



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



A school bus hit a utility pole on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 20 and “snapped” it, causing a massive power outage. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

School bus hits utility pole in Abbeville

By Henry E. Green

A school bus hit a utility pole on North Main in Abbeville Wednesday morning, near the intersection of North Main and Miller.

There were no injuries from the accident, which occurred roughly 7:30 a.m.

The bus was northbound on North Main, said Tim Hall, City director of public utilities.

On the other hand, the accident produced a power outage which affected approximately 800 customers from Miller Street “all the way to Lowndesville, South Carolina,” Hall said.

The outage caused a disruption in the school day at Wright Middle School, where classes were cancelled and students sent home because of the lack of power.

The power outage lasted much of the day, but the affected customers had power restored by mid-afternoon Wednesday.

“We are grateful for the additional hands provided to us in this event by Little River Electric Coop,” he said.

“At approximately 7:45 a.m., January 20, 2021, District officials were notified of a traffic accident involving a bus operated by an ACSD bus driver,” said Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary in a prepared statement sent Wednesday afternoon.

“One student and two district employees were on board, and no injuries have been reported to school or District officials. The District continues to cooperate with all local law enforcement

agencies investigating the accident while following District protocol with regard to the incident and personnel involved.

“The Abbeville County School District is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and continues to ensure the safety of our students and staff.”

According to a City of Abbeville police report, the accident produced, in addition to the power outage, property damage of approximately \$5,000. The school bus driver said that she had fallen asleep, causing her to drive off the road, and the power pole was snapped in two. In addition to the driver, there were on the bus a school bus monitor and a juvenile, and no injuries were reported.”

Mask resolution passes

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council approved Tuesday night a resolution recommending that Abbevillians wear face coverings to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

City Council voted 4-2 to approve the resolution, with Council members Chris Crawford and Benji Greeson voting in opposition.

Greeson indicated that the resolution mirrors largely what is being recommended on the state level.

City Manager Blake Stone agreed that the resolution does reinforce action on the state level.

City Council member Faye Thomas was absent from the meeting.

The resolution states that it is part of an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, as the City “wishes to develop a strong community response to help protect public health

and safety.”

With the resolution, the City “strongly recommends that face coverings are worn in indoor environments and outdoor settings in the City of Abbeville.”

There is no penalty for non-compliance.

The effective date for the resolution will begin immediately after approval from City Council and will last until March 26.

Before the vote, AAMC board member Sharon Norryce and AAMC CEO Cindy Buck gave a presentation and discussed the current COVID-19 cases.

Since March 12, 2020, the hospital has tested more than 22,000 people, with an overall positive rate of 20 percent, but in recent weeks that percentage has climbed as high as 27 percent, Buck said.

Businesses could suf-

fer if customers, fearing COVID-19, see that employees are not wearing masks, Norryce said.

During the public comment period, Jeff Hult said that the COVID-19 narrative being advanced on the national scene is about advancing a “New World Order,” and, drawing a parallel to Matthew Chapter 7, said that it was built on a foundation of sand. He said he didn’t believe COVID-19 was a hoax, but that it was associated with much fraud.

Mayor Trey Edwards said the resolution is designed to raise awareness of measures needed to curb the spread of the virus, and Council is working hard to “lead by example.”

“We all swore an oath to protect the citizens of Abbeville,” he said.

‘U.K. variant’ causes coronavirus concern

By Henry E. Green

The number of positive coronavirus cases in Abbeville County continues to rise, but the option of vaccination is offering a ray of hope.

As of the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 25, Abbeville County had 1,542 positive cases of coronavirus, and had 22 coronavirus-related deaths, DHEC data shows.

Among Abbeville’s neighboring counties, Anderson County ad 15,667 positive cases and 314 deaths.

Greenwood County had 5,583 positive cases and 104 deaths.

Laurens County had 5,025 positive cases and 103 deaths.

McCormick had 601 positive cases, and eight deaths, DHEC reported.

The state as a whole had 379,775 positive cases, and 5,920 coronavirus-related deaths.

Nationwide, more than 400,000 people have died of the coronavirus.

While the vaccines bring hope, there are also new worries, from the “U.K. variant” of the virus, a mutation which is said to be more contagious than the original.

According to some researchers, the variant is more deadly, although other scientists say that more study is needed on this point.

Health authorities also believe that the variant will respond to the vaccines.

So far, at press time, the variant had not appeared in South Carolina.

Abbeville City Council was scheduled to meet last night to decide whether to pass a resolution recommending that Abbevillians wear face coverings to help curb the spread of the virus.



Abbeville Area Medical Center Staff Support Children in Need - The staff at Abbeville Area Medical Center brought joy to 26 less fortunate children again this holiday season. Staff members were given the opportunity to choose “angels” from a tree that were submitted by Abbeville County DSS and the Main Street United Methodist Church Angel Tree Program. All angels on the tree were taken within a matter of days. “We are very blessed to have staff who, even through difficult times, give back to those who are in need,” stated Cindy Buck, AAMC CEO. “The generosity shown makes me even more proud to be a member of the AAMC family.” Pictured: The Abbeville Area Medical Center Education Room was filled with gifts purchased by hospital staff members for less fortunate children this holiday season (Photo contributed).

Task force plans stigma reduction campaign

By Henry E. Green

Be Well, Abbeville has a substance abuse task force.

The task force includes representatives of law enforcement, the Abbeville Area Medical Center, the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and Cornerstone, which is the area commission on alcohol and drug abuse, among others.

“We have 40 (individuals) actively involved through e-mail,” said Betsy Royal, prevention specialist with Cornerstone.

The purpose of the task force is to fight and prevent substance use disorder.

Formed in April, 2019, the task force meets monthly.

So far it has worked to create drop boxes for prescription medications.

These boxes are repositories for unused

or unwanted or expired prescription medications.

Also, the task force has funded the creation of billboards on highways leading into Abbeville to bring awareness to the problem of substance abuse.

“We’re looking to start a campaign on stigma reduction,” she said.

Often people do not seek out help for substance abuse because they do not want to be labeled, or be branded with a stigma of being a substance abuser.

This fear keeps them from getting the help they need.

The task force is hoping to reduce the stigma associated with substance abuse disorder.

The force is planning on “really utilizing our local media to get the message out.”

The hope is that if the

message is successfully transmitted to the community, people will realize that anybody can have a substance use disorder—regardless of cultural background or economic status.

“We’re just starting this new campaign, so this is just the beginning,” she said.

“It’s just part of Be Well, Abbeville’s mission,” she said.

That mission is to work together to build a healthier community.

Be Well, Abbeville, used to be called the Abbeville Coalition for a Healthy Community.

“It’s a community coalition” which operates under the framework of the Abbeville Area Medical Center.

To learn more about Be Well, Abbeville, visit its Facebook page.



First Baptist Church of Abbeville is celebrating this year its 150th birthday. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

February is Black History Month

By Henry E. Green
February is Black History Month, an occasion to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and a time to recognize their role in American history. Its origins go back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be Negro History Week. According to woodsonmuseum.org, Woodson came to be known as the “Father of Black History.” The son of former slaves, he was born in Virginia in 1875, and he was the author of more than 30 books before his death in 1950. Black History Month evolved from that celebration begun by Woodson, who said that he chose February because Abraham

Lincoln’s birthday is on Feb. 12, and the birthday of Frederick Douglass on Feb. 14, according to woodsonmuseum.org. Here in Abbeville County there is a rich vein of African-American history. All you have to do is peruse The Press and Banner to glean evidence of this. Recently we ran a photograph of retired coach Johnny Goodwin of Abbeville, who last year was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Goodwin received a plaque and a ring in connection with his induction, held during a banquet in Greenville. The Abbeville Artist Guild is presenting for Black History Month an exhibit of works by McCormick County artist Jeffery Callaham. Callaham’s work is noted for its vibrant colors, and the

joy of living that it portrays. Abbeville native and Abbeville High School graduate Kenneth Moton has gone to achieve great success in the field of television journalism. Moton has been a mainstay of ABC News, and one could recently see him on ABC’s “World News Tonight,” where he reported on the security operations in preparation for the inauguration of President Joe Biden. African Americans have achieved milestones in politics as well. Claude Thomas was the first African-American chairman of Abbeville County Council, Charles Goodwin the first African-American Sheriff of Abbeville County, and Delano Freeman the first African-American mayor of Abbeville.

A special birthday

First Baptist of Abbeville celebrating 150 years of spreading Gospel

By Henry E. Green
First Baptist Church of Abbeville is celebrating this year its 150th anniversary. There are plans to have a special celebration on the first weekend of May for the church that is located at the corner of North Main and Ellis Avenue in Abbeville. There are plans to make a video, and plans as well to have a special service. Former pastors will be invited to attend, as well as some other local officials, according to First Baptist pastor Rev. David Green. The keynote speaker will be former president of the Southern Baptist Convention Johnny Hunt. The church has about 300 active members, and a board of deacons. Among the members is Shirley Seawright of Abbeville.

“I’ve been a member of First Baptist for 32 years,” she said. During that time, she has been the coordinator of mission projects such as Pure Water, Pure Love. “We raise money to buy water filters for missionaries serving in areas where safe water is not available,” she said. The project, coordinated through the Woman’s Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, serves missionaries throughout much of the world. The money collected at First Baptist is sent to the WMU office in Birmingham, Alabama, and “from there it goes to wherever it is needed.” Many other Baptist churches also participate in this project.

