



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



The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce presented Breakfast with Santa at the Belmont Inn recently. Orlando and Sidney Belle Wallace of Due West were among the kids who visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Santa and friends

Holiday season in Abbeville County came in with bang this past weekend

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County went a long way toward ushering in the Christmas season Saturday, with parades, a Cookie Walk, and of course Breakfast with Santa.

You could have breakfast at the Belmont Inn, as Mr. and Mrs. Claus heard Christmas requests from kids.

A child would sit on the knee of the Jolly Old Elf, as Mrs. Claus would look on approvingly.

It was all presented by the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce, and it was one of several events presented by the Chamber.

In downtown Abbeville, you could find a craft show in the Livery Stable--Handmade for the Holidays.

Among them were Patricia Richey Owens, selling jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, and embroidered towels.

“It’s a labor of love with my daughter-in-law, Wendy Owens,” she said.

Not far away, David Sorrow and his wife Patricia were demonstrating and selling

pottery.

If you had a sweet tooth, you were definitely in luck, because the Chamber also presented a Cookie Walk.

In Calhoun Falls, meanwhile, the Calhoun Falls Chamber presented the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade.

There was a Christmas parade in Donalds as well. (See related story.)

Rebecca McCaslan, executive director of the Calhoun Falls Chamber, said the Calhoun Falls parade had about 20 entries.

And what would a Christmas parade be without Santa?

Typically he is on a fire truck, but this year’s parade put a slightly different spin on Mr. Claus’s appearance.

“He was on a horse drawn buggy driven by Kim Sorrow,” she said.

The Church of God had a float, and a number of dignitaries were in the parade as well, and fire trucks.

The Chamber also presented a Calhoun Falls Christmas market down-

town.

Due to COVID concerns, the turnout was low. There were three vendors, including a food truck.

“He sold funnel cakes and fried Oreos,” said McCaslan.

Other vendors sold socks and gift baskets, wreaths, and home decor.

The Breakfast with Santa drew about 120 participants, said Julie Wilson, administrative assistant for the Abbeville Chamber.

The Cookie Walk drew 140 participants. “There were 17 stops on the Cookie Walk,” said Wilson. “They collected cookies at each stop.”

These were gourmet cookies, from sugar cookies to chocolate chip cookies to those with macadamia nuts.

Wilson added that the Chamber took pictures at Breakfast with Santa.

“And they can be viewed on our Facebook page,” she said.

“It was a really active weekend,” she said. “There was a lot going on.”

School District opts out of rapid testing

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District has opted out of a program offered by the state to provide rapid COVID 19 testing--testing that has been offered to school districts throughout the state, Abbeville School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary said.

The testing would provide results within 15 minutes, and would be targeted at students, to provide them with a better threshold of health.

Dr. Gary explained in an e-mail why the District opted out:

“We opted out because we are concerned with the additional workload this places on our nurses, custodians and secretarial staff,” he said.

“The guidelines for administering tests require rooms to be cleaned and contract tracers would need to be utilized as soon as a rapid test indicated a student was positive for COVID-19. Parent permission would also be needed and this is another layer to the process. We believe parents keeping symptomatic children at home has worked well but in this scenario we could have asymptomatic children enter the school, test positive, hence increasing the opportunity for spread of COVID-19.

“Some districts have opted for off campus testing, but again school personnel would have to be pulled from their primary jobs to staff the testing sites. We continue to spray twice weekly in all

classrooms, spray buses after each route, wear masks, and have plexi-glass shields where less than six feet of distance occurs. These are CDC compliant approaches that have served us well this school year.”

Abbeville County School District was not alone in opting out. Among the other districts opting out was the Horry County School District, as well as a number of others.

The state is funding the program, which has been promoted in the past several weeks, he said.

The School District currently does not offer COVID 19 testing.

Students who want to be tested have to be tested at an identified testing site or with their local physician.



American Legion Post 2 presented a special program on Court Square in Abbeville to mark the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Leading the program was Post 2 commander Terry Greenfield (far left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

WMS student wins Lions honors in poster contest

By Henry E. Green

A Wright Middle School student has won Lions district honors in a poster contest the Lions use to promote international harmony through art.

