaccinated, making it 43rd in the nation in terms of people vaccinated.

Georgia, Utah, and Alabama are the lowest in the nation, according to the study.

The highest rates belong to New Mexico, Rhode Island, and South Dakota.

Meanwhile, the Abbeville Area Medical Center was at press time quarantining the J&J vaccine, following CDC recommendations, AAMC Marketing Director Meg Davis said.

“Our primary care office, the Abbeville Area Healthcare Center, does currently have the Janssen (J&J) vaccine and has quarantined it per CDC recommendations. We have received 500 doses and have given 280 to date. We have an ample supply of other vaccine to meet our current demands.”

“The vaccination clinic is located at 901 W. Greenwood Street, Suite 6 which is behind the Healthcare Center and the former location of our Neurology office,” she said. Appointment requests can be made by calling 366-

1647, according to Davis.

Meanwhile, DHEC continues to keep figures on coronavirus cases in the state’s 46 counties. The total number of confirmed positive cases in Abbeville County has come to 2,060, with 31 confirmed deaths, according to DHEC figures from Monday, April 19.

Of Abbeville’s neighboring counties, Anderson had 19,528 cases, with 465 deaths, and Greenwood had 7284 cases, and 151 deaths.

Laurens County had 6309 positive cases, and 148 deaths, while McCormick had 786 cases, and 17 deaths.

The state as a whole had 476,123 positive cases, and 8235 coronavirus-related deaths.



Abbeville High School held its prom on April 17 at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville, and many of the prom-goers gathered in their prom finery on the grounds of the Burt-Stark Mansion for pictures on Saturday afternoon before the big event. Happy parents and grandparents were on hand to take many, many pictures. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Gettys has fond memories of Lesslies

By Henry E. Green

(See related story.) Jim Gettys of Due West has fond memories of Robert and Barbara Lesslie, whose untimely deaths have saddened the Due West community.

“My wife taught him and has kept up with him (Robert). He was a member of my home church,” he said. “My brother sang in the choir with Robert and Barbara. He lives not far from their home in the countryside near Rock Hill.

“My nephew is Mayor of Rock Hill and a great friend of the Lesslie family.”

Meanwhile, a memorial service was recently held in Rock Hill.

Hundreds gathered at a memorial service and prayer vigil for the Lesslie family Sunday in Rock Hill.

According to authorities, former NFL player Philip Adams went to the home of Robert and Barbara Lesslie and shot and killed them, as well as two of their grandchildren, Adah Lesslie and

Noah Lesslie, and James Lewis, a 38-year-old air conditioning technician from Gaston who was doing work there, published reports indicate.

He also shot Lewis’s colleague, 38 year old Robert Shook of Cherryville, N.C., who later died at a Charlotte hospital.

Lesslie was a Dixie High School and Erskine College alumnus, and Barbara also graduated from Erskine.

Scott breaks down alternative school costs

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District spends approximately \$160,000 a year for its alternative school year—an investment in the lives of young people who might otherwise end up in jail, or worse.

The Abbeville County School District’s alternative school is offered to students with behavioral concerns, as an alternative to expulsion.

The alternative school is located on the campus of Abbeville High School, but those students in the alternative school do not mingle with those in the AHS student population.

“We must isolate students from all other students,” said Abbeville County School District finance director Roni Scott. “They cannot attend classes, ride a bus, eat, etc. with other students. They cannot enter the building where other students enter. We have to provide a certified teacher or an equivalent (virtual) for ELA, math, social studies and science. There is also a counseling component.”

The annual cost of running the program comes to approximately \$160,000.

So where does the money go for the alternative school? How is it spent?

The Press and Banner asked Scott how the money is spent.

The costs, as budgeted for the current year, come to \$159,089, and include educators’ salaries at \$105,755, and associated expenses at \$49,124, and “consumable supplies” at \$1,000, and \$3,210 for the computer program, Scott said.

The District’s alternative school program has provided lively discussions at recent school board meetings, with some trustees wondering if the School District could collaborate in some way with other school district on an alternative school program.