“First Baptist participates in other projects sanctioned by the Lakelands Baptist Association and the national WMU.” The church provides health kits for migrant workers, for example. “Each year we collect money to support state, North American, and international missionaries,” she said. Green, who became the pastor on Nov. 17, 2019, said First Baptist wants “to use our past and look ahead” to a future where the church will be able to continue to preach the Gospel, holding fast to Acts 1:8: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

City, Red Cross have smoke alarm project

By Henry E. Green
The City of Abbeville has a project to install smoke alarms which are free of charge for any resident within the City limits, according to Chandler White, City of Abbeville firefighter. The smoke alarms are supplied by the American Red Cross. Firefighters will install the smoke detectors free of charge. “We also have carbon

monoxide alarms,” which alert people to carbon monoxide poisoning or any carbon monoxide leaks within their home. Approximately 700 smoke alarms have been given out to City residents since the program’s inception, roughly two years ago, when the City collaborated with the Red Cross to launch the program. It was just a matter of providing that extra security for

people in the community, said White. Smoke alarms alert you to the presence of smoke within the house, he said. “It alerts people that may not realize they have a fire,” he said. They definitely save lives, White added. For more information, one may call the City of Abbeville fire department at 366-9461.

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Be encouraged. Paul talks about as a believer in Romans 7 when he says, “I don’t do what I want to do. I do what I don’t want to do, O wretched man that I am.” But He is a believer. He is a believer. It is the true experience if every Christian to live in this conflict. We who are holy are confronted by evil all the time around us and in us, and that war goes on all the time. Our genuineness as a believer, our authenticity as a believer is as much manifest by our conflict as it is by our joy. I’ll say that again. Our authenticity, our genuineness as a Christian is as much manifest by our conflict as it is our peace, our joy.

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John 16:33 KJV





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Krystal Brown is the Teacher Cadet instructor at Abbeville High School. Here she is with her students: (from left) Mrs. Brown, Ambria Gilliard, Gracey Thomasson, Ja'Ni-ah Settles, Lynde Beaver, Bethany Ricketts, Madison Pruitt, and Angelina Ellis. (Photo courtesy of Krystal Brown)

Just a little taste

Teacher Cadet program provides glimpse into world of teaching

By Henry E. Green
So you want to be a teacher?
Or maybe you're considering it among your career options.

The Teacher Cadet program can possibly help you make up your mind, if you're a high school junior or senior, by giving you a little taste of the classroom experience.

"The primary goal of the Teacher Cadet program is to encourage academically talented, high achieving high school students with exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills to consider teaching as a career," according to www-teachercadets.com

Piloted in four South Carolina high schools in 1985-1986, the Teacher Cadet program has grown to include 188 South Carolina high schools with 233 classes serving 2, 991 juniors and seniors annually, and more than 71,000 students have participated in Teacher Cadet in its 34 year history, according to wwwteacher-cadets.com

The program helps prepare students who have an interest in teaching or working with children, said AHS teacher Krystal Brown. Krystal Brown is the in-

structor for Teacher Cadet at Abbeville High School, and she had last fall a class of seven students--all girls.

The first and second quarter has set curriculum from CERRA, an organization for teacher recruitment and retention, Brown said.

This period of classroom instruction is followed by field instruction, lasting about six weeks. During this time, students go to various schools in the community and sit in on classes.

The first two weeks they observe, and then the next two weeks they begin participating, helping the assigned teacher out in various ways.

These can range from making copies to taking attendance to working with small groups of students.

The last two weeks they have to teach two lessons, with one lesson for the teacher and the other lesson for Krystal herself.

For each of these two lessons they must submit lesson plans, she said.

"Lander is our college partner," she went on to say. "Our kids get dual enrollment through us and through Lander."

Erskine, meanwhile, is the college partner for Dixie High School, where

Elizabeth Crocker is the instructor.

(Calhoun Falls Charter principal Kalan Rogers said that Calhoun Falls Charter is not participating in the program this year, but plan to do so next year.)

Those students who successfully complete the Teacher Cadet program win the right to wear a Teacher Cadet honor cord at their graduation, Brown said.

Not just anyone is allowed to take the Teacher Cadet program. One must go through an application process, and an applicant must have recommendations from three teachers, and must have a GPA of least 3.0.

Brown's class last semester was made up of all seniors, but juniors can qualify as well.

"They get a first-hand experience of what it's like to be a teacher," said Brown.

The students most of whom lean toward elementary or early childhood education, tend to find Teacher Cadet a bonding experience.

"We almost become like a family," said Brown, who is in her 16th year of teaching, and who has been a Teacher Cadet instructor for 10.

'Prank calls' occurring in County Community

By Henry E. Green
Local law enforcement is warning the Abbeville County community about a telephone scam.

Shannon Sears, director of commercial operations with West Carolina Tel, said Monday that West Carolina has been aware of a number of "prank calls" in the Abbeville County community.

"They make inappropriate comments, and it's usually in the middle of the night," said Sears. "That's what we've heard so far."

"It's uncertain as to what the nature or reason for these calls," he went on to say.

Sears offers a possible remedy.

"You hang up the phone, then pick up the receiver,

and dial "Star Five Seven" to trace the call, and then I would notify the authorities."

Sears has been hearing reports of this kind of call occurring over the past two weeks.

"We just want people to be vigilant," he said. "Don't let it bother you. Just hang up."

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Abbeville Area Medical Center to Take COVID-19 Appointment Requests

Submitted by
Meg Davis

Area Medical Center Is continuing to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to those in phase 1A which includes staff members in close contact with those with the virus and first responders.

The hospital is opening a waiting list for the general public who are aged 70 and over, live in Abbeville or McCormick counties or who are patients of its the clinics to receive the vaccine.

Vaccinations are provided to the state by the federal government who then allocates them to hospitals. With the rapid expansion and huge community demand of those eligible to be vaccinated, hospitals are not receiving the amount of vaccine ordered. Shipments are also being delayed which is making scheduling appointments difficult.

"Last week, AAMC ordered 975 doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine," stated Cindy Buck, AAMC CEO.

"We were made aware on Friday that we would be receiving only 125 doses which is making it difficult to schedule appointments."

This number also includes 50 of the second doses needed to complete the vaccination process for those previously vaccinated, leaving only enough vaccine for 75 people. Shipments were expected to arrive Monday but have been delayed until Tuesday.

"We ask our community members for patience as we work through our processes," stated Buck. "The number of individuals who want a vaccine far exceeds the number of vaccine doses we are receiving from the state."

The hospital hopes the quantity of vaccine received will become more consistent as the state refines the allocation process.

AAMC has opened a stand-alone vaccination clinic to be able to efficiently handle the large volume of patients wanting the vaccine. It will

also be offered at Due West Family Medicine and Savannah Lakes Family Medicine as supplies allow.

Vaccinations will be available by appointment only. No walk ins will be accepted. Appointment requests are currently being accepted for those 70 and over by email. Please email the location at which you wish to receive your vaccination only once. Patients will be placed on a call list in the order requests are received. When vaccine allocation numbers are received for the following week appointments will be scheduled.

Abbeville: aahcvax@AbbevilleAreaMC.com

McCormick: slfmvax@AbbevilleAreaMC.com

Due West: dwfmvax@AbbevilleAreaMC.com

Currently, the South Carolina Governor has allowed only those in Phase 1A, those hospitalized age 65 and older, and those community members aged 70 and older to receive their vaccination.

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City offices to remain open by appointment

By Henry E. Green
A number of City of Abbeville facilities will be open by appointment only until Friday, Feb. 5, due to an increase in COVID cases in the area, said Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone Wednesday. That includes Abbeville

City Hall, the Abbeville Civic Center, and the Abbeville Police and Fire Complex, and the Abbeville public utilities office, he said. The offices could reopen with normal operating hours on Monday, Feb. 8, depending on a evaluation by the City.

The offices have been closed except by appointment throughout the month of January, according to City of Abbeville community development director Mike Clary. To schedule an appointment, one may call 366-5017.

