



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

New life

Easter celebrates the Resurrection

By Henry E. Green

Easter falls on Sunday, April 4 this year.

In the words of Wikipedia, it is a Christian festival that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

“O death, where is thy sting?” the Apostle Paul writes in First Corinthians. “O grave, where is thy victory?”

As to why we call it Easter, Wikipedia tells us that the name comes from Eostre, a pre-Christian goddess, celebrated at the beginning of school.

Whatever the origin of the name, Easter is all about rebirth, all about renewal, and its symbols testify to that.

The egg, for example, is a symbol of new life, and the Easter bunny is a symbol of fertility.

As opposed to Christmas, which always falls on Dec.

25, the date of Easter fluctuates.

“Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox,” according to www.almanac.com.

Here in Abbeville County, a number of government offices will be closed for Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, including Due West Town Hall, Abbeville City Hall, Calhoun Falls Town Hall, and Abbeville County Administrative Complex.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, and it is called “good” because “good” used to mean “holy,” according to state.com.

Although it is not necessarily related to Easter, the Abbeville County School District will have spring break April 5 through April 9.

Question

Will Easter of 2021 represent a return to normal?

Easter is typically a time when churches are packed, often with people do not darken the doors of a church any other time of year.

Last year, of course, was different. The specter of the coronavirus pandemic cast a long, sobering shadow on churches, and concern over the spread of the virus caused many of the churches to close their doors to in-person worship.

With the vaccines providing a ray of hope, this year seems to have a more relaxed vibe. First Baptist Church of Abbeville, for example, has returned to “in person” services, while also providing churchgoers with the option of watching services via computer “live stream.”



Nash Rhodes (right, seated) of the Iva area and two-and-one-half-year-old Aviana Jackson (left, seated) of Abbeville had their picture taken with the Easter Bunny at the Calhoun Falls Easter Eggstravaganza recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

State enters Phase Two of vaccine process

By Henry E. Green

Starting today--Wednesday, March 31-- any South Carolinian age 16 or older is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as the vaccination eligibility range expands once again in South Carolina.

Gov. Henry McMaster and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control made the announcement last week, as the vaccination push picks up steam not only in South Carolina but throughout the nation.

The state is thus moving what is called Phase 2 of the vaccination process.

For more information on signing up for a vaccine at Abbeville Area Medical Center, one may call 864-366-1647.

As of Sunday, March 28, Abbeville County had a total of 1,999 confirmed positive cases, and 31 confirmed coronavirus-related deaths, according to data from DHEC.

Among Abbeville County's neighboring counties, Anderson County had 19,097 confirmed positive cases, with 455 coronavirus related deaths.

Greenwood County had 7,056 cases, with 149 coronavirus-related deaths, and Laurens County had 6,055, with 144 deaths, and McCormick County had 722 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 cases, and 17 coronavirus-related deaths.

There were a total of 463,643 positive cases in South Carolina, and 8,053 confirmed coronavirus-re-

lated deaths.

According to published reports, 27.5 percent of people in Abbeville County have received at least one shot, as of Sunday.

The push to vaccinate comes as health officials express fears that the nation may be about to experience another COVID surge.

This is due to a number of factors, including the relaxation in many places of restrictions to curb the pandemic, and variants, and increased travel, according to news reports.

The number of cases is on the increase in at least 20 states, according to ABC News.

Meanwhile, South Carolina is one of a number of states in the nation expanding eligibility for the vaccine.

Show me the Bunny! Calhoun Falls Chamber presents its annual pre-Easter Eggstravaganza

By Henry E. Green

A visit from the Easter Bunny highlighted the Eggstravaganza presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce on Saturday.

On a picture-perfect day, a crowd gathered at the West Carolina Tel pavilion at the Blue Hole recreation area for what has become a pre-Easter tradition, as Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce executive director Rebeca McCaslan said that the Chamber has been presenting it for at least 10

years.

Good times were the order of the day Saturday, as McCaslan described the numerous activities one could choose from in this comfortable setting beside the lake.

“We have archery lessons, a cake walk, and multiple games,” she said.

Food was being sold by the County Line Elite travel sports team, McCaslan continued.

The food offerings included everything from potato chips

to pickles to nachos with cheese.

“We have the Easter story being told to the children by Rev. Bobby Bryant,” McCaslan added.

Kids could have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, and the grand finale was the Easter egg hunt.

“We’re just here to have fun,” said McCaslan, adding that the Chamber is “so glad to do this after we had to cancel for COVID last year.”



Abbeville County School District students helped load boxes of food into motor vehicles during the District's recent food distribution at the Abbeville Shopping Center in Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Gift of nourishment Abbeville County School District has another massive food distribution

By Henry E. Green

Battling food insecurity in the Abbeville County community in uncertain times, the Abbeville County School District had another successful food distribution Thursday.

The School District is working with a program is called Farmers to Family, which delivers food boxes to rural communities, according to Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lori Brownlee Brewton.

In the parking lot of the Abbeville Shopping Center on Highway 28 Bypass on the western outskirts of Abbeville, District personnel

set up a drive-through format, with motorists driving up to the food distribution point, where students and District personnel would place boxes of free food in motor vehicles.

“We gave out 1,092 boxes of food, which weighed 32 pounds each. In two hours we had it all given out,” Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary said Thursday afternoon following the distribution.

The maintenance department, both FFA groups, and District personnel all helped out, he said.

“We gave on average two boxes of food per car,” he said, so approximately 500 people showed up.

The date for the next distribution is to be announced, the Superintendent went on to say.

The distribution was one in a series of distributions in which the School District has collaborated.

Previously, the District had a distribution on Feb. 18 in the parking lot of the old Bi-Lo store on Highway 72 on the western outskirts of Abbeville.

Not even Halloween Help! Bats have invaded Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce

By Henry E. Green

The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce has been having a problem with bats, according to Juli Wilson, interim executive director of the Chamber.

"It's been going on for about two weeks," she said Friday. "I counted them--there have been at least eight bats."

"I've got one hanging from the ceiling over Jesse Nance's artwork," she said. Nance, an artist who is also the president of the Abbeville Artist Guild, and he has had an exhibit at the Chamber during the month of March.

There is also a bat that hangs from the ceiling in the board room.

They and the other flying mammals seem to have an exercise routine.

Around 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. every day "they take flight," she said. "They fly everywhere." The bats seemingly come out of nowhere to take their daily flight.

Wilson, who does not know where the bats got in, said that things got so bad that she had to put a note on the front door of the Welcome Center, asking people to call her if they needed assistance, but not to come in because of the

presence of these creatures from Halloween.

She is afraid that if visitors were allowed in, they could be bitten, and bats can carry rabies.

She has not been bitten herself. "Thank goodness," she said.

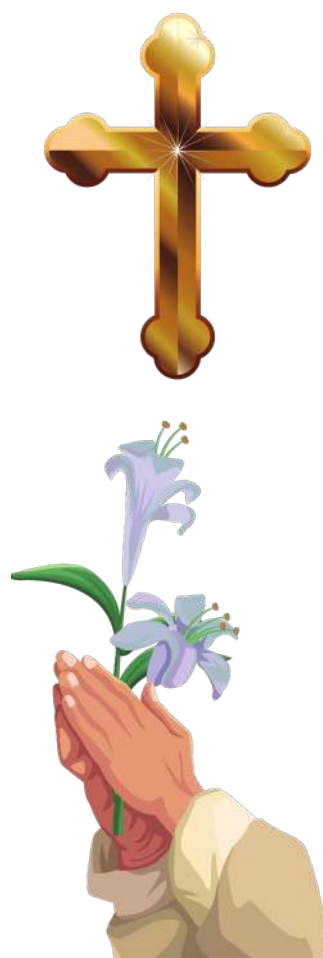
Help, she says, may be on the way.