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Sports & Recreation

State champion rec football teams honored

By Henry E. Green

Three Abbeville Youth Athletics football teams that won state championships in their respective age divisions were recognized Saturday with a ring ceremony.

Players, coaches and cheerleaders were all presented with state championship rings, in a program opened by City of Abbeville Recreation Director Nick Van Horn.

Players, coaches and cheerleaders were all treated to a lunch presented by City Council members J.J. Jackson, Chris Crawford, and the Community Outreach Center.

The rings were presented following remarks by Abbeville High School head foot-

ball coach Jamie Nickles, who encouraged the young people to hold fast to their core values.

Nickles praised people like NFL coaches Tony Dungiee and Tom Landry, whom he characterized as men of faith.

Abbeville High School football, he said, is based on the same core values-- faith, family, and, of course, football.

Nickles indicated that he and coaches want to mold young people into individuals of character, and he stressed the value of education.

"Education will take you a lot further than athletics will," he said.

Abbeville City Council

member Chris Crawford also spoke to the crowd. "Kids, keep up the good hard work," he said.

The program was presented by Abbeville Youth Athletics, an organization which works to provide recreational opportunities for young people in the greater Abbeville community.

About 85 rings were provided for players, coaches, and cheerleaders of the three teams, Van Horn said.

The three teams include those in the 7-8 year old, the 9-10 year old, and the 11-12 year old divisions. All three teams won state championships in their respective divisions this past December, Van Horn continued.

The program was presented by Abbeville Youth Athletics, an organization which works to provide recreational opportunities for young people in the greater Abbeville community.



Abbeville High School head football coach Jamie Nickles was the guest speaker for the championship ring presentation program for the three Abbeville recreation football teams that won state championships in their divisions. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The championship ring presentation program for three Abbeville recreation football teams that won state championships in their divisions was held recently at the Abbeville Civic Center. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Erskine Softball, Fleet Split Doubleheader with Barton

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College softball team (19-9, 12-4 CC) split a pair of games with Barton College (20-16, 11-7 CC) at Jeffries Field on Saturday afternoon.

Before today's games, the Fleet were on a four game winning streak against the Bulldogs. With the split, Erskine has won five of the past six games and own a 16-7 edge since the 2010 campaign.

Only one member of the Fleet reached base as Parker Birch made it on

off a throwing error by the third baseman in the top of the first. The Bulldogs scored their only two runs in the bottom half of the first when Hannah Hogue (15-3) walked in a run and then allowed an RBI single.

Hogue started once again in game two, allowing a pair of doubles in the first which yielded the Bulldogs their only run of the game. The Fleet faced being swept until a grand slam from Tori Cooley yielded a 4-1 win.

Hannah Hogue was dealt just her third loss of the season although she struck out 11 through six innings.

With 10 strikeouts in this

game, Hogue improved to 16-3 by allowing three hits over seven innings.

The Fleet play their final two road games of the regular season next Wednesday when they travel to Franklin Springs, Georgia to face off against Emmanuel College (14-24, 7-9 CC) in a doubleheader starting at 3 p.m.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET

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JOB VACANCY

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4/21:2tc

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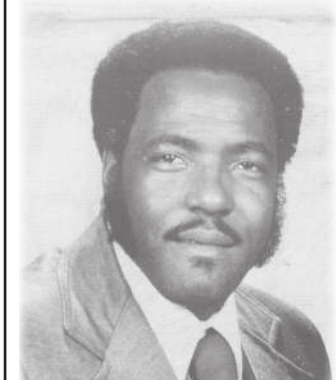
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Erskine Football | Saturday's Spring Season Finale with Limestone Canceled

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College football team (1-5) will not play Saturday's originally scheduled game with Limestone University (1-3, 1-2 SAC) as it has been canceled for the safety and well-being of both teams' student-athletes.

The Flying Fleet were set to take on the Saints at 12 p.m. at nearby J.W. Babb Stadium in Greenwood for their final game of the spring season.