The winner of the 2020 Peace Poster Contest District 325 is Aubrey Lewis, and she will go on to compete at the state level, she will move on to international competition.

Thursday afternoon, a number of members of the Abbeville Lions Club gathered on Abbeville’s Court Square, along with Wright Middle School winners of the Peace Poster contest.

Abbeville Lions Club secretary/treasurer Rick Pressly presented checks to the

three Wright Middle School winners -- with Lewis winning first place, and Lewis was joined by fellow eighth graders Megan Wachs in second place and Brandi Guzman in third place.

At the club level, the contest winners won prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25, for first, second and third places.

Aubrey received a check for \$100 as a winner at the District level.

The three students were joined for a group photo by WMS art teacher Cecily Ferguson, and by Pressly.

The Wright Middle School students created their posters under Ferguson’s guidance.

The local contest was coordinated through the

Abbeville Lions Club, which is involved in a number of activities in the community.

The Abbeville Lions have a scholarship program for outstanding local high school graduate.

Helen Keller, back in the 1920s, spoke at a Lions convention in Ohio, and called on her listeners to be “knights” for the blind.

Today, meeting the needs of the visually impaired as a primary focus of Lions throughout the world.

The money for the peace poster prizes comes from the sale of brooms and calendars and “other fundraising efforts,” Pressly said Friday.



Aubrey Lewis won first place, and Lewis was joined by fellow eighth graders Megan Wachs in second place and Brandi Guzman in third place in a Lions peace poster contest at Wright Middle School recently. The three WMS students were recognized during a Lions presentation recently on Abbeville’s Court Square, and they were joined in a group by WMS art teacher Cecily Ferguson and Abbeville Lions Club secretary/treasurer Rick Pressly -- (from left) Ferguson, Guzman, Lewis, Wachs, and Pressly. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



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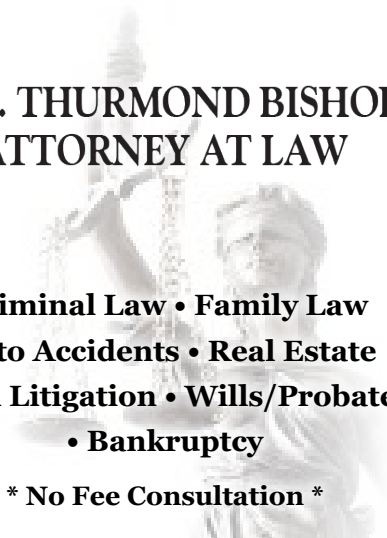
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Edwards sworn in as City Mayor

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville City Council met Tuesday night, as a new mayor, Trey Edwards, was sworn in.

A plaque was presented to Council member Jim Grant for four years of service to the City.

A plaque was presented to Santana Delano Freeman for 20 years of service to the City by Mayor Pro Tem Faye Thomas, who also praised Freeman for the help he had provided to her while she has been on Council.

Trey Edwards was sworn into office as Mayor by City Judge David E. Strickland. Freeman presented the gavel to Edwards.

Freeman provided farewell remarks, thanking his family and many friends.

"Tonight is bittersweet," he said, noting that he begins a new journey in his life after serving first on City Council and then as Mayor--20 years of service.

"A lot has changed since 2000," he said. "I am leaving the City better than when I found it."

An election of the Mayor Pro Tem was tabled, after a tie vote between Benji Greeson and Chris Crawford.

Council approved a resolution of the City to adopt the Abbeville County hazard mitigation plan.

Assistant City Manager Fran Anderson said that the City needs to adopt it to apply for a grant administered through FEMA.

Council received reports on the Civic Center update, ACPA board appointments, and COVID-19 bonus pay. Also approved was COVID-19 one time bonus pay as follows: \$200 for all full time, and \$100 for all part time.

All employees that fall under the full time or part time category will receive these bonuses.

The cost to the general fund will be \$10,300, and the cost to the Enterprise Fund will be \$9,700 for a total of \$20,000.

Edwards said that he proposed the plan to let City employees know that Council appreciated their service.

In other matters, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architects has made an initial assessment of the Civic Center building and parking area, and presented cost assessments.