\$8 Million in newly available CARES Act funding creates tuition-free opportunities at PTC

Submitted by Kristine Hartvigsen

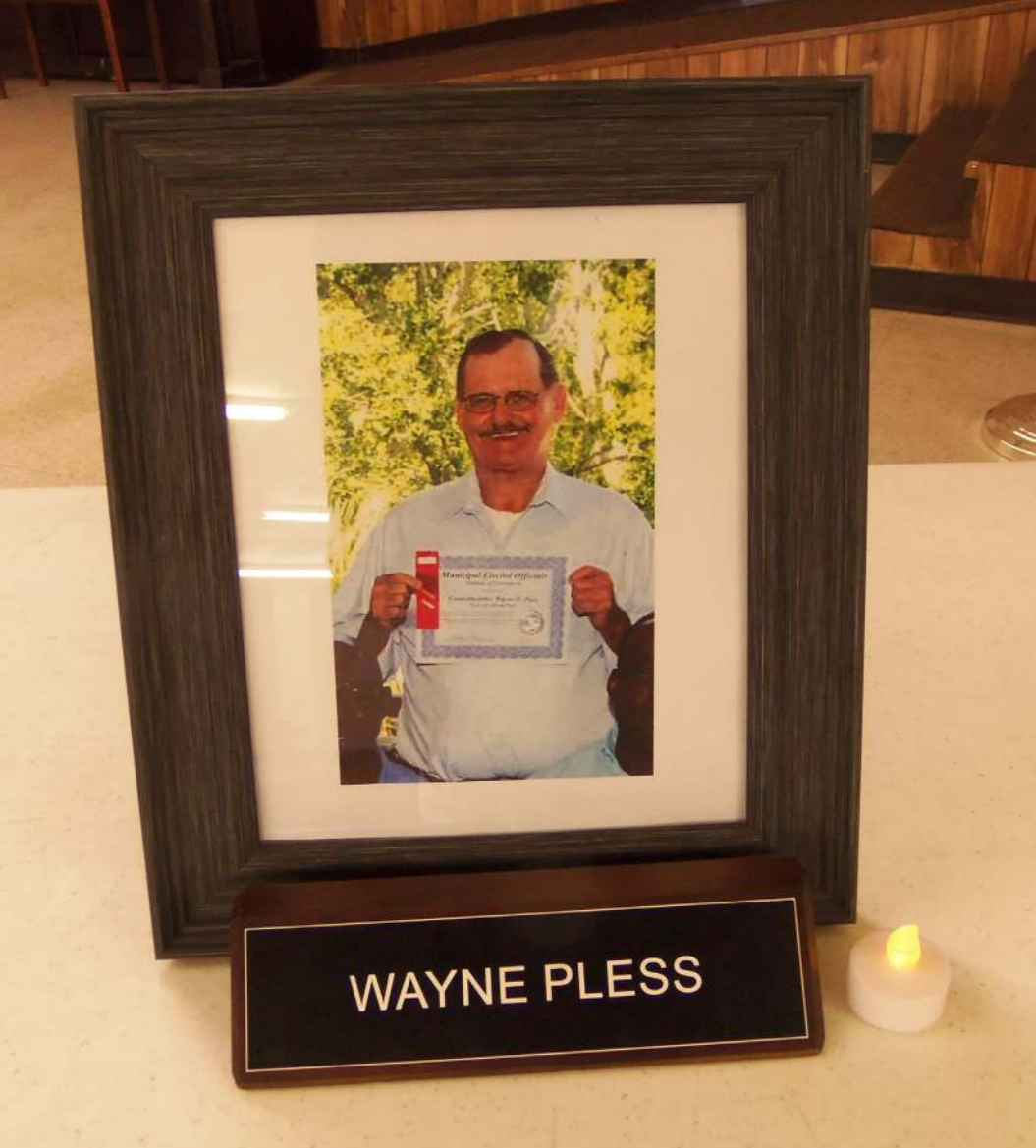
SC Gov. Henry McMaster’s Jan. 5 announcement providing \$19.9 million in emergency CARES Act funding to support education included \$8 million for institutions in the SC Technical College System to provide directed job training. As a result, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) is offering several certification courses that will be available within 30 days at little or no cost for SC residents over 18. “Those who complete these certificate programs will be on a fast track to employment,” said Rusty Denning, associate vice president, economic development and continuing education at PTC. “What we once called ‘Quick Skills’ are now truly ‘Quick Skills,’ thanks to this new resource.”

Referred to as the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) discretionary fund, the windfall stipulates that recipients of GEER scholarships be state residents who are at least 18 years old. Some programs may have additional requirements, but most come with broad eligibility for more than 3,000 citizens to take advantage of. “These targeted grants will train thousands of South Carolinians for high-demand jobs and provide the groundwork for our next generation to excel in the workplace,” the governor stated in a news release, which also noted that “The demand for non-credit, continuing education programs has increased due to the pandemic.” Courses available through PTC under this grant include the South

Carolina Manufacturing Certification, South Carolina Logistics Certification, Commercial Truck Driver Training, Welding, and several health care-related credentials, including Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician and Contact Tracing. Additional courses qualifying for this tuition funding continue to be added to the list, so those interested should inquire about the full range of opportunities.

“All of these programs lead to a certification or industry-recognized credential,” Denning said. “Each is in a field currently experiencing high demand.”

For more information or to enroll, please visit www.ptc.edu/quickskills or call the PTC Continuing Education Office at 864-941-8401.



At the January 25 Calhoun Falls Town Council meeting, the late Wayne Pless, who served on Calhoun Falls Town Council before his passing earlier this month, was remembered with this photograph at the Council table. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

New Hardee’s slated to open in spring

By Henry E. Green
Nick Shurgot is the owner of the Abbeville franchise of Hardee’s, and he says that there are plans to build a new Hardee’s building on the site of the old Palmetto Bank at the corner of South Main and Highway 72 in Abbeville. He leases the current Hardee’s building on High-

way 72, and he wanted to move into a new building on a more level site. Construction on the new building is slated to begin in February, and the new Hardee’s is slated to open in April or early May. It will have a drive through, but it will have a “more modern, updated design,” and the menu will be the same.

Shurgot owns Hardees’s restaurants in five states-- South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas and Tennessee. The manager and district manager will remain the same for the new Hardee’s, he said. “We’ve got a great team,” Shurgot said. “We’re just excited.”

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Department/Group:	Finance and Administration	Job Code:	33-5371 /31-2411
Location:	Abbeville, SC	Travel Required:	Occasional
Level/Salary Range:	\$18.00 - \$26.00	Position Type:	Full Time
HR Contact:	Jo Elliott	Date Posted:	January 11, 2021
Posting URL and our Employment Application:	http://www.lreci.coop (Look under Employment Tab)	Posting Expires:	February 12, 2021 4:00 p.m.

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- Be able to work successfully with co-workers and consumer-members in a pleasant, courteous and professional manner and be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors.
- Protect confidential information; record information, process, and file forms.
- Be able to learn and apply information from technical manuals for the completion of duties.
- Be able to learn and use accounting software programs to process business transactions, i.e. accounts payable and receivable, disbursements, expense vouchers and receipts.
- Work under degree of stress related to accuracy and deadlines.
- Prepare checks, deposits, budgets, and financial/HR/payroll reports.
- Update financial records/ledgers, research and resolve discrepancies, and have high level of accuracy & efficiency.
- Have exceptional verbal and written communication skills as well as computer literacy and strong keyboard skills.

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1/13;3tc

Death detective

Dr. Kyle Shaw is a forensic pathologist serving Abbeville County

By Henry E. Green

Dr. Kyle Shaw's job as a forensic pathologist takes him sometimes into the courtroom.

There, he will testify, but it rarely rises to the level of "Perry Mason" style drama.

No, usually the questions are fairly straightforward, as he told Abbeville Rotarians recently.

Such is the life of a forensic pathologist.

"I've always been interested in figuring things out," he said. That interest has long been coupled with an interest in science, especially biology.

Put them all together, and you create a career.

"Forensic pathologists, or medical examiners, are specially trained physicians who examine the bodies of

people who died suddenly, unexpectedly or violently," according to explorehealthcareers.org

Shaw will tell you, "It's a very small niche within a niche."

One has to become a pathologist before becoming a forensic pathologist, and one has to complete medical school before becoming a pathologist.

It is a job which allows him to interact not only with law enforcement but with families as well.

Shaw serves Abbeville County and a number of other counties in the Upstate.

Those counties include, in addition to Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood and McCormick.

He works on a salary basis in Abbeville, Anderson and

Greenwood counties, and for McCormick he works on a case by case basis.

The majority of his cases are in Anderson County, where he uses AnMed facilities for autopsies.

Abbeville County has a facility of its own where he can perform autopsies.

Shaw's line of work may be best summed on his business card, which has the rendering of an owl.

Shaw has long had an affinity for owls, which are associated with wisdom, and with death.

"Ancient cultures have associated owls with death," he said.

Shaw has lived in Abbeville County since 2019. Originally from Newnan, GA, he lived in Florida about 10 years before moving to Abbeville.



Forensic pathologist Dr. Kyle Shaw was the speaker at a recent Abbeville Rotary Club meeting. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

AAMC personnel look at COVID concerns

By Henry E. Green

While the coronavirus vaccine offers hope that the pandemic will at long last reach its conclusion, lingering questions remain.

How long will the vaccine offer protection and/or immunity?

"Per the CDC, we do not know how long the vaccine will last," said Meg Davis, the Abbeville Area Medical Center's marketing, foundation and volunteer services director. "This is still being studied."

The format for the vaccine currently in use is to provide for two shots.

Could an individual get COVID after the first shot,

Davis was asked.

"You cannot get COVID from the vaccine," Davis replied. "It is possible to get it after the first shot. It takes both shots for the vaccine to become fully effective, although you may have a milder case."

Meanwhile, AAMC CEO Cindy Buck, AAMC physician Dr. Trey Moore, and AAMC board member Sharon Norryce were guests at the Jan. 12 Abbeville City Council meeting where they made a presentation about AAMC's vaccination process.

The most common side effect of the vaccine is a sore arm, Moore said.

The vaccination process

at AAMC has actually begun already, with health care personnel being vaccinated.

Over the space of approximately one year, AAMC has also been testing people for the virus, Moore continued.

"To date since the beginning of March, we've performed over 20,000 tests," he said. Of those tests, 2,500 turned out to be positive.

The hospital has been having drive-in testing events at the old Fred's parking lot on the Highway 28 Bypass on the outskirts of Abbeville.