"We believe that the safety of all student-athletes is of the utmost importance," Director of Athletics, Mark Peeler said. "Because of this, we have decided to cancel Saturday's Erskine-Limestone football game. We believe this is in the best interest of both programs in regard to safety and well-being of

student-athletes. This is a disappointing decision to make but one that is necessary. We have enjoyed our first football season in 70 years and look forward to a bright fall."

Tickets for Erskine's regular football season in the fall go on sale July 1, 2021 and can be found by visiting www.erskine.edu/football.

For fans who purchased tickets to the game this Saturday, please refer to our COVID refund policy below:

In the event a game is canceled (not postponed), fans may either:

Do nothing, which designates the face value of your ticket as a contribution to Erskine Football; or

Apply to receive a refund via check, within 30 days of the canceled event, and you will receive a full refund of the face value of your ticket (service and convenience fees cannot be

refunded). Failure to make application results in your refund being designated as a gift to Erskine Football.

Erskine finished the spring portion of their season with a 1-5 record, knocking of Barton College in the College's first game in over 70 years.

"I want to thank all our Erskine Flying Fleet football families and fans for all the support this spring and we hope you will plan on joining us at Groits and Groceries on Tuesday for our season recap and fall forecast," Head Coach Shap Boyd said.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET

Visit the Official Home of Erskine Athletics at www.erskinesports.com

Follow us on Social Media – Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube | Photos



The Erskine College football team (1-5) will not play Saturday's originally scheduled game with Limestone University (1-3, 1-2 SAC) as it has been canceled for the safety and well-being of both teams' student athletes. The Flying Feet was set to take on the Saints at 12 p.m. at nearby J.W. Babb Stadium in Greenwood for their final game of the spring season. (Photo contributed)

Erskine Beach Volleyball open weekend with loss to College of Charleston

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College beach volleyball team kicked off a three match weekend with a single contest against the College of Charleston on Friday afternoon.

THE MATCHES

Scores: College of Charleston 5, Erskine 0

Records: College of Charleston (9-10-1) | Erskine (4-16)

Location: Wheeler Beach Results:

1. Sky Benjamin/Rebecca

Olarium def. Morgan Browne/Olivia Browne 21-18, 21-18
2. Maria Zweig/Ella Reames def. Alyssa Pagan/Allison Dutterer 21-13, 21-18

3. Kyra Thompson/Hazel Brown def. Taylor Atkinson/Kylie McKean 21-12, 21-13

4. Logan Manusky/Ella Ridinger def. Mallory Carter/Karina Petrovich 21-14, 21-12

5. Amani Dunston/Emma Falk def. Maisy Garner/Allison Carter 21-13, 21-7

Exh. Lily Johnson/Mikaela Dougherty def. Emily Alanis/Emily Gilbert 22-20, 26-24

The Fleet complete the weekend with a pair of matches tomorrow against tournament host the University of South Carolina (18-7, 10-5 CCSA) at 11 a.m. before taking on the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (5-9) at 1 p.m.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET

Visit the Official Home of Erskine Athletics at www.erskinesports.com

Follow us on Social Media – Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube | Photos

Legals

Master in Equity's Sale 2020-CP-01-00184

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series 2015A+ against Estate of Mary M. Hagood, et al, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Abbeville County, will sell on May 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM, Abbeville County Courthouse, 102 Court Square, Abbeville, SC, 29620, to the highest bidder:

The following described property located in the County of Abbeville, State of South Carolina:

A Lot of land, together with a dwelling house and other improvements thereon, situate in the Town of Calhoun Falls, Abbeville County, South Carolina, fronting approximately 208 feet on the easterly side of Rice Street and extending back therefrom by the southern boundary line a depth of approximately 147 feet; and extending back from Rice Street by the northern boundary line a depth of approximately 191 feet, and having a width in the rear of approximately 207 feet.