Proposed renovations to the current building would include bringing the building up to current codes, office and restroom updates, and other renovations, at an estimated cost of \$332,500. The City is currently hav-

ing the HVAC system and the roof assessed in order to prioritize the different segments of the renovation project.

New construction of an approximately 3,000 square foot building for events to include one warming kitchen and two restrooms is estimated at \$1,300,000.

Appointments to the Abbeville Community Performing Arts Foundation will be made at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Jan. 8. Four of the members will be for three years, while three of them will serve for one year.

Applicants must come to the Jan. 8 City Council meeting to meet with Council and answer questions about their appointment applications.

Council approved appointments to the City Judge positions, including Carolyn Brownlee, William McNeil and David E. Strickland--all of whom will serve two-year terms and will be sworn in in January.

City Manager Blake Stone and City Attorney Tombo Hite were physically absent from the meeting but listened in electronically.

Also, Council went into executive session.



The Handmade for the Holidays craft show was held at the Livery Stable in Abbeville recently, and among those in attendance were David Sorrow of Abbeville, holding up two-year-old daughter Clare, and wife Patricia, holding nine-month-old daughter Susan. The Sorrowes were selling pottery. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

AAMC has 'all hands on deck' approach

By Henry E. Green
With the news that many hospitals throughout the country are overwhelmed with COVID patients, how is AAMC faring?

Meg Davis, marketing/foundation/volunteer services director, was asked that question.

"AAMC has recently seen a significant increase in the number of positive COVID-19 patients in both

our inpatient and outpatient areas," she replied.

"As COVID numbers rise in our area, we are prepared with an "all hands on deck" approach that utilizes flexible scheduling and the cross training of staff enabling them to work in a variety of areas within the hospital.

"At this time we have a total of six COVID-19 beds that are contained in a Respiratory Unit which has negative

pressure in each room. At this time, we have four of the six bed filled however this number fluctuates daily.

"With the dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases statewide, AAMC continues to stress the importance of wearing a mask and avoiding large gatherings as well as practicing social distancing and good hand hygiene."



Rep. Gagnon to serve on ad hoc committee

By Henry E. Green
State Rep. Craig Gagnon has been asked to serve on a Santee Cooper ad hoc committee, to help determine the future of the state owned utility, a committee set up through the General Assembly and whose other members.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility that came into being during the New Deal, according to Wikipedia.

The committee is co-chaired by Rep. Leon Stavrikakis, and Rep. Kirkman Finlay.

Gagnon will have other responsibilities as well when the General Assembly session starts.

I will be serving on the "License, Fees and Other Taxes" subcommittee and the "Transportation and Regulation" subcommittee.

Gagnon is a Republican who represents State House District 11 in the General Assembly.

Originally from Lowell, Massachusetts, Gagnon is a chiropractor who resides with his wife Robin on Church Street in Abbeville.



Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce executive director Janice Corriveau (left) conversed with new Abbeville mayor Trey Edwards (right) during the Chamber's wreath auction reception on Dec. 3. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Veterans mark Pearl Harbor's anniversary

By Henry E. Green
 American Legion Post 2 marked on Monday the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Members of the post gathered on Abbeville's Court Square to mark the somber anniversary of a day that Franklin Delano Roosevelt said will live in infamy. It was not hard to see why, as it was on Dec. 7, 1941, that the Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. According to Wikipedia, 2,403 people, including 68

civilians, were killed in the attack. Post 2 commander Terry Greenfield underscored the solemnity of the occasion in remarks Monday to a small group of veterans assembled for the occasion. "We should never forget this day," he said. The Post 2 commander paid tribute to the sacrifice of those military personnel who died in the attack. "Our nation owes a debt to our fallen heroes," he said. The attack on Pearl Harbor led the United States into

World War II. "The greatest generation went on to defeat evil during the Second World War," he said. Greenfield noted that the History Channel has been having programs about Pearl Harbor. Those in attendance had a moment of silence for the fallen, listened to a recording of "Taps," and listened also as a siren was sounded in keeping with the "emergency" situation of 79 years ago, and Wallace McClinton provided a closing prayer.