"I'm hoping the situation is going to be fixed today," she said.

She has called a company which catches and releases bats, AAAC Wildlife Removal--which may provide a happy ending to a story seemingly straight out of Halloween.



The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce has been beset by, of all things, bats. Juli Wilson, interim executive director of the Chamber, is here beside a bat that had the misfortune of being captured. Would it be fair to say the winged creatures have been driving the Chamber batty? (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Easter Joy

What does it mean to you?

Maybe as a child it meant an Easter-egg hunt followed by the promise of a long, playful summer. As an adult, there are many reasons to celebrate Easter. Whatever your reason, hopefully it means the beginning of something good.

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THE BURIAL & RESURRECTION OF JESUS MARK 15:42-47

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

MARK 16:1-15

¹⁶ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

¹² Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³ These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

¹⁴ Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

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Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)



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Tim Keown is the president of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, and he spoke to Abbeville Rotarians recently about the school. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

'Agricultural seminary'

Rotarians learn about De la Howe

By Henry E. Green
John de la Howe School, Tim Keown will be the first to tell you, has seen a great many changes through the years--and it all started with a doctor from France. Keown is the president of the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, recently provided Abbeville Rotarians with a whirlwind history of the McCormick County school which started when French born physician John de la Howe died in 1797 and left provisions in his will for an "agricultural seminary" for 12 poor boys and 12 poor girls.

That "agricultural seminary" eventually became the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, a state-funded, public, residential high school. It is the first statewide program of its kind in the nation, Keown has said.

Between its establishment 243 years ago and its current incarnation, however, the school went through many, many transformations. It all started with Dr. John de la Howe, who came to South Carolina during the state's colonial period, and became successful in his adopted home.

The physician was given a 500-acre grant of land, and his land acquisition eventually became a plantation he named Lethe.

The state, following de la Howe's death, left it to a South Carolina agricultural society, which Keown compared to Rotary for those in the agricultural profession. De la Howe has at various times been an orphanage and an alternative school, before becoming what is South Carolina's third Governor's School.

"In August, 2020, we opened our doors (as a Governor's School)," he said. Today, the majority of the students are from South Carolina, with four from Georgia, and one from North Carolina.

Most of the buildings were built in the 1930s, and today a great many are being renovated. There are six dorms--three for boys and three for girls--and the school has a number of adult workshops during the evening, including one recent one on basket making.

The students recently brought home a state championship. "They won the state FFA wildlife contest," he said. The school, which has two semesters in its school year, with students ranging in age from 15 to 18, also had a

livestock show recently, and now also has a hog facility. "We're now in the swine business," he said. The school also made headlines when it recently hosted the Miss FFA pageant at the Abbeville Opera House.

Students start the day early, meeting in the cafeteria at 7:15 a.m., with the morning classes devoted to core courses such as English, and the afternoon to agricultural instruction.

Some of the teachers live on campus--John de la Howe takes in 1,310 acres of forest and farmland. All in all, the school offers an educational program which provides a foundation not only for people who want to be farmers but also for people who want to go into an agricultural support role, such as Clemson Extension or the United States Department of Agriculture, or the South Carolina Forestry Commission, or the field of plant research.

The school is a place which Abbeville Rotarians visited, in the months before the pandemic, on one of the club's Rotary on the Road excursions.

It is a place that "kind of gets in your blood," Keown told the Rotarians. "You kind of fall in love with the place."

'Juneteenth' festival coming to Abbeville

By Henry E. Green
The city of Abbeville will host a Juneteenth festival in June of this year, a festival celebrating African-American culture in the community.

Juneteenth is a celebration of the end of slavery at the end of the Civil War, and since the first celebration more than 100 years ago a number of communities throughout the United States have held Juneteenth festivals, according to information supplied by organizers of the festival in a presentation to Abbeville City Council several months ago.

City Council member Jason Edwards and Erica McCier spoke to Council about plans for the event, and described Juneteenth's history.

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

Originating in Galveston, Texas, it is now celebrated annually on the 19th of

June throughout the United States, with varying official recognition.

It is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865 announcement by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas. President Lincoln's emancipation had officially outlawed slavery in Texas and the other states in rebellion against the Union about two and a half years earlier.

Enforcement of the proclamation relied on the advance of Union troops. Since Texas was the most remote of the slave states, it had a low presence of Union troops as the Civil War ended.

The enforcement there had been slow and inconsistent before Granger's announcement.

Celebrations date back to 1866, with community gatherings in Texas.

Organizers plan to have a two day Freedom Day celebration in Abbeville. "Our goal is to bring all

Abbeville citizens (as well as invite our surrounding communities) together to celebrate the day that Emancipation was recognized throughout our nation," according to a news release.

There will be special guest speakers, musical performers, art exhibits, crafts and food.

Plans call for the festival to culminate with a Soul Food Cook-off on Sunday.

The Friends of Freedom Committee, which is planning the festival, is working with the Abbeville Artist Guild to present an Artisan Crafts Fair at the Livery Stable on Saturday, June 19.

"The planning committee asked the Artist Guild to help secure art & craft vendors for that day to display and sell in the Livery Stable," the Guild reported.

More details on the upcoming festival will be released closer to the date of the event.

Local governments wait for stimulus funds

By Henry E. Green
The City of Abbeville is expected to receive \$1.87 million in stimulus funding, Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone said Thursday.

Abbeville County's local governments are projected to receive money through the COVID relief package Congress recently approved.

The package, taking in nearly two trillion dollars, including stimulus checks, aid for the unemployed, the hungry, those facing

eviction, additional support for small businesses, increased funding for vaccinations and testing -- AND aid for state and local governments.

Here in Abbeville County, local government officials are waiting and watching.

"We are expecting to receive funds, but do not know an amount or what it can be used for," said Abbeville County Director David Garner. "At this time, those funds aren't funds we are relying on due to the

lack of guidance and communication from the federal government."

Stone said Thursday that \$65.1 billion is earmarked for local governments throughout the country.

That includes \$45.7 billion to cities with at least 50,000 people, and \$19.5 billion to cities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants, he continued.

The state of South Carolina is slated to receive two billion dollars, he said.

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Friday	April 2nd	Good Friday: Church Service	7 p.m.
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Saturday	April 3rd	Vigil	6 p.m.
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Waiting

Psalm 27:13 "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. (14) Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say on the Lord!"

A lady named Margaret was all ready for her date. She was wearing her best outfit, her hair was fixed, her make-up was perfect. Imagine her disappointment when her date didn't show up! After an hour of waiting, Margaret decided that he wasn't going to come. She changed into her pajamas, washed off her make-up, gathered a bunch of junk food, and parked herself in front of the television for the evening. As soon as she got involved in her favorite show, there was a knock at the door. She opened her door to find her handsome date standing on the doorstep. He stared at her in shock, then said in disbelief, "I'm two hours late, and you're still not ready!"

That young lady had given up on her date arriving. In Psalm 27, David does not give up on the Lord's arrival to help him. He is speaking from personal experience about the value of waiting on the Lord. David waited nearly 15 years from the time he was anointed King as a teenager until he was actually crowned as the King of Israel. He knew what

he was talking about when he says to wait on the Lord. Two thoughts come to my mind from these two verses.

The first thought is that David is saying the Lord is worth waiting on. David had to wait nearly 15 years, but when he was actually crowned king it was worth it. Think about all that happened to David while he waited. He was hated and hunted by King Saul. He had many struggles and trials but through it all he knew that God was going to act in his behalf at the right time. David never took matters into his own hands. He had the opportunity to kill Saul twice but he refused to do it. He would not put his hand on God's anointed. David knew that God would fulfill His promise to him when the time was right and not before.