Bright light, dark world

Mural planned for Abbeville building would promote mental health

By Henry E. Green

There are plans to brighten up an Abbeville building with a mural, helping to promote mental health and preserve the memory of a young lady who brightened the lives of everyone who knew her.

An Abbeville Artist Guild explains how the Guild is looking for an artist who will make it all a reality:

"The Abbeville Artist Guild is assisting the Caroline Project in looking for an artist to paint a mural on the side of the building that Krissi Raines has an office on Whitehall Street in Abbeville.

"The Caroline project will sponsor this and the thought is for it to be bright, cheerful and full of hope and related to positive mental health. If you are interested in painting the mural or you know someone who can do this please contact the Artist Guild at abbevilleartistguild@gmail.com or Lucia Bishop of the Caroline Project at lucia130@wctel.net. Even if you can't paint the mural if you have an idea for the subject matter and would like to help create the mural contact us."

The Caroline Project is named after the late Caroline Bishop, who took her life in 2016.

Raines, a mental health professional, oversees the

project. Last year, she coordinated a program on Abbeville's Court Square in memory of those who had lost their lives to suicide.

The program was held during the month of September, a month designated to help people become more aware of the problem of suicide.

"Many adults struggle with anxiety and depression and there has been an increase in the number of people suffering from it due to COVID-19. Yes, one in four adults struggle with a mental health issue but because of the stress from the pandemic we are seeing an increase in mental health issues among adults and youth/children.

"We have also seen an increase in overdose and suicides nationwide as well as in our region."

Raines said that building where the mural is to be painted houses her office where her business Bow and Arrow Center of Hope is based.

Mental Health First Aid and The Caroline Project are housed in the office because she oversees all of them, she said.

"The Caroline Project was initially started to help with funding for counseling," she said. "Lucia Bishop and I have since decided to use

it in a more community care aspect for mental health and well-being of our community. The project was created in memory of Caroline Bishop who died by suicide in 2016.

"The purpose of TCP is to invest in the mental health of our community and improve the lives of those in need. It was formed to help educate and serve the general public about the needs of mental health and to help those who serve our community so well. TCP wants to encourage increased civic participation in meeting the needs of our community all in memory of Caroline Bishop who changed every life she met with her personality and smile."

All of the funds for TCP are spent for community needs and used through Bow and Arrow Center of Hope to impact the community.

"We hope the mural is a bright light in our dark world that encourages people to keep going no matter what. We want it to draw people for photos and to create beautiful memories while giving love, light, and hope to our amazing little town. My landlord and owner of the building, Philip Jones, was immediately on board with the idea of a mural. I thank him so much for allowing it on his building."

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Tuesday, January 5th • 8:30am-2:00pm

Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28 (Abbeville YMCA/old Fred's location)

Tuesday, January 12th

8:30am-2:00pm Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28

Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28 (Abbeville YMCA/old Fred's location)

9:00am-1:00pm Monticello Golf Course

1148 Barksdale Ferry Road McCormick

Tuesday, January 19th • 8:30am-2:00pm

Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28 (Abbeville YMCA/old Fred's location)

Tuesday, January 26th

8:30am-2:00pm Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28

Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28 (Abbeville YMCA/old Fred's location)

****Additional Date!!** 9:00am-1:00pm Monticello Golf Course**

1148 Barksdale Ferry Road McCormick



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The scholarship is managed by the FCCF from donations made by the Tilley family and friends. (Photo contributed)

By Henry E. Green
Local government officials in Abbeville County are awaiting the results of the 2020 Census.

According to www.npr.org, 2020 census information used for state and local redistricting is set to be released by March 31, 2021.

The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to release other, new census data beginning in the spring of 2021.

"Demographics are looked at very heavily in my job," said Abbeville County economic development director Stephen Taylor.

Communities like the City of Abbeville are hoping to see growth. “I think we’re hoping to see the population decline that has been occurring since roughly 1990 have stopped and some level of growth to have taken place,” said City of Abbeville community development director Mike Clary. “It is, however, important to note that many of the City’s and Community’s current initiatives such as the Downtown Revitalization Plan and Abbeville Promise did not get started until 2019, so it

is unlikely we will see the fruits of those labors in the 2020 Census.

“Ultimately, the 2020 Census will provide a measuring stick we can use to see where we are at as community in terms of several data points such as population, income, etc.

“I think we will take those numbers as a snapshot of the current situation in Abbeville and continue to work towards improving our community at the direction of City Council,” Clary continued.

By Henry E. Green
Today, Jan. 27, a crane will be lifting the Trinity Episcopal Church steeple off its temporary cribbing and placing it in its new position, on the new timbers which have replaced the old rotted timbers, said Mike Bedenbaugh, president and CEO of Preservation South Carolina.

"This action is what we've been planning and organizing and fund raising for the past three years," he said.

After the crane leaves and the steeple is secured, then scaffolding will be erected so that the exterior of the steeple can be restored for the length of its 125 foot height.

This work will be going on through the month of March.

"None of this work will hinder the congregation

from using the sanctuary for worship services," he said. Fund raising and restoration of the steeple began when Preservation South Carolina signed an agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina for the preservation of Trinity, an agreement signed in November, 2018. Phase One of the restoration has been completed, with the re-roofing of the sanctuary. The work of the crane on today will mark the half way point of Phase Two. Phase Two will be completed once all the roofing on the spire is finished, and that is expected by the end of the spring of this year. Future phases will include the restoration of the exterior stucco and restoration of the John Baker organ, and

the windows of the church.

"Preservation South Carolina will be working with the Diocese to raise the funds necessary to complete phases Three, Four and Five," Bedenbaugh continued.

So far the monies that have been raised for the project have been close to \$1.1 million, in addition to a church building fund of \$360,000.

The remaining work will require funding of approximately \$2 million.

As part of the agreement with the Diocese, Preservation South Carolina is leasing the church building for the purposes of the restoration.

"Our goal is to raise the remaining \$2 million within the next three years," he said.

"That success will depend on the support of donors."

A graphic for Abbeville County GLEAMNS HRC. At the top, the text "Rental and Mortgage Assistance Available" is in white on a black background. Below this, the word "EVICTION" is written in large, bold, white letters on a black background. The central image shows a two-story house with a chimney. A large, red, tilted sign with the word "FORECLOSURE" in white capital letters is placed in front of the house. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for "GLEAMNS HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER HELPING PEOPLE" with a map of Abbeville County in the center. Below the logo, the text "Contact Abbeville County GLEAMNS HRC" and the phone number "864-459-2100" are displayed.

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County Council has goals workshop

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County Council held a goals workshop Monday night, setting forth a number of long-range and short-range goals.

Council looked at needs in various categories, including public safety.

Among them:

- An Ouzts-Wilson memorial park in memory of the law enforcement officers who lost their lives during the Bixby standoff of December 2003.

- A convenience center for the Lowndesville area.

- Renovation of the Abbeville County Courthouse. Abbeville County was in the process of securing bids last year for the renovation process, when COVID hit and the project was put on the back burner.

- Better outreach with the community, including better coordination with the chambers of commerce and possibly hiring an intern to work with press releases and Facebook.

Council met at the Abbeville County Administrative Complex, and the workshop was facilitated by Rick Green of Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

Abbeville County Director David Garner said that the County had sought funding for the Ouzts-Wilson memorial park, but had so far been unsuccessful.

The County Director also went over some of the goals for 2020. While the Courthouse renovation project had been placed on hold, a Sunday alcohol sales measure passed in the general election last fall, and an apprenticeship program with EMS had been launched.

For 2021, County Councilmember Drew Simpson suggested County-wide broadband as a goal.

Simpson said also that much of the equipment for rural firefighters needs to be updated.

Concerning EMS recruitment and retention, Garner

said that he is in the process of applying for a training grant to benefit EMS and rural fire services.

Garner also indicated that there should be a revamping of the classification system for County employees.

"A clerk in one office is not a clerk in another," he said, indicating a need for consistency and uniformity in this realm.

Council also discussed the possibility of a public transportation system in Abbeville County, in connection with a survey promoted by United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County.

Green said that Abbeville is one of six counties in South Carolina without a public transportation system. The others are Greenwood, Union, Laurens, Saluda, and Cherokee.

"It would have to be a commitment of resources for the long term," Green said.

County Council member John Calhoun sat in on the meeting electronically.

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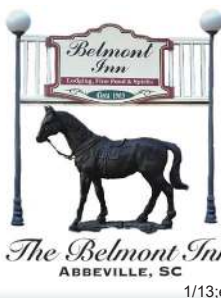
Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases, we have decided to cancel Sunday Lunch until further notice.

We want to protect our loyal guests.

We appreciate all of our guests and are sorry for the inconvenience.

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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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Obituaries

Owen

Donnie Owen, 60, of Abbeville, SC died Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at his residence. He was born in Anderson County to the late J.D. and Mary Hazel Stargel Owen.

Donnie was a 1978 graduate of Palmetto High School and member of Beaverdam Baptist Church in Williamston. He was a Past Master and active mason in the Clinton Masonic Lodge #3 AFM in Abbeville. Donnie, for many years, could be found during the day working at Saxon's Grocery where he enjoyed spending time with customers and friends and early evenings at Wings on the Square. He never met a stranger and

was always willing to help out where he could.

In addition to his parents, Donnie was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Gary Owen and James Paul Owen.