One of the treasures of the holiday season in Abbeville is the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce's Christmas wreath auction, and the Chamber presented a Dec. 3 reception to go along with the auction. Among those in attendance were (from left) Jenny O'Quinn, Pearl McMahan, and Debbie Temple. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Lake Secession meeting looks at curbing crime

By Henry E. Green
 Lake Secession residents gathered Thursday night at the lake community center to discuss the crime problem at the Lake. Since July of this year, there have been on and around Lake Secession 16 larcenies, three burglaries, one theft from a vehicle, and mail theft as well, according to the Friends of Lake Secession, who organized the meeting.

Installing cameras and alarms on your property
 Forming a neighborhood watch group
 Getting to know your neighbors
 Calling and reporting anything suspicious.
 Important numbers include 911, and Abbeville County's non emergency number, 366-8451. Meanwhile, the Sheriff's Office can conduct a property check if a Lake resident goes out of town.

There are some important things NOT to do as well:
 Do not leave guns or other weapons in your car
 Do not contaminate evidence if you suspect a crime has been committed.
 Lake residents would do well to document their valuables, make a list of pertinent vehicle identification numbers from items such as boats and trailers, and take pictures of their valuables. The Sheriff's Office is currently putting some anti-crime measures into place. The Sheriff's Office periodically has extra deputies come to work to saturate high crime areas, Graham said Tuesday.

Captain Matthew Graham and Lieutenant Jeffrey Hines from the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office and Richie and Alison Stone from West Carolina Tel were on hand to discuss what could be done. The discussion produced tips on how to curb crime, including the following:

There are some important things NOT to do as well:
 Do not leave guns or other weapons in your car
 Do not contaminate evidence if you suspect a crime has been committed.
 Lake residents would do well to document their valuables, make a list of pertinent

investigations unit by adding personnel. Mail theft is a big problem around the lake, according to the Friends, and residents were advised to "take your outgoing mail directly to the post office to be mailed out" to help prevent mail theft.

Glad tidings Walk through Bethlehem major production--just in time for Christmas

By Henry E. Green
 (See related story.)
 About 1,000 people attended the Walk through Bethlehem last year, said Pastor Javan Bender of Cold Spring Mennonite Church Thursday. It was all for a program which provided a snapshot of life in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus's birth. A cast of 75 people, with a support crew of approximately 100, made it all happen. "Most of our church was involved in some way or another," the pastor said. Many students from Cold Spring Mennonite School also participated in the Walk through Bethlehem. "It was a pretty big endeavor," said Bender. The "Walk" did feature some dialogue among the cast members, but there was no interaction with the

audience. There were live animals, including horses, donkeys and sheep. Directed by a young couple, Tyler and Larissa Swartzentruber, Walk has been immensely popular, Bender continued. Congregation member Steve Swartzentruber set the stage for the Walk in a recent e-mail: "As people come they are grouped into 70 or so then each are given a penny to have the tax needed to enter Bethlehem. In the original story Joseph and Mary went to be taxed." Walking through Bethlehem is a walking tour, and each scene takes place along the walk. "The first stop is to witness the angel appearing to Mary telling her she is to be the mother of Jesus the Christ child, and the next scene

is Mary telling her cousin Elizabeth the exciting news," said Swartzentruber. "Scene 3 is Joseph being told his soon-to-be wife is going to have a child." Then the audience moves into the city of Bethlehem, with shops and live animals on display. "At the other end of Bethlehem is the Inn whose owner shares the sad news that they have no room available," he said. These are among the scenes in the Walk. Shepherds, angels, Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus highlight the remainder of the program, which includes images familiar to Christians everywhere. "The weekend crowd is larger," Swartzentruber said. "People should be encouraged to come earlier in week."



Captain Matthew Graham and Lieutenant Jeffrey Hines from the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office were on hand at a recent Lake Secession meeting designed to provide a discussion on how to curb crime there. (Contributed photo)

NOTICE FOR BIDS

**City of Abbeville, South Carolina
 Lawn Care Maintenance
 Bid Number 300-2-2021**

The City of Abbeville, SC, is soliciting from qualified companies sealed proposals for lawn care management for the Abbeville Public Utilities Department's properties listed in this RFP.