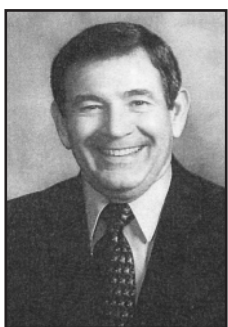
The second thought is that David's faith in the promise of God was what sustained him during the time of waiting. Notice how he said, "I would have lost heart unless I had believed to see the goodness of God in the land of the living." It was his faith in God that kept him from becoming cynical and

pessimistic. He knew that in his lifetime God would keep His promise of making Him king of Israel. He knew that God had not anointed him future king in vain.

These two verses are an exhortation to believe that God is worth waiting on. David is encouraging others from his personal experience to believe that when God comes through the wait will be worth it.

My friend, you will be glad that you waited on God instead of taking matters into your own hands. What God has planned for you is far better than what you can plan for yourself. These two verses are all an admonition. Twice David says, "wait." We have a tendency to become impatient and run ahead of the Lord. When we run ahead of the Lord, we make mistakes and often do great damage.

I have never regretted waiting on God, but I have often regretted hasty decisions. It is far better to wait on the Lord than run ahead of Him and make a mess of things. We rely on God and not ourselves.



jkeithfba@gmail.com

Shots in arms

AAMC prepares to offer vaccine to even more members of community

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville Area Medical Center is ready for the extension of eligibility for the COVID vaccine beginning this week, according to AAMC marketing director Meg Davis.

"AAMC is pleased that we can now offer the COVID-19 vaccine to even more members of our community," she said.

"Having vaccinated more than 9,000 people and, at times more than 500 people in one day, our processes are working smoothly and

we continue to be well prepared for this new phase. At this time we will not do anything differently. 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. Appointment requests can be made by emailing aahcvax@AbbevilleAreaMC.com or by calling 366-1647."

Meanwhile, there are those who are fully vaccinated already. William "Bill" Lesesne of Due West is one of them.

"I have had both of my shots and had no adverse reaction except a little soreness in my arm for about a day. It was done at Due West Family Medicine and they were prompt, professional, and compassionate.

"After just my first shot I felt like a burden had been lifted. I will continue to wear a mask and social distance to protect others until the number of cases really drop but I feel comfortable traveling, shopping and just living a normal life."

Cutting edge

PTC contact tracing program among first in state of South Carolina

By Henry E. Green

Piedmont Technical College has a program which trains people to be contact tracers for COVID-19, and it is among the first of its kind in the state, according to Rusty Denning, associate vice president for economic development with Piedmont Tech.

Once a person has contracted COVID, tracers will determine people with whom he has had contact.

They also glean demographic information through this process, determining what kinds of people are getting the virus, and in what setting, Denning continued. "We do it as an on-line program," he said, adding that there is also an opportunity for in-person discussion with the instructor.

The instructor is someone who could be very

family to Abbeville County residents--former Abbeville County Director David Porter.

The class lasts four weeks, and the February class had about 15 students, according to Denning.

"The February class WAS our first class," he said.

Piedmont Tech collaborated with College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, in developing the program, Denning said.

Contact tracers must understand the basics of coronavirus disease transmission in order to perform contact tracing and disease intervention activities efficiently, according to a course outline Denning supplied.

The course also includes discussions of steps to "flatten the curve" of coronavirus pandemic, and a discussion

of the legal updates regarding COVID-19.

"As a contact tracer, you will conduct interviews with people who may have been exposed to COVID-19," according to the course description.

Through the course, one learns effective communication techniques, and how to prepare for and conduct an interview.

Porter noted Monday that people can use the course not only to learn about contact tracing itself but as a foundation for employment with such agencies as DHEC, for positions in, for example, the vaccination process.

"It can really open a lot of doors," he said.

For more information, one may call 864-941-8414.

'Hero' cat parade cancelled due to rain, disinterest



Story continued on page 33

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A cake walk was one of the highlights of the Calhoun Falls Easter Eggstravaganza, presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

CF Town Council changes meeting time

By Henry E. Green
Calhoun Falls Town Council recently began having its regular monthly meetings in the middle of the day. The Town Council has for some time been meeting on the fourth Monday of the month, but the meeting time used to be 6 p.m. Now the day of the month

is the same, but the time is different -- noon. "This will be our third meeting at that time," said Mayor Chris Cowan earlier this month, following the March 22 meeting. "I think that it's good to change it up for awhile. Just trying to attract more community interest in our local govern-

ment meetings." In other news, the Town had been having a mask mandate, but Cowan said that the Town is letting the mandate expire. Cowan noted the positive impact of vaccinations within the community in terms of curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Counting the cost School District's alternative school serves as alternative to expulsion

By Henry E. Green
The Abbeville County School District has an alternative school, located at Abbeville High School, to provide students with behavioral concerns an alternative to expulsion.

High school students in the alternative school still take classes toward graduation, and middle school students take classes to move to the next grade level, according to school board trustee James Tisdale.

During the school day, the kids in the alternative school do not mingle with the students who are not in the alternative school, he said.

Behavioral concerns can cause a child to be sent to the alternative school, and alternative school is an alternative to expelling a student.

It costs the School District approximately \$160,000 a year to operate the alternative school, said Abbeville County School District Finance Director Roni Scott.

"It's that amount whether we have three students or 15," Scott said. "Although

we are not required to have the program, there are rules if we do. We must isolate students from all other students. 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 length of stay varies from a few weeks to the remainder of the year," said Dr. Skip Hopkins, the District's director of student services.

Seven students are currently enrolled in the alternative program, which is for students in grades 6-12. The alternative school generated a discussion among the trustees, some of whom were concerned about the cost of operating it.

The question generated a lively discussion among the trustees at the March 23 school board meeting.

Alternative school offers a second chance for troubled young people, according to

trustee Marvin Peoples. "What is a child worth?" he asked rhetorically.

Sending a child to an alternative school could provide a timely intervention in the life of a young person who might otherwise grow up to lead a life of crime, for which he could be incarcerated.

An investment in an alternative school might be minuscule compared to the costs of keeping someone behind bars.

Other trustees stressed the role of the parents in keeping the children on the straight and narrow path.

Tisdale noted that children are not adults, and they make mistakes.

"What's the cost of saving a child?" he said.

"We have in the past sent students to de la Howe," he said, referring to how the District used to send delinquent students to John De la Howe School in McCormick County for "alternative school" purposes.

The school has now been transformed into the Governor's School for Agriculture.

Special election in Calhoun Falls slated

By Henry E. Green
Voters in Calhoun Falls will go to the polls Tuesday, April 6, for a special Calhoun Falls Town Council election to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Pless, who passed away earlier this year.

Voters will cast their ballots at the Calhoun Falls Civic Center, with the polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"All they need to bring with them is a state or federal photo ID," said Kim London, Abbeville County voter

registration and elections director, Tuesday.

The election will be to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Pless, a Calhoun Falls Town Council member who passed away in January.

Three candidates have filed for the seat, including Howard Harmon, LaSean Tutt, and Courtney Cade.

Absentee voting opened on Monday, March 15, and will continue until Monday, April 5, at 5 p.m., according to Abbeville County voter

registration and elections director Kim London.

To vote absentee, one may visit the voter registration office in person, and vote absentee, or may call the office, and request a ballot by mail.

"We also have curb-side voting," for voters who are unable to leave their vehicles, London continued.

The office is located on the second floor of the Abbeville County Administrative Complex.

School District now has course guide

By Henry E. Green
The Abbeville County School District now has a course guide to help the District's high school students and their parents make informed decisions about course offerings, testing, and the like.