He is survived by his son, Craig Owen and his wife, Julie, of Piedmont, SC; two sisters, Deborah Owen of Williamston, SC and Rebecca Lynn McDonald and her husband, Andy, of Forest City, NC; two brothers, Kenneth Lamar Owen of Six Mile, SC and Marvin Glenn Owen and his wife, Janet, of Williamston; and two granddaughters, Clara and Hazel Owen.

A service to celebrate Donnie's life was at 2:00PM

Saturday, January 16, 2021 in the Harris Funeral Home Chapel with Masonic Rites. Masks are required for all attending the service. Those in attendance are also encouraged to dress casually.

Memorial contributions in memory of Donnie may be sent to the Clinton Masonic Lodge #3 AFM, PO Box 742, Abbeville, SC 29620 or to the Shriners Children's Hospital, 950 W. Faris Rd., Greenville, SC 29605.

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

Harris Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Abbeville is assisting the Owen family.

Obituaries

Shockley

Barbara McNeill Shockley, 83, of the Martha Franks Retirement Community in Laurens, wife of the late James 'Donald' Shockley, died Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Prisma Health in Laurens. She was born in Abbeville to the late Lowry Wilson McNeill and Macy Campbell McNeill.

Mrs. Shockley attended Sharon High School. She was employed in textiles for many years with Milliken, Bloomsburg, and Jockey. Mrs. Shockley was a member of Sharon United Methodist Church in Abbeville.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, William Francis McNeill. Mrs. Shockley is survived by a son, Buddy Burdette



Barbara McNeill Shockley

(Lynn) of Donalds; a daughter, Judy Miller (Dwayne) of Hickory, NC; a brother, Gene McNeill (Ellen) of Abbeville; five grandchildren, Brad, Brandon, Adam, Brian, and Casey; eleven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grand-

children.

Graveside services were 2PM Saturday, January 23, 2021 in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens with Rev. Jeremy Beauford officiating. Those wishing to pay their respects visited Harris Funeral Home on Friday, January 22, 2021 between the hours of 10:00AM – 5:00PM.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Shockley, may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

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

Harris Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Abbeville is assisting the Shockley family.

CROSSWORD

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Answers on back page

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15. Use a whisk
16. Greek H's
17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
18. **"Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
20. Ballpark calls
21. Strong adhesive
22. Greek letter N, pl.
23. Lord's subordinate
26. Given to drinking
30. Ovine mom
31. Old storage medium
34. Fairy-tale beginning
35. Politician Pelosi
37. Tokyo, once
38. Bone hollows
39. Sky bear
40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
42. "Ever" to a poet
43. With more seeds
45. Attic
47. Summer sandwich?
48. Fraternity letter
50. Medieval headdress
52. *Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
56. Like blue sky
57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
58. Samoan money
59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
60. Affirm
61. Give off
62. Plays for pay
63. *Color of Valentine's Day
64. *Lovers' reunion

DOWN

1. Cry like a baby
2. Canyon sound
3. Convict's weapon
4. Conical dwellings
5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
6. Opposite of binary
7. Like a gossipmonger
8. Exterminator's target
9. Change for a five
10. Part of T.G.I.F.
12. Like an abridged classic
13. Tiler's paste
14. **"I Will Always Love You" singer
19. Stupefied
22. Us, in Mexico
23. *Cupid's mother
24. In the know
25. Common thing?
26. Smoke plus fog
27. Lay to rest
28. Rocks at mountain base
29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
32. Infantry's last row
33. Roulette bet
36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
38. ____ apple
40. Risk something
41. Between eggy and eggier
44. Feeling worse than before
46. Gave away
48. Thin piece
49. Annoyed
50. Russia's alternative to caesar
51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
52. Burn to a crisp
53. MADD member, colloquially
54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
55. Fill beyond full
56. Pharaoh's cobra

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NOTICE OF SALE

Abbeville County School District has a Storage Building for sale that has been constructed by the Carpentry Class at the Abbeville County Career Center.

The Building is 12' X 16' and has T-1-11 siding and a Gambrel roof. It has a walk through door with a window and exterior lockset and a 4 ft. site-built door. The building is located at the Abbeville County Career Center, 100 Old Calhoun Falls Hwy, Abbeville, near Highway 28 By-Pass and it will be the responsibility of the buyer to have it moved. The buyer will assume all expenses and liability for said move. The building will be sold "as is", and the school district will assume no liability of any nature once the sale is final,

The method of sale will be by sealed bids. The minimum acceptable bid shall be \$3,800. Bids should include the bid amount, name of bidder and contact information. Bids are to be addressed to Roni Scott, Finance Director, Abbeville County School District, 400 Greenville Street, Abbeville, SC 29620. All bids must be received by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 and will be opened at the District Office, immediately following the deadline. The district reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The high bidder should be prepared to pay the entire sale price within 15 days of being notified that his/her bid has been accepted. The storage building must be moved within 30 days of the final sale date or all funds will be forfeited.

The building may be inspected Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Abbeville County Career Center. For inspection at other times, call 366-9069 for an appointment.

Calhoun Falls Town Council Town of CF to retain real estate broker

By Henry E. Green
The Town of Calhoun Falls is retaining a real estate broker for the purpose of selling some pieces of real estate, according to action taken by Town Council Monday.
Following executive session to discuss personnel matters involving the police department, and to discuss an economic development matter, Town Council approved Resolution 2021-01, "a resolution to retain a real estate broker."
According to the resolution, the Town wants to sell certain real estate, and wants also to retain a licensed real estate broker for the purpose.
The Town for this purpose is opting to retain John McAllister Realty Consulting LLC (JMRC) as its real estate broker "for purposes of selling certain real estate owned by the Town of Calhoun Falls."
The Town desires to sell

some property "and we appointed a real estate broker to help with this process," said Calhoun Falls Mayor Chris Cowan following the meeting.
Council passed the resolution 3-0, with Cowan, and Council members Johnny Gilchrist and Wayne Postell voting in favor.
Mayor Pro Tem Mindy Boggs Rogers was absent from the meeting.
In the public comment section of the meeting, Charlie Tillman of Calhoun Falls expressed concerns he felt about the Calhoun Falls police in certain matters.
Calhoun Falls Police Chief Cynthia Kennedy said Tuesday that the police had acted correctly.
Also in the public comment segment of the meeting Monday, Rico Holland asked about activities for young people in Calhoun Falls.
Cowan replied that, giv-

en the concerns of the pandemic, there are restrictions on gatherings, in order to provide for social distancing.
Holland said that even before the pandemic, there was a concern about a need for activities for young people in Calhoun Falls.
"Without our youth, there's no future," he said.
Also in the public comment section, Michael Johnson said, "I'm here to let it be known that I support the police department."
In a Town-related matter, Calhoun Falls Clerk of Court Stephanie Copelan noted during a break in the meeting that the Town had secured some special equipment to help with restrictions on in-person court proceedings in South Carolina.
Those restrictions were recently mandated by the state in connection with the pandemic.



Dixie High School students who were chosen as Students of the Quarter. These students were recognized their teachers for their academic achievement, attitude, and effort. (Photo contributed)

Audit provides District 'unqualified' report

By Henry E. Green
The Abbeville County School District has received a clean bill of health Tuesday night from an audit of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 by the firm of Manley Garvin, the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees learned last night.
The School District received an unqualified report, the highest rating that can be achieved in such a document, Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary noted.
Concerning the District's capital improvement plan, a Radium Architecture presentation was on the agenda Tuesday night.

Radium Architecture is proposing a design of the press boxes, concession stands, restrooms, and tickets at both high schools.
There were also updates on technology, curriculum and safety, and a District evaluation, and a discussion of ROTC.
Gary will be evaluating his staff, including execution of goals.
Concerning ROTC, Gary noted recently that the School District currently offers PE, but not ROTC.
The Superintendent indicated that he would like to try to conduct a survey to gauge interest at Abbeville and Dixie high schools for


possibly having an ROTC program.
There were on the agenda several policy updates, and the trustees were also slated to take up first reading on the 2021-2022 school year calendar.
The Superintendent has said that he is looking into the possibility that the School District could start a week earlier than the normal state guidelines.
This would allow the School District to finish the fall semester before the winter break -- something which he said would be beneficial in terms of academics.

Community Calendar

AHS has change in schedule
Due to a change in schedule, Abbeville High School will have no varsity games the week of Jan. 26, according to AHS athletic director Maggie Jameson.
"JV has a game Thursday, here verse Christ Church, but that will be all our games for this week,"

she said.
UCMAC encouraging people to fill out survey
The United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County is welcoming county residents to fill out a survey on the need for public transportation in Abbeville County.
"An electronic version of


the survey is available and we need to get as many responses as possible," said UCMAC executive director Bill Boone.
Boone encouraged people wishing to complete the survey to reach out to the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6ZH9FSL>



Bell Toll Ceremony January 2021 Honoring Deceased Veterans

Walter Johnson	92	US Army Korea
Jerry Thomas Alewine	76	US Army
Larry Saxon	79	US Army
Tony Thomas	66	SC National Guard
Robert Edmunds, Sr.	66	US Army

The Abbeville County Veterans Organizations jointly sponsor a Bell Toll Ceremony on the last Friday of each month. The veterans names who have passed away in Abbeville County during the month or anyone who was missed in the previous month will have their names read. This includes men and women from Abbeville County who live in other areas. The names will also include any military service member from South Carolina who were killed while on active duty. As each name is read, the Liberty Bell replica, "Big Bob" is struck once as a token of our respect and appreciation for each Veteran who served and for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation. Please join for this solemn ceremony on the Abbeville square at 1 p.m., December 25, 2020. Also, all veterans are welcome to attend the American Legion meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Supper is served at 5 p.m. and the meeting is at 6 p.m.