Proposals should include the following criteria for services rendered:
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Bid process details may be obtained from the City's website, www.abbevillecitysc.com, or by emailing the City Manager at bstone@abbevillecitysc.com.

Bids will be accepted by MAIL ONLY until 2:00 PM, December 15, 2020, in the City Manager's Office, Opera House, 100 Court Square, PO Box 40, Abbeville SC 29620, at which time they will be opened by LIVE STREAM ONLY via GoTo Meeting. Please access the following link for public bid opening: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/247127381> or dial +1 (872) 240-3412 to access by phone. Access code is: 247-127-381.

No electronic bids will be accepted. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids will be awarded on the basis of the lowest and/or best bid.

All bidders must be bonded and insured.

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Community Calendar

Remodeling - Walk Through House Sale

Thursday, Dec. 10th, 8-12
 Friday, Dec. 11th, 8-12
 Saturday, Dec. 12th, 9-11

3 bedroom suits, homemade dining room set with 13 leaves, lots of furniture, homemade entertainment center, lots of hummingbird figurines, some toys, kitchen appliances, lots of dishes, bedspreads, sheets, window blinds, curtains, wall mirror, 24-pc. princess house silverware set, & many more items.

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12/9;1tp

Chiles to speak
 Apostle Deborah Chiles will be speaking at New Life Worship Center, at 104 Chestnut St. in Abbeville on Sunday, December 13 at 11 a.m. Everybody is welcome to attend!

Program recalls lives of Ouzts, Wilson

By Henry E. Green

The lives of Constable Donnie Ouzts and Deputy Danny Wilson were recalled yesterday in a program at the Abbeville County law enforcement center, where wreaths were laid at a monument to the fallen law enforcement officers.

The brief program was held as Abbeville County marked the somber anniversary of the Bixby standoff, during

which Wilson and Ouzts gave their lives.

The standoff on Dec. 8, 2003, between law enforcement and members of the Bixby family, marked one of the darkest chapters in Abbeville County history.

Tuesday's program featured remarks by Rev. Josh Chiles, the chaplain for the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, who called on his listeners not to forget the

important things in life, such as loving each other and caring for them.

Chiles provided a prayer, and then Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson and Chief Magistrate Carolyn Brownlee placed wreaths beside a monument dedicated to the memory of Ouzts and Wilson.

The wreaths were made by Chris Wilkie of Abbeville.



The lives of Constable Donnie Ouzts and Deputy Danny Wilson were recalled yesterday in a program at the Abbeville County law enforcement center, where wreaths were laid at a monument to the fallen law enforcement officers. Laying the wreaths were Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson (right) and chief magistrate Carolyn Brownlee (left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Cold Spring church to present 'Walk' again

By Henry E. Green

Cold Spring Mennonite Church will have a live nativity program Wednesday, Dec. 9 through Sunday Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. nightly.

The live nativity was a big hit last year, with the church on the outskirts of Abbeville presenting a theatrical display that included not only a live nativity scene but a look at life in Judea during the time of the birth of Jesus.

It is called Walk Through Bethlehem, and it is meant for all ages.

"There will be live animals, creative displays and costumes, and a snack and hot drinks afterward," according to a flyer promoting the event.

Each nightly performance will be held, weather permitting. "Groups will start every 20 minutes," according to the church flyer.

"Come earlier in the week

to avoid large crowds and longer wait times! Also, if you are elderly and have a wheelchair, we encourage you to bring it."

Admission is free.

A number of the cast members, in costume, walked in the Abbeville Christmas parade last year.

The church is located at 226 Cold Spring Church Road, Abbeville.

Abbeville Lions Club conducting food drive

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville Lions are having a food drive, collecting nonperishable food items to turn over to the United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County food pantry.

Anyone who wants to help the Lions is more than welcome to do so, and may call Rick Pressly for more information.

Pressly is the secretary treasurer of the Abbeville Lions Club.

"It's just one of those things

that Lions do," he said.

The Abbeville Lions will deliver their collected items to the pantry at Main Street United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 11.

"Hunger is one of our primary focuses," said Pressly. "We're just fulfilling our service to the community that way."

For more information, one may call Pressly at 864-634-5993.