Brandi Sears, the District's Director of Instruction and Accountability, mentioned the new course guide in a presentation to the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees at the

school board's March 23 meeting.

"The ACSD Course Guide is a resource for high school students and their parents," said Sears Wednesday.

"It outlines graduation requirements, course offerings and descriptions as well as other information about the uniform grading scale and testing. Courses needed for the high school diploma as well as college and career preparatory courses

such as CTE and dual credit classes are included. This document aids students and parents as they prepare for the annual Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meeting with counselors."

In other news, the school board approved personnel recommendations from the District administration, including the approval of more than 200 contracts in connection with the coming school year.

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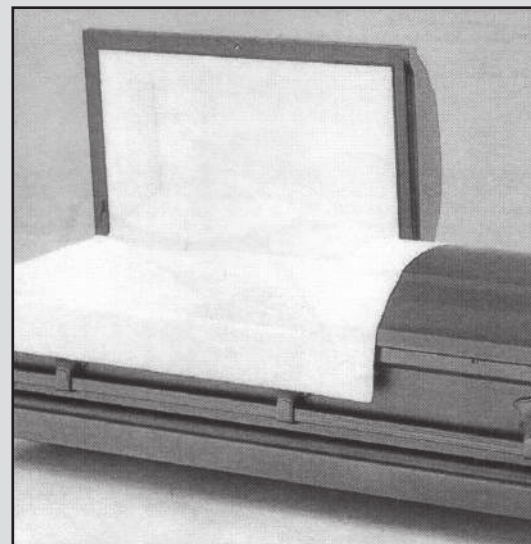
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The Easter Season marks a joyous holiday: a time of rebirth and rejoicing as we once again renew our faith in Christ. Especially during this season may we be particularly cognizant of God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, to atone for the sins of mankind.

Let's join in prayer and gladness for the many blessings He has brought to us all—attend (or livestream) church this Sunday.

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2021 Abbeville Soil & Water Conservation District recognized our 3 new commissioners at a lunch meeting held at "Talk of the Town" restaurant. The 3 new commissioners are Sam Gilliam on the far left, Eric McCall in the center, and Vice Chairman Barry Edmunds on the far right along with our Chairman Fred Raines 2nd from the left and Treasurer Susie K. New 2nd from the right. (Photo contributed by Melody Coursey)

SC Statehouse Reports 2021-The Senate--Senator Mike Gambrell

Legislative summary

**Senator Mike Gambrell
Legislative Summary
March 26, 2021**

On Monday I attended the Greenwood Broadband Task Force Meeting. While in Columbia for the Senate Session, I attended several meetings, including a Finance Committee Budget Subcommittee. In the Natural Resources & Economic Development Subcommittee, we heard presentations from Clemson University PSA, the Department of Commerce, the Rural Infrastructure Authority and the S. C. Conservation Bank supporting their budget requests. We are working to wrap up our subcommittee work, as the full Senate will begin debate on the State Budget the week of April 13th.

The Senate passed two bills this week designed to give private or home schooled students an opportunity to participate in sports or activities at public schools. Senate bill 615 would allow, in limited situations, students who attend private schools that do not have a team for a particular sport to participate in that sport through the High School League at a public high school. H.3925 would offer home schooled students the opportunity to take part in public schools' interscholastic activities in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

On Thursday, I attended the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and gala at the Arts Center. Dr. Benjamin Mays, a legendary figure in South Carolina and the nation, was

inducted posthumously into the Greenwood Chamber Hall of Fame. Members of his family were present to accept the award in his memory. This is a well-deserved honor and we are proud to call him one of our own.

Developments and information on the COVID vaccine can be found at the DHEC COVID-19 site, which is updated daily. <https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine>.

Please feel free to contact me on any issue. I can be reached at my district address, Post Office Box 194, Honea Path, S. C. 29654, 864-844-3614; or at my legislative office in Columbia, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, S.C. 29202, 803-212-6032, or through my email address: MikeGambrell@scsenate.gov.



The S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe recently hosted a livestock show, on a busy weekend for the school, which also hosted at the Opera House a Miss FFA pageant. (Photo courtesy of John de la Howe).



The S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe recently hosted a livestock show. The state-funded, public, residential high school, located in McCormick County, is the first statewide program of its kind in the nation. (Photo courtesy of

Community calendar

Trustees to meet
The Trustees of Abbeville County School District will hold a special called meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., District Board Room, 400 Greenville Street, Abbeville SC, to discuss personnel recommendations.

Workshop planned
An online workshop "How to be a good salesperson" will be held on April 9 beginning at noon, and is being presented by Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce, WC-TEL, Small Business Development Center, Freshwater Coastal Community

Foundation, and Clemson Extension. For more information, one may call 1-864-642-8758.



US Senate

Scott delivers message on one year anniversary of the pandemic

Senator Tim Scott
Today, one year after the United States went under lockdown to slow the spread of the coronavirus, Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) released a statement on the challenges we've endured, the progress our nation has made, and the light he sees at the end of the tunnel "About a year ago, our nation and the world was devastated by COVID-19," said Senator Scott. "Five hundred and twenty thousand Americans have lost their lives, and our nation will forever mourn that loss. But while there is still work to do, there is also good news on the horizon: we went to work on behalf of the American people, and I am thankful to say the seeds we sowed in 2020, like the Payment Protection Program and broadband efforts, are now

coming to fruition in 2021." Senator Scott has worked in four important ways over the last 12 months to help the people of South Carolina through the pandemic:
1) Protecting public health: As a member of the Senate health committee, Senator Scott helped draft the three 2020 pandemic response bills. He also worked to provide increased resources for vaccines, personal protective equipment, telehealth services, and more.
2) Supporting jobs and the economy: As a member of the Senate tax and small business committees, Senator Scott helped craft the Payment Protection Program (PPP) to support small businesses and workers. He worked with the Treasury Department to ensure Opportunity Zones survived

through the crisis, and he supported both rounds of the 2020 stimulus checks.
3) Keeping our children healthy and educated: Senator Scott has led the fight to protect our students mentally and intellectually by re-opening schools. He also helped secure funding for HBCUs and other struggling schools across the country, and he advocated for increased broadband—working to close the digital divide that has made it harder for many students to learn remotely.
4) Protecting the vulnerable: Senator Scott worked to increase support for charitable giving, ensure non-profits were eligible for PPP loans, and increase funding and authority for emergency feeding programs.

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A Slice of Mike "Editing for Dummies"

By Mike Elis

Every year around this time, the Academy Awards comes up, and as I don't ever go to the movies, I haven't heard of most of the films that are nominated.

And every year, they seem to add award categories that make one wonder how they fill such a specific genre with enough nominees.

"And the award for Best Animated Documentary Short About a Sloth Who Is Found Crossing Fargo, North Dakota In Thirty-Nine Degree Weather In Efforts To Escape An Anti-Sloth Motorcycle Gang goes to..."

Amongst the many awards that films can take the title home for is "Best Editing." I always wonder how they come up with a winner. The Academy is voting for a film based on what is taken out of the film; how on Earth can they judge unless they see everything that gets removed on the cutting room floor?

In 1994, the film Titanic won best editing. How? What did they edit? The movie was longer than the boat ride when Christopher Columbus discovered America. Did they take out the part where Leonardo DiCaprio takes a side excursion to go swimming with the dolphins while the private island steel drum band plays "Hot, Hot, Hot?" If so, well, then bravo.

I am not sure exactly what is involved in editing, but I can tell you this. Some of the commercials on television and social media need editing. Many of them would win the award for "Worst Editing."