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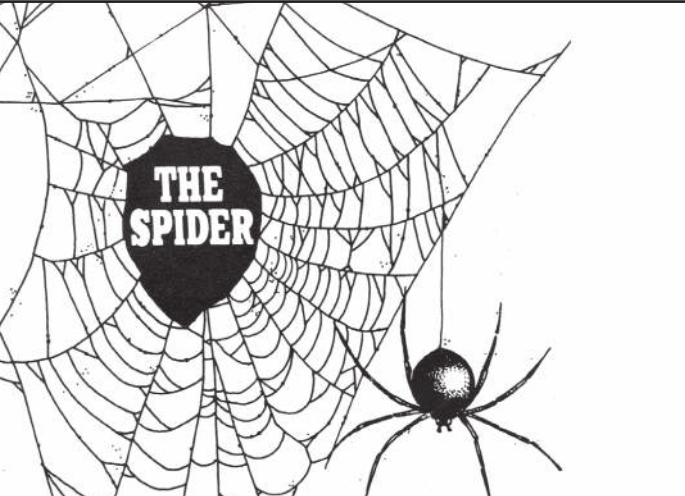
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THE SPIDER

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was editor of a small Missouri paper. One day he received a letter from a subscriber, stating that he had found a spider in his paper, and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.
Twain replied: "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."

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Sports & Recreation

Full court press

High school basketball games look a bit different in the age of COVID-19

By Henry E. Green

If you've been to an Abbeville High School basketball game lately, you've probably noticed that the bleachers look just a little different.

If you look closely, you can see "paw prints" at intervals on the athletic seating.

Abbeville High School athletic director Maggie Jameson will tell you that they are definitely there for a purpose.

That purpose is to help curb the spread of the virus which has killed nearly 400,000 Americans. Yes, even the AHS gym can be a battleground against COVID-19, and it is perhaps

indicative of the measures schools throughout the state are taking to help curb the pandemic.

"The paws are in place to help spectators socially distance," said Jameson. "They are supposed to sit on a paw (or near) and they are measured to be six feet away from others on all sides."

The bleachers are disinfectected after the action on the court concludes.

In the past, spectators would walk out on the court after the game ended,, and linger, talking and enjoying a time of fellowship.

Times have changed. Spectators now leave the

building fairly quickly, so that only minutes after the game's conclusion the gym is practically empty--and quiet.

That is very much by design, according to Jameson.

"The SCHSL (South Carolina High School League) states that no one is allowed on the court following the game (similar to football, no one was allowed on the field), so we make everyone leave the building and wait on their athletes in the car," she said.

"This cuts down on close contact situations and allows us to keep the athletes and coaches separate from the crowd."



Brittany Gordon and her opponent from Crescent face off. (Photo contributed)

Basketball

CF Charter girls having excellent year

By Henry E. Green

The Calhoun Falls Charter varsity girls basketball team is having a very good year, and at press time the Lady Flashes were 4-0 in Region play, according to coach Joseph Cade.

The Lady Flashes accomplished something this year that they have not done in a long time--they have beaten McCormick twice.

Cade said that in fact, this year marks the first time since the establishment of the Charter School that Calhoun Falls Charter has beaten McCormick at all--in

varsity girls basketball.

The Lady Flashes defeated McCormick on Jan. 19 at McCormick, 31-23. Autumn Thomas was the leading scorer for the Lady Flashes.

The key to the victory was that Calhoun Falls Charter scored a number of points off turnovers, Cade said.

"We put the press on," he said, noting that the good defense the Lady Flashes played.

The Lady Flashes played McCormick again Thursday night--this time in Calhoun Falls.

Autumn Thomas was again

the leading scorer for the Lady Flashes, who prevailed 37-28, Cade continued.

"We had a lot of fast break points," he said. Again, the girls scored a number of points off turnovers.

Calhoun Falls Charter is scheduled to host Region foe Ware Shoals on Friday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m.

The Lady Flashes are enjoying a lofty position atop the Region standings.

"We are actually tied for first," with High Point Academy, he said.

AHS boys hoops game to be rescheduled

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville High School varsity boys basketball game that had been scheduled for Friday night at the AHS gym was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

The concerns were in connection with the Greenville Tech Charter team, which was being quarantined due

to the COVID virus, said AHS boys basketball coach Doug Belcher.

The game, a Region contest, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at AHS.

A game with Greenville Tech Charter that had been scheduled earlier in the week at Greenville Tech

Charter was also cancelled, for the same reason.

This game will be rescheduled later in the season, at a time to be announced.

The AHS boys were slated to face Region foe Liberty last night and to visit Liberty this coming Friday night, Jan. 29.

Erskine sports

Erskine athletes recently recognized

Student-athletes honored

Two hundred and eighteen Erskine College student-athletes were recently named to the Conference Carolinas Presidential Honor as announced by the conference office on Friday.

Women's basketball
Erskine lost to Allen, 52-61 Thursday night, in women's basketball action.

Erskine victorious in volleyball

The Flying Feet defeated Maranatha Baptist 3-0 Friday in volleyball.

The #1 seeded Erskine College men's volleyball team (1-0) defeated #5 Maranatha Baptist University (0-1) 25-23, 25-13, 25-14 in the opening match of the NCCAA National Championships in Carolina University's Williams Gym on Friday.

Erskine track teams begin season

The Erskine College men's and women's

track teams began their indoor season by participating in the KMS Invitational at the Crossplex in Birmingham, Alabama.

Antaja Whitehead as well as Bryce Crawford, paced the Fleet, both setting new school records in the 400m Dash and the Weight Throw, respectively.

Erskine and Converse

In women's basketball action, Erskine lost to Converse 64-55 Monday night in Spartanburg.





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Banner Corporation president Lamar T. West, Sr. celebrated his birthday Wednesday, Jan. 20 at the Press and Banner with a delicious cake. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

US Senate

Scott and Colleagues introduce National School Choice Week Resolution

Senator Tim Scott
U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), Congressional School Choice Caucus co-chair, introduced a resolution declaring this week as National School Choice Week. Senator Scott was joined by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Mike Braun (R-IN), Richard Burr (R-NC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Steve Daines (R-MT), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Ron Johnson (R-WI), James Lankford (R-OK), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Todd Young (R-IN).

“Education is the closest thing to magic we have in America and is the most valuable gift we can pass down to our children,” **said Senator Tim Scott.** “Too often the education debate is centered on what we do here in Washington, instead of reflecting the conversations happening around dinner tables across the country. As the pandemic has shuttered schools and brought into sharp relief the challenges faced by working parents, it is clear we need to give families more options, not less. We need to empower parents and students to choose what’s right for their future and break every barrier to success because when our children succeed, America succeeds.”
In a time when COVID-19 has severely limited access to quality education for many, parents across the country continue to recognize the importance of school choice. According to a new survey released by the American Federation for Children, 72% of K-12 parents who work full-time support school choice. “The education of our youth is a priority for all Hoosiers. Families should be allowed to choose the type of education that best suits their children’s needs. I’m proud to support National School Choice Week as we recognize and celebrate all kinds of learning opportunities for Hoosiers, especially during this pandemic,” **said Senator Young.** “Every child deserves the

opportunity to dream of a bright future regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic status,” **said Lankford.** “Students should not be limited in their educational opportunity as they wait for improvement in their local school. I support the right of every parent and student to have open access to the best classrooms that meet their educational goals and I’m proud to sponsor the ‘National School Choice Week’ resolution to encourage that access. Families deserve to have the flexibility to decide what best meets the individual needs of their children.”
“The ability to choose the educational path best suited for an individual child has always been important, and it is increasingly relevant in the midst of an ongoing pandemic,” **Rubio said.** “A zip code should not determine a child’s future. Parents should have as many options available to them as possible when they are deciding where to send their kids to school. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution that recognizes the profound significance of education options and the ability for parents to make the best choice for their family.”
“School choice means letting parents make decisions that put their children in the best position to succeed,” **said Senator Cramer.** “Our resolution applauds each part of the education system for their role in training the next generation and urges parents to explore the opportunities available to them.”
“A zip code should not limit a child’s future. All children should have access to the best tools and resources they need to succeed,” **said Dr. Cassidy.** “We must give parents and students the power to make the best educational decisions that fit their needs.”
“School choice provides families across North Carolina, and the country, the option to enroll their children in a school that best fits the educational and social needs of that individual child,” **said Senator Tillis.** “Allowing parents to choose where they want their own child to learn, instead of the district making that decision based on zip codes, should be commonsense for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am proud to co-sponsor this designation of ‘National

School Choice Week’ so we can bring awareness to educational choice and celebrate leaders in our communities who are dedicated to the betterment of our children’s future.”
Senator Rick Scott said, “I’m proud to join Senator Tim Scott and my colleagues to recognize National School Choice Week. Every family deserves the opportunity to choose a school that best fits their needs. Throughout my time as Governor of Florida, I worked to make our state a national leader in school choice, and as Senator, I’m building on these efforts to help our students succeed.”
“I have long said that school choice is the civil rights issue of the 21st century, because every child deserves an opportunity to receive an excellent education and achieve the American dream – regardless of race, ethnicity, or zip code,” **said Senator Cruz.** “This School Choice Week could not be more timely, as a global pandemic forced millions of American students to finish their school year from home last year and left many kids falling behind. As this uncertain time continues, it highlights the fight for families across the country to have accessible, affordable options for their children’s education, a fight that I will continue to help lead in the Senate.”
“Students of all ages have felt the impact of the coronavirus pandemic,” **said Senator Burr.** “As schools across the country have adapted their way of teaching over the past year, one thing has become more evident: parents understand what’s essential to their child’s success in the classroom. That’s why I’m pleased to join my colleagues on this important resolution that supports putting education in the hands of those who know our students best.”