Said lot of land is bounded as follows: north by Shirley Street; east by Herman Powell; south by Marion Hewett, Jr., and west by

Rice Street. This being the same property conveyed to Asberry T. Hagood and Mary M. Hagood for and during their joint lives with the right of survivorship by United States of America FHA by deed dated 10/21/1976 and recorded on 10/28/1976 in Book 123, Page 375, Abbeville County records, State of South Carolina.

Property Address: 318 Rice Street, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628 Parcel No. 153-16-04-029

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity, at

conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at risk of the said highest bidder).

A personal or deficiency

judgment being waived by Plaintiff, the sale shall close on the Sales Day. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Master in Equity's Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the balance of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 8.928% per annum. **SAVE AND EXCEPT ANY RELEASES, DEEDS OF RELEASE, OR PRIOR CONVEYANCES OF RECORD. SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, 20-45512 COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIORENCUMBRANCES**

In the event an agent of Plaintiff does not appear at the time of sale, the within property shall be withdrawn from sale and sold at the next available sales date upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or such terms as may be set forth in a supplemental order.

Roy R. Hemphill
Master in Equity for Abbeville County

Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC
339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor
Columbia, SC 29201
803-509-5078 / File # 20-45512
Attorney for the Plaintiff
4/14, 4/21, 4/28

NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2 vs. April Denise McCoppin; Landmark Financial Services; C/A No. 2019CP0100421, The following property will be sold on May 3, 2021, at 2:00 PM at the Abbeville County Courthouse to the highest bidder (as to deed book 111 at page 27)

All that lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Diamond Hill Township, Abbeville County, State of

South Carolina, containing 0.877 acres, more or less, and being bounded on the north by State Road S-1-34; on the east by lands of Frank Campbell; on the southeast by lands of Ellis Martin; and on the northwest by lands of Ellis Martin; being shown in detail on a plat by Hugh J. Martin dated June 14, 1969 which is recorded in plat book 17 at page 68. This land being a portion of the 60 acre tract conveyed to Ellis Martin by the heirs of T. J. Foster as set out in deed book 95 at page 52. Said deed being dated August 27, 1957.

(as to deed book 108 at page 613)

a lot of land, situate in

Diamond Hill Township, former school district no.27, Abbeville County, South Carolina, containing 0.478 acres, more or less, more particularly described as "Part B" on a plat thereof entitled "Lot of Land for J. W. McCoppin", made by Hugh J. Martin, RLS, dated May 1, 1970, recorded in the OCC for Abbeville County, South Carolina, in plat book 17 at page 226.

Said lot of land has a frontage of 104.78 feet along the center line of S. C. State Highway No. S-124 and is bounded as follows: bounded on the north by the center lines, of S. C. State Highway No. S-24; bounded on the east by a 0.877 acre tract of land owned by J. W.

McCoppin; and bounded on the south and west by lands owned by Ellis Martin.

Derivation: Book 342 at Page 430
740 Keowee Road, Iva, SC 29655

039-00-00-071
SUBJECT TO A S S E S S M E N T S , ABBEVILLE COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EASEMENTS AND/OR, RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: A 5% deposit in certified funds is required. The deposit will be applied towards the purchase price unless the

bidder defaults, in which case the deposit will be forfeited. If the successful bidder fails, or refuses, to make the required deposit, or comply with his bid within 30 days, then the property will be resold at his risk. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. 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 11.994% per annum. For complete terms of sale, see Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed with the Abbeville County Clerk of Court at C/A

#2019CP0100421.

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.

John J. Hearn
Attorney for Plaintiff
Roy R. Hemphill
P.O. Box 100200
Master in Equity for Columbia, SC 29202-3200
Abbeville County (803) 744-4444
011847-04624
Website: www.rogerstownsend.com
(see link to Resources/Foreclosure Sales)
4/14, 4/21, 4/28

Classifieds & Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371PC with the Probate Court of ABBEVILLE COUNTY, the address of which is 903 WEST GREENWOOD ST., SUITE 2300 ABBEVILLE, SC 29620, 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 #371PC) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of 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: Jack Linden Schreier
Date of Death: 2/28/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100097
Personal Representative: Marilyn Schreier
Address: 39 Findlay Dr. Greenwood, SC 29646
4/7;3tc