I was flipping channels about a year ago when I came across a television commercial in which the spokesperson uttered the lines, "Having trouble with your vision? Call the number on your screen." You can't make this up, folks.

How did not one person on the editing floor catch on to the fact that people with bad vision can't see the screen? I thought that would be forever the most moronic advertisement ever. That would live in infamy and I'm sure the company is still wondering why displaying the number on the screen didn't increase business and was advertising money wasted. Well, that was until this past Wednesday.

I received one of those Facebook ads and it read, "Most people don't start shopping for burial insurance until it's too late."

When it's too late? Correct me if I'm wrong, but, oh well, nevermind. I guess Leonardo DiCaprio should have shopped for burial insurance at the beginning of Titanic. I am sure that when Leo gave up his chance of survival at the end of the movie, his final thoughts were, "Man, I wished I had life insurance."

A good editor would've

caught on to this.

As a stand-up comedian, I wish I had an editor. I need someone to read over my jokes, take out the ones that aren't stage-worthy, and make sure my jokes that are kept in my act are the ones that avoid the metaphorical iceberg. And maybe Celine Dion will write a song titled "My Jokes Will Go On."

Yes, it could happen. And my routine could win awards for best editing. I'm picturing it now. I would go on stage to accept my award by giving a long drawn-out speech about thanking God, my management, and ending it with one of those terrible Hollywood political speeches that wastes everyone's time. Yes, it will be mine; it will all be mine.

So, to whatever film wins the award this year for Best Editing, congratulations. To the non-existence of footage that was chopped out, good riddance. And to those of you who watch the Academy Awards, enjoy.

And if you have any trouble viewing the Awards show, call the number on your screen.

Don't forget that "The Funniest Man in America" James Gregory is coming to the Abbeville Opera House April 22nd and 23rd. Very few tickets remain so get your tickets now at abbevillecitysc.com.

Local governments wait for stimulus funds

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County's local governments are waiting to see how much money they will receive through the COVID relief package Congress recently approved.

The package, taking in nearly two trillion dollars, includes stimulus checks, aid for the unemployed, the hungry, those facing eviction, additional support for small businesses, in-

creased funding for vaccinations and testing -- AND aid for state and local governments.

Here in Abbeville County, local government officials are waiting and watching.

Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone said that he had heard that some of the stimulus money would go to the local governments, but he has not heard anything about a specific amount,

and so far the City has not received any of it.

"We haven't received any funding," he said.

"We are expecting to receive funds, but do not know an amount or what it can be used for," said Abbeville County Director David Garner. "At this time, those aren't funds we are relying on due to the lack of guidance and communication from the federal government."

Obituaries

Brown

Mrs. Margaret Inez Yeargin Brown, 92, of Cook Street, Elberton, wife of 56 years to the late Herbert Marshall Brown, passed away on Monday, March 29, 2021, at Magonia Estates of Elberton, where she had been lovingly cared for since September of last year.

"Mrs. Margaret", as she was known to many, was born in Oglethorpe County on April 27, 1928, daughter of the late George Leonard Yeargin and Susie Perington Wade Yeargin. She was previously employed by Elberton Mills but was a homemaker for most of her life. She was an active member of Falling Creek Baptist Church as long as her health permitted, and operated an in-home day-care for many years.

Survivors include her children: Alice and Allan Lockerman of Cleveland, TN, Wayne and Jackie Brown of Watkinsville, Danny and Beth Brown of Calhoun Falls, SC, and Connie Dixon of Elberton; siblings: Brenda and Gene McMullan of Dewy Rose,



Margaret Inez Yeargin Brown

and Lamar and Margaret Yeargin of Athens; sister-in-law, Annette Yeargin of Elberton; grandchildren: Rob and Kelli Lockerman, Jeff Lockerman, Jennifer and Brian Preston, Casey and Shannon Dixon, Carrie and Brian Smith, Haleigh and Rusti Brock, Megan Brown, Daniel Brown, and Douglas Brown; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her son-in-

law, Danny Dixon; brother, Ronald Yeargin; and sister, Wadene and W.H. Calhoun.

The family will receive friends at Berry Funeral Home from 6:00-8:00p.m. on Thursday, April 1.

Funeral services celebrating her life will be held on Friday, April 2, at 11 o'clock in the Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home with the Rev. Allan Lockerman, Rev. Casey Dixon, and Douglas Brown officiating. Interment will follow in Forest Hills Memorial Park; however, there will be no graveside service at Mrs. Margaret's request.

Flowers are accepted or contributions may be made in her memory to Falling Creek Baptist Church, T.J. & Friends Foundation or to Gideons International.

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

Berry Funeral Home & Crematory of Elberton is respectfully in charge of arrangements for Mrs. Margaret Inez Yeargin Brown.

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Montgomery Center for Family Medicine
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Express Medical Care Greenwood
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Shining on

Due West Robotics teams make their mark at state championships

By Henry E. Green

Due West Robotics did well at the recent state robotics championships.

"All three of our teams competed in the South Carolina FIRST LEGO League State Championship last Friday and Saturday," said Due West Robotics president Charles Angel.

"Guacamole Wackamoles (4th graders) became our youngest team to every advance this far. The Nacho Average Doritos (7th graders) won the 2nd place Innovative Project award. The Squishy Unicorns (5th & 6th graders) won the Regional Global Innovation Award (GIA) and advanced to the next level for their invention called the "Blind Trike."

That puts the Unicorns in the top 200 team inventions in the world, said Angel, who noted that there are more than 35,000 teams in the world this robotics season.

"They will be judged again with a chance to advance

to the top 20 and possible sponsorships to make their invention a reality," he said.

The State Championship was held virtually this year via Zoom interviews/Judging and remote robot mission runs.

The top 36 teams from around the state advanced to the state championship.

"The Blind Trike is a self-steering tricycle that is pedaled by the rider," said Angel. "It includes a GPS, camera, and ultrasonic sensors to detect location and objects which allows it to avoid objects, keeping the rider and others safe. The team's ultimate goal is to provide an innovative way for blind or visually impaired persons to exercise independently."

Marty Patterson, the coach of the Guacamole Wackamoles, said that his team is made up of five children—three boys and two girls.

Two are students at Cherokee Trail Elementary, two

at Diamond Hill and one is home schooled.

This is his third year of coaching with Due West Robotics, and first year as a head coach.

"I am a real estate investor," he said. His daughter, Emma Patterson, is a fourth grader at Cherokee Trail, and a member of the Wackamoles.

Patterson said that robotics allows considerable room for creativity, and teaches young people the value of team work as well.

"It really is a good program for the community," he said.

Since its inception in 2012 with four youngsters, Due West Robotics has blossomed into an organization which has involved hundreds of young people, and has won three state championships in robotics.

Young people in Due West Robotics sharpen their skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Sherlyn York (seated) and Karen Ashley (standing) were among those enjoying the Easter Eggstravaganza presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Hosts First Annual 5K Bull Run

Submitted by
Hayley Belton
Director of Public
Relations and
Marketing

via the link here: <https://bit.ly/3cfpOV0>.

A \$20 registration fee will be collected the day of. Checks or cash in exact change will be accepted. For those that do not pre-register via the link above, the on-site registration fee is \$25.

Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race will start at 8:30 a.m. Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers per age group and gender. A t-shirt, water bottle,

and bag are guaranteed to each participant that pre-registers for this event.

The SC Governor's School for Agriculture would like to thank the sponsors and donors of this event: Country Way Contract, McCormick County 4-H, and Muscle Hutt in Plum Branch.

For questions concerning the 5K Bull Run & Walk, please contact Cadie.Giba@delahowe.sc.gov or Troy.Cann@delahowe.sc.gov.