Letters

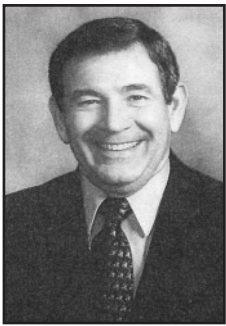
Dear Editor,

Pertaining to last weeks commentary by Lamar T. West, “Deep State Wins” may God Bless You! The Truth shall set you free! Love In Christ, Michael D. Allen

a Word from “THE WORD”

Rev. Dr. John Keith

Remember



jkeithfbca@gmail.com

Psalm 105:5 “Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth.”

Benjamin Weir was a missionary in Beirut, Lebanon. He was kidnapped by Muslim extremists and held hostage for sixteen months. During that time, he was locked in a barren room and unable to see another human being. His hands were manacled. He was blindfolded most of the time. Even when his blindfold was taken off, he had no view from his tiny cell. But this did not defeat him. An electric light cord dangled from the ceiling. The bulb had been stripped off, leaving three fragile filament wires exposed. For Weir, these wires became a symbol of hope. They reminded him of the life-giving fingers of God reaching down to Adam in the Sistine Chapel. Later he would write, “Here God was reaching toward me, reminding me, saying, ‘You’re alive. You are mine; I’ve made you and called you into being for a divine purpose.’”

And he could see the horizontal slats on the shutters outside the French doors. There were 120 of them. What could those horizontal pieces of wood stand for? He decided these represented the great cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews 12—the champions of our faith past and present, who through times of trial have observed the faithfulness of God. Finally, his eyes lighted on two white circles near the ceiling, one on the right-hand wall, the other on the left. In reality, they were plastic covers for electrical connections, but in Weir’s imagination they were something else. They were ears—ears of God. Benjamin Weir remembered that “the Lord hears the groaning of the saints.” As he reminded himself of all the blessings of our faith, he was greatly encouraged and spiritually strengthened. By the end of the day, he said, he was humming, “Count Your Many Blessings, name them one by one.” Benjamin Weir was doing exactly what Psalm 105:5 instructs us to do—remember God’s marvelous works. There are three thoughts I would like to share with you from this text.

The first one is remember the past works of God in your life. This is especially helpful when going through times of stress and anxiety. That is what Benjamin Weir was doing during his cruel captivity. When he remembered the marvelous works of God he was encouraged, strengthened, and empowered to endure his captivity. This will help you during the stressful days we are living in. The second thought is that when you remember the marvelous works of God in your life, re-live them in your mind. That is what Benjamin Weir did when he looked on those ordinary objects in his room of isolation. His body may have been in captivity, but his mind sure wasn’t. He could look at ordinary objects and see the marvelous works of God. As he looked on these objects, he re-lived the things of God in his mind—this was a great help to him. It will be a great help to us if, when we are going through a difficult time, we remember the past dealings of God with us and re-live them in our minds. This will give us the strength to not only endure but thrive during the difficult times. The third thought is that when you remember the marvelous works of God in your life, rejoice. That was the result of Benjamin Weir remembering the marvelous works of God in his life—he found himself humming the hymn, “Count Your Blessings.” That will have the same effect on us if we remember the marvelous works of God in our lives. It is amazing that Benjamin could hum a happy tune while going through such a difficult time—but that is what remembering the marvelous works of God will do for you.

Letters

Dear Editor,

We are living in a time of increasing censorship. The land of the free is growing less and less free by the day. YouTube is removing more videos that do not jibe with the establishment narrative than ever before. Censorship is a hallmark characteristic of all systems of tyranny throughout history. Those that do not agree with the establishment narrative, or who expose the lies of any such system are labeled, fined, imprisoned, and killed. This is history and it is repeating itself now in the land of the once free. Who fact checks the “fact checkers” and those who label things “misinformation?” We the people need to do this. One of the areas in which censorship is rapidly gaining a stronghold is the subject of vaccines. The establishment narrative is that vaccines are safe and effective, and that the science is settled on this matter. Any, and I mean any disagreement or questioning on this matter is immediately labeled as “medical misinformation.” Anyone who dares challenge the narrative is simply labeled as “anti-science,” or “anti-vax.” If it were really true, would there be the need to relentlessly hammer the “safe and effective” slogan into our collective consciousness? If one only follows the major media outlets regarding this subject, they would never know that there are many medical professionals worldwide, and a growing number of them at that, who not only question the safe and effective narra-

tive but who are increasingly taking the position that the opposite is actually the truth. One such doctor is Richard Moskowitz, MD, who has stated: “It is dangerously misleading to say that vaccines make us “immune” or protect against disease, when in fact that is the exact opposite of the truth. Vaccines only drive disease deeper and cause us to harbor it chronically.” If this is not true, then Dr. Moskowitz is delusional for going against an established paradigm. If his statement is true, then this means vaccines are actually biological weapons and the establishment paradigm is false. And if they are biological weapons, is this by accident or design? Another to consider is Tetyana Obukhanych, Ph.D. in immunology, Rockefeller University. She has written in her book, “Vaccine Illusion,” the following: “After years of doing research in immunology, observing scientific activities of my superiors, and analyzing vaccine issues, I realized that vaccination is one of the most deceptive inventions that science could ever convince the world to accept...” Again, if this statement is not true, then Dr. Obukhanych is delusional for going against what we are told is established science and fact about vaccines. If her statement is true, however, it means most people are deceived as to the true nature of vaccines. Instead of engaging in the “anti-vax” labeling campaign against such doctors and people, let’s see the establishment send its best for live, uncensored

public debates with credentialed professionals such as this. They don’t do it. They have backed down at the last minute from debates on different occasions with Dr. Sherri Tenpenny, DO, and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (who isn’t even a doctor). Why? Only the weight of the establishment narrative is on their side, and not the real science and truth. The safe and effective illusion would crumble if said debates actually happened live and uncensored on major news networks. On the subject of real science, Dr. James Meehan, MD, of Tulsa, OK has stated: “...The senior editors of the British Medical Journal and Lancet have both said about 85% of the medical research is fraudulent...” How is that possible? This happens when the studies and results are Pharma funded for Pharma benefit. Vaccines and chronic disease is big business and good health is not. Pharma products do not contribute to good health nor are they designed to. Dr. Meehan’s statement can be found on the YouTube channel “seek wisdom over gold” on the video entitled “Jim Meehan, MD: The Fraudulent Nature of Medical Research and Vaccine Science.” Please, do your own research while we still have access to this information: 1) healthimpactnews.com 2) mercola.com 3) vaxxter.com 4) childrenshealthdefense.org 5) globalresearch.ca (that’s .ca, not .com) **Geoff Hult, Abbeville**



Rosemary Mc Curry celebrates 100 years. She moved to Abbeville with my dad, Joe Mc Curry, in 1992. Joe was born in Abbeville and grew up in town until 11 and then out on Island Ford Rd until he left for college and the Marines in 1945. He and mom met at Camp Stoneman, in Pittsburgh, California in 1953. They moved back to Abbeville after he retired. She was born in Franklin, Indiana, to a farming family and went to Hanover College. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and after college studied to be a librarian at Columbia University in NYC. She was a docent at the Burke-Stark Mansion for a number of years when they lived in Abbeville. She now resides in Greenwood at Wesley Commons. (Photo contributed)

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

Legislative summary

**Senator Mike Gambrell
Legislative Summary
January 22, 2021**

It was my honor to meet with the Greenwood County Republican Women on Monday, January 18th. This is a strong group of well-informed and active voters, and we were able to share a lot of good information with them.

The General Assembly did not meet in Columbia on Tuesday or Wednesday, but returned to full Session on Thursday, January 21st. There was considerable debate on the floor of the Senate about the frustrations

facing our citizens as the vaccine roll-out continues. There is new leadership coming in at DHEC and assurances have been made that our numbers of vaccinations administered will rise. We want to get to the next phase of the vaccination plan as soon as possible.

The Senate Medical Affairs Committee met at noon, and we passed S. 1, which will now go to the floor of the Senate. Known as the Heartbeat bill, this legislation will certainly be fully debated but I believe this is the year it will be passed

in the Senate.

To continue following developments with the COVID vaccine, visit 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: Mike.Gambrell@scsenate.gov.

US House of Representatives

Duncan to serve on three Energy and Commerce Subcommittees

**Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan**

Congressman Jeff Duncan (SC-03) released the following statement after being appointed to three House Energy and Commerce Subcommittees for the 117th Congress including Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Communications and Technology.