Estate: Zonnie Pruitt
Date of Death: 06/16/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100105
Personal Representative: Randy Pruitt
Address: 201 Julian Beaty Road Anderson, SC 29621
4/21;3tc

Estate: John Lanier Crawford
Date of Death: 01/04/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100106
Personal Representative: Belinda S. Crawford
Address: 1294 McDill Road Abbeville, SC 29620
4/21;3tc

Estate: Rosita A. Mitchell
Date of Death: 01/31/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100108
Personal Representative: William R. Mitchell
Address: 65 Hanover Ct Abbeville, SC 29620
4/21;3tc

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Erica McCicer-Rayford aka Indigenous Underground intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on premises consumption of Beer, Wine & Liquor at 117 Trinity St., Abbeville, SC 29620. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than May 7, 2021. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:
(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
(2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
(3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
(4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
(5) The name of the applicant and the address of the business to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110.
4/21;3tc

PUBLIC AUCTION

Contents of storage units (personal and household) listed below WILL BE SOLD to the highest bidder at **Bypass Storage, 712 Hwy. 28 Bypass, Abbeville, SC** on April 24 at 9:00 am:
Unit #404 Calvin Wilson
TO PREVENT SALE, accounts must be current by **deadline** at 5:00 pm March April 23rd, 2021. Call 378-0352 for amount due.
4/14;2tc

AUCTIONS

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.
4/21;sw

2 LARGE RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS. April 20th and 27th. North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach, SC. (8) Hobart Mixers, BBQ Choppers, Cubers, Grinders, Ice Machines, Cook Equipment, Seating, Refrigeration, & more. See Website. www.ClassicAuctions.com. 704-791-8825. NCAF5479
4/21;sw

VEHICLE AUCTION

One Chevy 1985 Monte Carlo (Titled to Aileen M. Bowers) that has been in storage for several years. This vehicle does not run and will be placed for public auction 30 days from the date of this ad. Contact information: Mr. Hayes at 211 Wilewood Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620
4/14;3tp



Classifieds



HELP WANTED

DRIVERS

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

4/21:sw

CWS - Owner Operators CDL Class A. 1 year driving experience. Dedicated round trips paid weekly paid per mile, regular home time. Call 1-800-832-7036 ext 1626

4/21:sw

LOCAL

Need someone to put a clutch in a 1979 Chevy C30 Flatbed. Call 864-437-4105.

4/7:3tp

EDUCATION

TRAINONLINETODOMEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-965-0799. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

4/14:sw

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4/21:sw



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FOR SALE

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 833-833-1650 REPEAT

4/21:sw

Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e ON US with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! CALL 1-855-928-2915

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NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 844-254-3873

4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

DIRECTV NOW. No Satellite Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-877-378-0180.

4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

EARTHLINK

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4/21:sw

VIASAT INTERNET

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4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

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4/21:sw

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Game: (SC1235) Bonus PayDay

4/21:sw



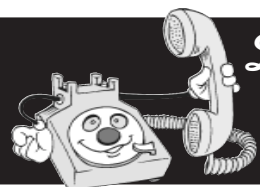
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4/21:sw



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9/25:6tc

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Abbeville County Case Manager - Yamedra Lancaster

706 Carolina Circle, Abbeville, SC 29620
(864) 459-2100

LIHEAP
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

2/10:tf

Visit for more information: www.scdmvonline.com

SCDMV

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Beginning October 1, 2021, you must have a REAL ID if you plan to board a plane or enter certain federal facilities.*

*You must have a reason to visit a military installation, and, even with a REAL ID, you may be subject to additional visitor control measures once on site.

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- Proof of Identity (Birth Certificate or Valid US Passport)
- Social Security Number
- Two Proofs of Current, Physical SC Address
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Classifieds

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7/4ffc

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4/21:sw

FOR SALE

We Buy Houses and Land. Need to sell fast? Cash paid. 864-378-0308.