Chamber postpones 'Mother Son' event

By Henry E. Green

The Mother Son event that had been planned by the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce for Saturday, March 20, has been postponed, according to the Chamber's interim executive director, Juli Wilson.

The event, designed as a good way for mothers to bond with their elementary and middle school age sons, was to feature an egg toss, a

sack race, corn hole, dodge ball and badminton, and a food truck as well.

The location was to be at Chestnut Street Park in Abbeville.

Wilson said that a new date for the event will be announced at a later time.

"We should still have all of the activities once we reschedule," she said.

The Mother-Son gathering was designed as a com-

panion gathering for the Chamber's Daddy-Daughter Dance, which is planned for April 23, and which is designed as an opportunity for fathers to bond with their elementary and middle school aged daughters.

More information on the Daddy-Daughter Dance is to be announced later.

MCCORMICK, SC – On Saturday, May 1, 2021, the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture will host their first annual 5K Bull Run & Walk event at 192 Gettys Road – the school's campus located in McCormick, SC. Participants must register

Pet of the Month Meet Pluto. This sweet guy has been at the shelter since Aug. 2020 and really needs a new home. Pluto is very social and loves people and other dogs. He is a 2 y.o. mixed breed, neutered & heartworm neg. The stars will align when you meet Pluto. Come to the shelter and meet him today. You will not be able to resist his loving personality!

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Mar. 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 Come meet Possum with his cute brown ears. This sweet boy is a mixed breed, around 6 yrs. old and is neutered. He has the sweetest demeanor and loves the outdoors. He is good on a leash and is dog and people friendly. He has been at the shelter since Sept. 2020. Come meet Possum and take him home with you today!

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Mar. 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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Location: Former Greenwood Medical Park
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(Please enter from Alexander Ave. near the corner of Alexander Ave. and Spring Street. Look for the Self Regional Health Express.)

MyChart users may pre-register at mychart.selfregional.org. Or, call (864) 725-8200 to pre-register for your COVID test.

Tests are first come, first served as long as testing materials last. Insurance will be billed, but there is no out-of-pocket cost for testing.

More SRH dates, times and locations to be announced soon. Always check the Self Regional website and Facebook page for latest info. about community testing events.

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Jacob Ferguson (left) of Abbeville High School and Nick New (right) of Dixie High School were among the students helping out in the food distribution presented recently by the Abbeville County School District at the Abbeville Shopping Center. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

US House of Representatives

Duncan leads letter on growing crisis at Southern Border

Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Duncan (SC-03) led a letter to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding the growing

crisis at our southern border:

"It is time for President Biden to take accountability for the worsening border crisis his own policies created. My colleagues and I have sent a letter to CBP and ICE leadership requesting direct answers to the many troubling reports on illegal

immigrants infected with COVID-19 being released into our country and terrorists attempting to infiltrate large waves of migrants at the southern border.

This is a matter of national security, and the American people deserve answers from the Biden Administration now."

Duncan on Final Passage of American Rescue Plan Act

Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Duncan (SC-03) issued the following statement after voting no on final passage of H.R. 1319, the "American Rescue Plan" Act:

"Today, the House voted on final passage of H.R. 1319, the Democrats' sham "COVID-19 relief" bill. Every Republican and one Democrat voted against this bill. Don't let them fool you – this is not real COVID-19 relief legislation. Democrats are once again using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to pass their radical priorities. In fact, several members of their own party have admitted this bill is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in history. With

a \$1.9 trillion price tag, it is also the most expensive bill in history, yet only 9% of the funding will go toward combatting the pandemic. The remaining funds will go toward the left's radical pet projects that are completely unrelated to COVID-19 such as \$350 billion for bailing out blue states that have poorly managed their budgets, \$86 billion for union pension bailouts, and taxpayer funding for abortion and abortion providers like Planned Parenthood.

"The bill also includes other outrageous provisions such as \$1,400 a week for fifteen weeks to federal employees whose children are remote learning, providing stimulus checks to felons in prison, expanding health care subsidies for illegal immigrants, and barring states that accept federal funds from is-

suing tax cuts through 2024. This disastrous \$1.9 trillion bill will take our national debt to almost \$30 trillion, a completely unnecessary burden on the next generation given there is over \$1 trillion in unspent COVID-19 relief funds remaining from previous bipartisan COVID-19 relief packages that passed while President Trump was in office. The bottom line is Democrats are failing the American people by passing H.R. 1319.

This bill is not a rescue plan in any way shape or form. This is a partisan package filled with progressive wish list priorities that are bad for our country. It is past time for Congress to focus on tailored, bipartisan policies that support American families, Main Street businesses, and getting our kids back to school."

CROSSWORD												
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Answers on back page

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: SCIENCE 101

ACROSS

1. Type of tide
5. Sin over tan
8. Schooner pole
12. Part of temple floor plan
13. Made a basket
14. *Main artery in the body
15. *____-carotene
16. Swear, not curse
17. Reputation-damaging gossip
18. *Physicist of theory of relativity fame
20. Salty drop
21. Turn upside down
22. Mark on Pinterest
23. *Everything around us
26. Porch in ancient Greece
30. Not St. or Blvd.
31. Percussion instrument
34. "Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win" org.
35. Walks like Long John Silver
37. "Dog ____ dog"
38. Like TV or phone in 2021
39. Measuring roll
40. Catch in a net
42. Gorilla or orangutan
43. Pull-over parkas
45. *One of B-vitamins
47. Anger
48. Open disrespect
50. Full of excitement
52. *Explanations that can be tested and verified
55. Words to live by
56. Sword handle
57. Large West African republic
59. "Encore!"
60. Unrivaled
61. From a second-hand store
62. Cleopatra's necklace
63. Second solfa syllable, pl.
64. Makes stitches

DOWN

1. Pick up a perpetrator
2. Dueling weapon in "The Three Musketeers"
3. ____ Spumante
4. Treat for Dumbo
5. Witches' get-together
6. Egg-shaped
7. Made with stitches
8. *Product of mass and velocity of an object
9. *Equals length times width
10. *Alpha Centauri A., e.g.
11. Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
13. Like rheumy eyes
14. On the move
19. Four-eyes' gear
22. Short for "politician"
23. Tiny European republic
24. Type of flu
25. Moderato, e.g.
26. Toupée spot
27. *Scientist Newton
28. *Wrist bones
29. More than occasional
32. Department store department
33. "Pow!"
36. *Mendeleev's ____ table
38. Bake, as in eggs
40. Make bigger
41. Picky
44. *Ar, inert gas
46. Bad blood
48. Use a shoe polish
49. *Smallest units of life
50. Jason's ship
51. Wheel inside old clock
52. God of thunder
53. Alleviate
54. Boatload
55. Tom of "Tom and Jerry"
58. Dog tags



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Sports & Recreation

True grit

AHS girls soccer team may be short on experience, but long on hustle

By Henry E. Green

Organized last year, the Abbeville High School girls soccer team may be short on experience, but makes up for it in hard work, according to AHS girls soccer coach Frank Smith.

"This is the first full season for our varsity girls," said Smith. "We were organized last year, but only played three games before Covid-19 shut spring sports down. This year we got off to a rough start as I was quarantined with Covid-19 the first couple weeks that we were allowed to practice. Thankfully, Coach Christ Guire stepped up and led practice until I was cleared to return."

As of Monday, March 29, the team's record is 1-3, with its only victory coming

against Crescent High. There are 16 girls on the team, whose team captain is Lauren Murphy, who is also the leading scorer.

Smith was asked to assess the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"Our weakness is that most of our girls have not had a lot of experience, with most not playing soccer since they were on Abbeville Rec teams," he said. Some of the teams we play against have players that play on travel teams, playing almost year round. It is hard to match up against players and teams with more experience and practice than we have.