“I am proud to serve on three consequential subcommittees under the lead-

ership of Energy and Commerce Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers. There are important issues that face our nation, especially now with the Biden Administration threatening many of the monumental achievements we made during the last four years. I will utilize my role on these subcommittees to fight for energy dominance, rural broadband expansion, free speech on social media, health care freedom, and policies that create jobs

and advance the American dream. It will be an uphill battle with Democrats continually pushing their agenda to the far left, including advocating for socialized medicine, social media censorship, and policies that make us reliant on energy from foreign adversaries.

Even with these challenges, I'm ready to get to work on behalf of South Carolina's Third Congressional District and our entire nation.”

Duncan reacts to the firing of NLRB General Counsel

**Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan**

Congressman Jeff Duncan (SC-03) released the following statement after President Joe Biden fired the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel, Peter Robb:

“One of Joe Biden's first acts as President was to

upend agency norms and act as an extension of a radical labor union to force Peter Robb out of the NLRB. This action is extreme by every measure.

The General Counsel serves a four-year term and historically completes that term even into a new Administration. This move breaks precedent at the behest of the labor unions and at the

expense of the American worker. President Biden is beginning the assault on the many businesses that have decided to make places like South Carolina, a right to work state, their home.

I will fight against this big labor activism and for the cherished businesses and talented workforce in the Palmetto State.”

SC Statehouse Reports 2021-The House of Representatives

House week in review

**Rep. Craig A. Gagnon,
District 11--SC House of
Representatives
January 24, 2021**

The State House convened this month marking the 124th South Carolina General Assembly. The House met in-person for the first week, but then went virtual the week of the Presidential Inauguration. As we enter this week, we anticipate meeting in-person again.

The House immediately adopted rules changes that allow for its committees to conduct online virtual meetings, rather than in-person gatherings, in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread.

As is usual for the first couple of weeks of a new Session, there's not much on the calendar. I voted in the affirmative for what few things we had:

H. 3481, a joint resolution suspending a transfer of funds to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The suspension allows the Public Employee Benefit Authority to retain these funds and continue to use them to address claims, which PEBA anticipates will be increasing following the delays in scheduling elective surgeries caused by COVID-19 shutdowns.

The House recalled from the Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs and placed on the calendar H. 3602, a bill directing the Department of Health and Environmen-

tal Control to temporarily authorize qualified health care workers to administer approved COVID-19 vaccinations regardless of whether the health care workers are otherwise prohibited from doing so under any professional scope of practice or unauthorized practice provision of law.

The Ways and Means Committee (of which I am a member) met and reported out several pieces of legislation. I voted in the affirmative for each bill. These bill are committee recommendations and will be voted on when they get to the House floor.

H. 3194, a bill addressing the future of the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper). The legislation makes provisions for continuing negotiations on a possible sale, for governance reform or the sale of all or part of Santee Cooper.

H. 3481, a joint resolution suspending a transfer of funds to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The suspension allows the Public Employee Benefit Authority to retain these funds and continue to use them to address claims, which PEBA anticipates will be increasing following the delays in scheduling elective surgeries caused by COVID-19 shutdowns.

H. 3609, a joint resolution restoring teacher step salary increases that were suspended by Act 135 of 2020, enacted by the General Assembly due to financial

uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 virus, by appropriating fifty million dollars from the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund to provide for teacher step increases for the 2020-2021 School Year.

H. 3608, a joint resolution addressing a funding shortfall for the Public Charter School District as a result of the General Assembly enacting Act 135 of 2020 due to financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 virus, by appropriating nine million dollars from the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund to the Department of Education for distribution to the Public Charter School District for per pupil funding for the 2020-2021 School Year.

H. 3607, a bill addressing projects financed through the State General Obligation Economic Development Bond Act to expand the definition of what is considered infrastructure under the act and to make provisions for financing government-owned projects and undertakings that support or promote a foundation for economic growth and industrial development.

As always, it is a privilege to serve you in the South Carolina House. If you ever need help with state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (864) 366-4112 (home), (803) 212-6934 (Columbia) or craigagnon@schouse.gov.

Legals

**STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA
IN THE FAMILY COURT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF ABBEVILLE**

DOCKET NO. 2020-DR-01-116

SUMMONS

Laphonia Mars Oglesby v.
Jeffery Scott Oglesby

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified that an action has been filed against you in this court. Within thirty (30) days of the day you receive this Summons, you must respond in writing to the Complaint (a copy may be obtained by contacting the attorney below) by filing an Answer with this court. You must also serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint upon Plaintiff's attorney at the address show below. If you fail to answer the Complaint, judgment by default could be rendered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

AARON V. TAYLOR
Attorney for the Plaintiff
109 W. Court Avenue
P.O. Box 1705
Greenwood, SC 29648

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Adoption Fees are only \$15 thru Nov. 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 **Ava!** This beautiful girl was found without a home back in Aug. 2020. She is a mixed breed, 5 yr. old around 40 lbs. Ava is the perfect size dog for any home and family. She is dog friendly and loves to be outside and show off her sweet smile and cute ears. Her beautiful blue and white coloring will have you melting. Please come give her a chance.

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Nov. 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**



Catcat is one of the sweetest cats in the shelter. A domestic shorthair mix with beautiful brown & white coloring, she is around 1.5 y.o., litter trained & loves to play with toys & does well with other cats. You will fall in love when you meet her. Bring your family much joy for Christmas.

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

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: Jeffrey Ralph Smith
Date of Death: 12/01/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100001
Personal Representative: Jimmy E. Woods
Address: 43 Fletcher Drive, Donalds, SC 29638
1/13;3tc

Estate: Robert Junior McGill
Date of Death: 12/28/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100003
Personal Representative: Robert Cody McGill
Address: 312 Tribble St. Honea Path, SC 29654
1/13;3tc

Estate: Ronald Cozart Mitchell, Jr.
Date of Death: 12/12/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100005
Personal Representative: Amanda E. Mitchell
Address: 6432 60th St. N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Attorney, if applicable: Hannah Metts, ESQ
Address: P.O. Box 1547 Greenwood, SC 29648
1/13;3tc

Estate: Gary Thomas Kraft
Date of Death: 12/28/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100007
Personal Representative: Cynthia D. Kraft
Address: 208 Jackson Rd. Iva, SC 29655
1/20;3tc

Estate: Josie Lee Lagroon Davis
Date of Death: 12/02/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100009
Personal Representative: Lola M. Wilburn
Address: 3913 Staton Hall Way, Marietta, GA 30066
1/20;3tc

Estate: Lillian T. Gordon
Date of Death: 01/08/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100022
Personal Representative: Martha Wood
Address: 19 Ironwood Lane Donalds, SC 29638
1/20;3tc

Estate: Cheryl F. Bell
Date of Death: 11/17/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100014
Personal Representative: James Bradford Bell
Address: 109 Curtail Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620
Personal Representative: Tina H. Bell
Address: 124 Braeside Circle Asheville, NC 28803
Attorney, if applicable: Kenneth W. Poston
Address: P.O. Box 1547 Greenwood, SC 29648
1/20;3tc

Estate: Mary Alice Smith
Date of Death: 12/29/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100021
Personal Representative: Michael D. Woods
Address: 4437 Bridgehaven Dr. SW Snellville, GA 30030
1/27;3tc

Estate: Wayne O'Dell Pless
Date of Death: 01/08/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100022
Personal Representative: Wendy Pless
Address: 2534 Hwy 28 North Abbeville, SC 29620
1/27;3tc

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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 January 30 at 9:00 am:
Unit #221 - Judy Walker
TO PREVENT SALE, accounts must be current by deadline at 5:00 pm January 29, 2021. Call 378-0352 for amount due.

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6/6;tfc

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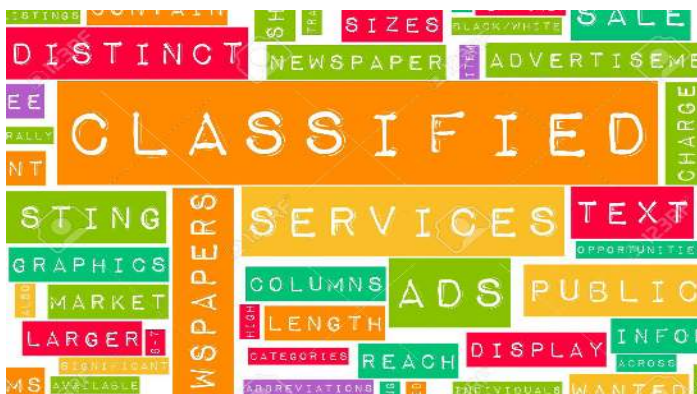
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YOUR LOVED ONE'S CARE - If you are in need of someone to sit and help care for your loved one in need, please call 864-446-3676. References upon request.

8/2tfc



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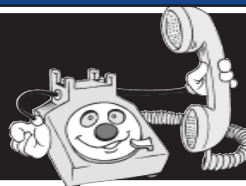
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Classifieds

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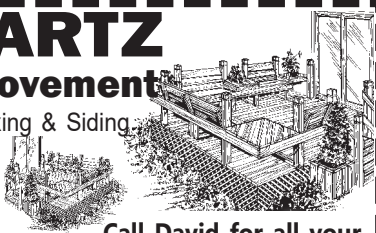
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