7/2:ffc

Land for sale on Lee St. in Calhoun Falls, Abbeville County 9-211 AC \$21,000 Wayman Coleman III (owner, seller) Call 864-379-1138 cell or 864-446-2885.

3/3:10tp



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Now you can CALL US with your Classified Ads. Use your credit card for quick, convenient OVER-THE-PHONE service.

DEADLINE:

5pm Mon. Evening. Minimum charge \$10.00.

Call 366-5461



Legals

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PURSUANT TO 6-1-80, A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 10th, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX LOCATED AT 903 W. GREENWOOD STREET. THE HEARING INVOLVES THE FY 21-22 BUDGET. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

FUND	FY 20-21 REVENUE	FY 20-21 EXPENDITURE	FY 21-22 REVENUE	FY 21-22 EXPENDITURE	FY 20-21 MILLAGE	FY 21-22 MILLAGE	FY 20-21 FEE	FY 21-22 FEE
GENERAL FUND	11,718,790	11,718,790	11,062,074	11,062,074	90.7	92.1		
RURAL FIRE	421,272	421,272	441,389	441,389	8.1	8.1		
ROAD MAINTENANCE	587,812	587,812	374,466	374,466			\$ 13.99	\$ 13.99
ACCOMMODATIONS								
TAX	138,179	138,179	138,402	138,402				
VICTIMS SERVICES	86,489	86,489	54,405	54,405				
SOLID WASTE/RECYCLE CENTERS	514,697	514,697	497,007	497,007	6.5	6.5		
INFRASTRUCTURE MILLAGE	98,546	98,546	98,546	98,546	1.5	1.5		
E911 SUBSCRIBER TARIFFS	338,380	338,380	331,457	331,457				
PUBLIC SAFETY FEE	778,140	778,140	778,140	778,140			\$62.50	\$62.50
DSS CHILD SUPPORT	60,010	60,010	60,010	60,010				
C/C FAMILY COURT	7,005	7,005	7,005	7,005				
SHERIFF FAMILY COURT	5,003	5,003	5,003	5,003				
LOST ROLL BACK	826,000	826,000	925,000	925,000				
LANDFILL	1,113,361	1,113,361	1,152,541	1,152,541			\$55.00	\$55.00
COUNTY COMPLEX BUILDING BOND	509,901	509,901	461,696	461,696	7.9	6.9		
COUNTY GOB 2021	-	-	133,220	133,220	-	2.0		
COUNTY GOB 2017	357,964	357,964	359,547	359,547	5.7	5.4		
ABBEVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY	400,120	400,120	413,241	413,241	3.2	3.2		
PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE LANDFILL CLOSURE	155,437	155,437	155,437	155,437	2.3	2.3		
COUNTY RESERVE FUND LEVY	170,093	170,093	170,093	170,093	2.6	2.6		
VETERANS AFFAIR STATE FUNDING	4,704	4,704	4,704	4,704				
COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER	131,486	131,486	130,256	130,256			\$9.00	\$9.00
SHERIFF FIRE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT SRF			280,000	280,000				\$20.00
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT MILLAGE	213,444	213,444	306,471	306,471	3.3	5.1		
TOTAL	\$18,646,833.00	\$18,646,833.00	\$18,350,110.00	\$18,350,110.00	131.8	135.7	\$140.49	\$160.49

**THE MAJORITY OF FUNDS GENERATED BY THE FIRE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT FEE SHALL BE USED FOR NEW SERVICES, HOWEVER, A PORTION OF SUCH FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR SERVICES PREVIOUSLY FUNDED BY AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES.

4/21:1tc

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6/6:1fp

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10/24:1fp

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Public Hearing Notice

May 10, 2021
Abbeville County Administrative Complex
903 W. Greenwood St.
6:30 p.m.

There will be a public hearing May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Abbeville County Administrative Complex at 903 W. Greenwood St. to discuss the following:

- 1) Ordinance (2021-05) to authorize the County to charge and collect a uniform service charge for the improvement of Fire Protection Services provided in Abbeville County.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

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