The team has a number of positive factors, however. "Our strength is our 'athleticism,'" he said. "What we

lack in experience, we make up for in hustle, determination, and our team really has a lot of fun playing together."

Smith gave considerable credit to his assistant coaches for their contributions.

"Coach Chris Guire is the assistant coach and brings a ton of coaching experience and soccer knowledge," he said.

Smith said he is fortunate to have his son Will, an AHS boys soccer alumnus, who currently plays club soccer at College of Charleston, to help him with learning the game of soccer, formations and such, along with Adam Hedden, who coached many of the team members in rec league.

"They are unofficial coaches, but their help has been invaluable," said Smith.



The Abbeville High School girls soccer team defeated Crescent recently, and the AHS team members and coaches were all smiles, as seen here. (Contributed photo)

Plenty of pom-poms

Abbeville County School District launches 'competitive cheer' program

By Henry E. Green

A competitive cheer program is being established in the Abbeville County School District, Dr. Mason Gary, Abbeville County School District Superintendent, noted during the March 23 meeting of the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees.

"It is a fall sport recognized and sanctioned by the SC High School League," Dr. Gary noted Wednesday. "Our team would be called Abbeville HS since AHS is sponsoring the team but could include students from AHS, DHS, WMS, and 7th graders from CTES and DHES."

AHS athletic director Maggie Jameson indicated that the team could have county-wide

appeal.

"So the competition team is cheerleading but at the competitive level," she said Wednesday. "The team will be made up of sideline cheerleaders (football cheerleaders) from Dixie, Abbeville, and Wright Middle."

Seventh graders from Cherokee Trail Elementary and Diamond Hill Elementary would be eligible if they are on the JV cheer contingent at Dixie, the AHS athletic director said.

"At this point, the district has given the OK for us to compete," Jameson continued.

"I am just waiting on Abbeville SCHSL Classification to vote to give us the OK to combine Ab-

beville and Dixie cheerleaders for the purpose of competition. We are having sideline tryouts district wide the week of April 12-15th and we will then have competition cheer tryouts the following week for all the athletes who made a sideline team and would like to do competition.

"Competitions are held on Saturdays throughout the fall and are completely independent of football cheer-leading aside from the girls having to be on a football cheer team. Competitions are against other schools across the state. We would compete up a classification in AAA because there is no A or AA classification for competitive cheer."



Jaylen Baylor (right) of Abbeville practiced archery, with assistance from Rodney Martin (left) of Calhoun Falls, during the recent Calhoun Falls Eggstravaganza. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

AHS Panthers have mixed record for week

By Henry E. Green

You win some. You lose some. And sometimes you get cancelled because of the weather.

That was the story for the Abbeville High School varsity baseball team, which won one game, lost another, and saw a game cancelled because of the weather.

"We beat Liberty 7-0 on Tuesday," said AHS varsity head coach Nick Milford.

"Tyler Overholt pitched six innings allowing three hits and zero runs while striking out 12. Ty Price came in to pitch one inning in relief. Evan Sellars, Tyler Overholt, and Trent Delgado

were leading hitters for the Panthers."

The Panthers tasted defeat as well as victory last week. "On Wednesday, we lost to BHP 10-2," Milford said. "With the game tied at two through three innings, the Panthers could not keep up with BHP's offense as they went on to score in each of the last four innings. The Panthers had four hits while committing four errors in the field. BHP had 10 hits while committing four errors in the field."

On Friday, Mother Nature was the winner. The game Friday against Liberty was cancelled due to weather and will be postponed to a

later date, Milford said.

The Panthers so far are on the winning side of the ledger this season.

"We are now 5-2 on the year," he said.

"The team is progressing and getting better each week but there is plenty of room for improvement. Our defense will need to be more consistent and not allow the big innings. It's still early and we have a big stretch in front of us and we navigate through conference play."

AHS is scheduled to travel to Dixie tonight, and is slated to host Greenville Tech Charter Friday, Milford indicated.

The Erskine College football team was defeated by Tusculum University

Submitted by Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College football team (1-3) was defeated on Homecoming against Tusculum University (2-1) by a score of 47-7 in the Flying Fleet's second home game of the 2021 season. Erskine was originally scheduled to play Edward Waters, but COVID protocols within the Tigers' program caused the game to be canceled and Tusculum was named as the replacement opponent on Wednesday evening.

Tusculum QB Rogan Wells was 21-41 for 438 yards and two touchdowns as the Pioneers outgained the Fleet through the air, 499 to 120.

Both Tyler Aijero (116 yards) and Maurice Gomillion (110 yards) were over the century mark in receiving yards, and Aijero caught both of Wells' touchdowns. Jamal Barron forced the only turnover of the game for the Fleet, with an interception of Wells in the endzone in the beginning of the second quarter.

The Fleet ran for 89 yards on the ground as both Quay Chambers and Collin Whitfield averaged four yards per carry.

Barron and Jaelan Harfield

both tallied a team-high seven tackles in the loss.

Tusculum scored touchdowns on all three of their drives in the opening quarter and held the Fleet offense in check. A missed extra point was the only blemish on the Pioneers' first quarter as they led 20-0 after the first fifteen minutes.

The Pioneers were driving again to begin the second quarter, but on the twelfth play of the drive, with the ball on the four-yard line, Jamal Barron picked off the Tusculum quarterback in the endzone to stuff the Pioneers. The Erskine offense went three-and-out and Tusculum answered with another touchdown to take a 27-0 lead halfway through the second quarter. Both teams traded empty drives and the game looked to be going into the half with that scoreline until a Pioneers' 53-yard touchdown pass as time expired gave Tusculum a 33-0 lead at the halftime break.

Midway through the third quarter, a 75-yard pass on the opening play of a Tusculum drive set up another Pioneers' touchdown and gave the visitors a 40-0 lead. The Fleet moved the ball on a couple drives, but were stalled out in the redzone

as they failed to get on the board.

The Pioneers' found paydirt again on their first drive of the quarter, as the lead ballooned to 47-0. In the closing stages of the game, the Fleet had their final offensive possession of the day with 4:50 remaining. Collin Whitfield began the drive with a few first-down runs and Lance Brownlee completed a couple of passes as Erskine moved the ball down the field. Then, on the 13th play of the drive, Brownlee scampered in from two yards out to get the Fleet on the board at 47-7 seconds before time expired.

The Fleet continue their 2021 season next week on the road against Newberry College (2-1) next Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Follow the Flying Fleet all season long to get schedule updates, scores, highlights, photo galleries, game notes and more at www.erskine-sports.com.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET

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

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Rotary Club planning cornhole tournament

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Rotary Club will have a cornhole tournament on Saturday, April 24, at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville, according to the tournament coordinator Susan Sherard.

The tournament will start at noon. To register a team, one may call Sherard at 366-2158.

Prizes will be given to the top three teams, said Sherard.

Last year's tournament was called off due to COVID, but the tournament of 2019 was very successful, with as many as 22 teams.

"The money raised goes toward scholarships for area high schools," she said.

The club presents \$500 scholarships to qualified graduates of Dixie, Ab-

beville and Calhoun Falls Charter, she indicated.

Sage Automotive, Sherard continued, is the title sponsor for the event, which is one of the top fund-raisers for the club.

Cornhole is a sport which has greatly increased in recent years.

For more information, one may call Sherard at 366-2158.

School District putting federal dollars to use

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District will be using federal dollars from a COVID relief fund to create a number of new positions—but the federal funding will not last indefinitely.

The positions will be funded by the federal source only through 2023, and then a new source of funding for them would have to be found in order to continue the programs.

The creation of the positions, which range from a transportation director for the District to reading coaches, was announced at the March 23 school board meeting.

School District Finance Director Roni Scott provided a profile Wednesday of the positions created, and the money involved.

“The information last night listed five new full-time positions, increased days/hours to make two current part-time positions into full-time positions, added a supplement for additional technology security oversight and added several (3-4) positions for periodic help with installation of classroom technology and maintenance of student-issued devices.

The cost for these positions over the grant period totals around \$800,000. The District’s total allocation

is \$4,017,188, Scott continued.

The funding ends Sept. 30, 2023, she said.

Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary said that the creation of the positions did not have to be approved by the school board.

Trustee Buster Taylor noted that no local tax dollars are being used to create these positions.

Gary, in response to a question by trustee David Brooks, noted that the creation of the positions was motivated largely by a desire to lessen the workload of District Office staff.



John Sutherland was sworn in at a March 22 Abbeville City Council meeting, as a new member of Abbeville City Council. Sutherland (facing camera), with his daughter Riley Sutherland, and his fiancée Diane Clinemyer by his side, was sworn in by City Judge Bill McNeil (at right). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Abbeville County is seeking bids to establish a permanent (grass) vegetation on approximately 10 acres on an industrial site located on Corbin Road in Honea Path, SC.

To request a bid package, please email jhannah@abbevillecountysc.com or call 864-366-2181.

Final Bids must be received by no later than noon on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

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 Att: Economic Development

Abbeville County reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

3/31;tc

NOTICE OF HEARING

The City of Abbeville Historic Properties Protection Commission (HPPC) will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021 in the City Council Chambers at the Opera House in Abbeville, S.C. The following items are on the agenda:

- Request approval for exterior changes not pertaining to the building; create a courtyard. Location: 104 E. Pickens Street; Business Name: The Belmont Inn
- Review the proposed “Bailey Bill” which is a special tax assessment for rehabilitated historic properties in the municipal boundaries of the City of Abbeville

H. Neal Dickenson
 Zoning Administrator

3/31;tc

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

Estate: Francs Wiona Klugh
 Date of Death: 8/29/2020
 Case Number: 2021ES0100078
 Personal Representative: Oscar A. Klugh
 Address: 545 Klugh Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/17;3tc

Estate: Mary Powell Hipsher
 Date of Death: 3/1/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100081
 Personal Representative: Robert Louis Hipsher
 Address: 100 Pineview St. Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/17;3tc

Estate: Walter Campbell Reece
 Date of Death: 3/9/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100083
 Personal Representative: Deborah R. Hamilton
 Address: 2350 Clandon Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
 3/17;3tc

Estate: Christopher Kenneth Hall
 Date of Death: 2/17/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100084
 Personal Representative: Roger Mark Hall
 Address: 116 Ellis Ave. Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/17;3tc

Estate: Stephanie Laine Gambrell
 Date of Death: 2/20/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100085
 Personal Representative: Harold Wayne Gambrell
 Address: 1651 Rock Hill Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/24;3tc

Estate: Eunice Gray
 Date of Death: 09/23/2020
 Case Number: 2021ES0100087
 Personal Representative: Doris Starks
 Address: P.O. Box 914 Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/24;3tc

Estate: James Butler, Jr.
 Date of Death: 02/07/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100088
 Personal Representative: Denise Mack
 Address: 958 Old Greenwood Hwy. Greenwood, SC 29649
 3/24;3tc

Estate: Marion Thomas Hall
 Date of Death: 02/28/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100090
 Personal Representative: Judy E. Hall
 Address: 201 Hillcrest Drive, Abbeville, SC 29620
 3/31;3tc

Estate: Elbert Junior Davis
 Date of Death: 02/28/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100093
 Personal Representative: Paula Rowe
 Address: 113 Milford Pines Dr. Greenwood, SC 29649
 3/31;3tc

Estate: Annie Ruth Harkness
 Date of Death: 01/24/2021
 Case Number: 2021ES0100069
 Personal Representative: Jody W. Harkness
 Address: 289 Harkness Lane Donalds, SC 29638
 3/31;3tc

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
 Notice is hereby given that SM Enterprise 2 LLC Quickway #9 intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on and off premises consumption of Beer and Wine at 305 South Main St., Abbeville, SC 29620. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than April 9, 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.
 3/24;3tp

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. 3/31;sw

Thomas Timber Inc. Equipment Auction, Live & Online Bidding, Begins Closing 4/14 at 11am, 3344 NC Hwy 210 E. Harrells, NC 28444, See Website for list of items, ironhorseauction.com, 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936
 3/31;sw



Classifieds

GOLD/SILVER

Cash Paid for Gold and Silver - Silver coins 1964 and earlier. We also pay cash for Sterling Silverware. Call 864-378-7420.

7/4tfc

REAL ESTATE

FOR LEASE

For Lease - Warehouse space, 2200 sq. ft., located in Abbeville - \$400.00 per month. Call 366-2500.

11/25tfc

FOR RENT

Office Building for Rent - 114 Court Square. \$750 a month. 864-828-0462.

3/17:4tp

VACATION RENTALS

ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 2.1 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Randall Savely at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

3/31:sw

FOR SALE

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

7/2:tfc

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

BUSINESS

Business for Sale - Aiken/N. Augusta. High income potential. Recoup investment in 2 years with existing clients. Owner financing available, 615-406-2605.

3/23tfc

HOUSE CLEANING

HOUSE CLEANING!

I will CLEAN your house and happy to pet sit too! Call 864-446-3676 & Leave Message.

6/6:tfp

Taking new clients for private sitting. Light housekeeping, meal preparation, running errands and personal care are available. 8 years of experience. References available. Please call and leave a message 864-378-0392

10/24:tfp

CARE GIVING

YOUR LOVED ONE'S SCARE - If you are in need of someone to sit and help care for your loved one in need, please call 864-446-3676. References upon request.

8/2tfc



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Brandy Childs

Human Resources Director

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3/17:8tp

GARAGE SALE

Garage sale Sat. April 3. 428 Greyrock Est. 8:00 - 3:00. Three families: baby, kids, men's and women's clothes, household items, rugs, pictures, furniture, lots of items

3/31:1tp



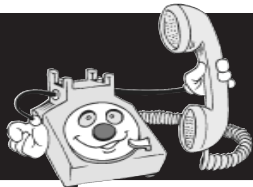
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6/5:52t

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10/4:tfc

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10/16:tfc



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6/16:tfc

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3/31:sw

LOCAL

Sports Break & Break on the Lake are now accepting applications for cooks, servers & bartenders. Apply in person daily 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

3/10:4c

Needed: a retired lady who would be interested in sitting with our elderly mother of 91. Five to six hours a night, 5 days a week, 3rd shift hours. Preferably someone with some CNA background would be great. For more info contact William McNeill 864-828-2408

3/17:3tp

EDUCATION

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL 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)

3/31:sw



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3/10:6c

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3/31:sw

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Game: (SC1194) Million Dollar Mega Multiplier

3/24:sw



FOR SALE

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3/31:sw

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3/31:sw

LOCAL GOODS

PIANO, FREE! - NO COST: Charles M. Stieff Upright piano built in 1920, in good condition. Free to be moved from my home CAREFULLY. Call 378-1495.

3/17:3p



MOVING SALE

Moving Sale! Saturday, March 27, 2021 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 200 Byrnes Avenue, Abbeville, SC 29620 Featuring: bedroom furniture (2), living room furniture, dining furniture, wall art, lamps, vintage dishes, china, silver serving pieces, Christmas decorations, yard art, outdoor furniture, flower pots, tools, gardening tools, etc.

3/17:3p

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LIHEAP

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2/10:tc