The Abbeville Lions have a scholarship program for

worthy high school graduates, and one of their major projects is to help address the needs of the visually impaired.

Accordingly, they have worked hard to provide vision screenings for students at area schools.

They also recently coordinated a Peace Poster contest at Wright Middle School, part of a larger, national Lions competition.

Preservation SC gets donation for Trinity

By Henry E. Green

Preservation South Carolina recently received a donation which will benefit the effort to restore Abbeville's Trinity Episcopal Church, Mike Bedenbaugh, president and CEO of Preservation South Carolina, said Friday.

"We have received a generous donation of \$25,000 from Hughes Development Corporation in Greenville," he said.

"It's the final bit we needed to begin work on Phase Two, that includes finishing work on the steeple," he

continued.

It will allow work to be finished on the steeple, with work on this part of the church to begin in mid-January.

Bedenbaugh hopes to be finished with the steeple by March or April.

"It's going to be fully restored with new timber frames and foundation," he said.

Overall, for Phase Two, \$705,000 has been raised, he continued.

Phase Three will include the repair and replacement of the exterior stucco, and

the effort to raise money for that will begin next year.

Bedenbaugh estimates that it will take \$1.2 million to compete the work on the stucco, and after that the windows and the church's organ will be a restoration focus.

The Hughes Development Corporation has developed a number of buildings along the Reedy River in Greenwood.

"(Founder) Bob Hughes is a major supporter of our efforts," said Bedenbaugh.

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Tuesday, December 1st • 8:30am-2:00pm

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

Wednesday, December 2nd • 9:00am-1:00pm

The Renaissance 5 Dr. Frank Pressly Dr. Due West

Tuesday, December 8th

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

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

Tuesday, December 15th

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

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

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

1148 Barksdale Ferry Road McCormick

****Monday, December 21st • 8:30am-2:00pm**

to allow results to be reported prior to the Christmas holiday

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

****No testing the week of December 28th****

****Testing will resume January 5th****



ABBEVILLE AREA

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City Hall reopens after closing for renovations

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville's City Hall reopened this week after being closed last week for renovations to the Opera House on Court Square in downtown Abbeville.

"City Offices were closed so that the hardwood flooring in the lobby area could be replaced," said Mike Clary, the Community Development Director with the City of Abbeville. "This part of the renovation also included some repairs to the

sub-floor in that section of the building as well.

"Robbie Weichmann is the primary contractor" for the flooring and some smaller renovations, Clary added.

"Other renovations currently going on include the HVAC as well as sound and lighting in the theater," he said. "City Hall was not closed due to those."

The Opera House building, in addition to housing Abbeville's community theater, is also the Municipal

Building, housing offices of the City of Abbeville, among them the offices of the City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

According to Wikipedia, the Opera House was designed by William Augustus Edwards, opened in 1904 and dedicated in 1908.

It was possible, while the offices were closed, to call and leave a telephone message, which City personnel would presumably return.

Abbeville's City Hall reopened this week after being closed last week for renovations to the Opera House on Court Square in downtown Abbeville. This sneak peak at the Opera House lobby last week shows work being done. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce presented the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 5. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Reindeer Run slated for this coming Saturday

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Rotary Club will have its annual Reindeer Run 5K event on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 12 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The 11th Annual Abbeville Rotary Club Reindeer Run is being presented by the Abbeville Rotary Club, and sponsored by Abbeville First Bank.

The event will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 12 at Abbeville First Bank.

One may register to participate in the event at Abbeville First Bank or the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce.

The registration fees are as follows: runners, \$20; walkers, \$15, and kids under 18, \$15.

Bicycles are also wel-

come.

For more information, one may call 864-366-2158, or visit the club's Facebook page.

The club is part of an international service organization whose activities range from promoting literacy to working to eradicate polio to providing clean water for rural communities in Central America.

Here in Abbeville County, the club is active in the community, with a scholarship program for outstanding graduates of Abbeville, Dixie and Calhoun Falls Charter.

Abbeville Rotarians present every year the Abbeville Rotary Bowl, which features a day of recreation league football in which Abbeville teams typically take on teams

from neighboring communities.

There are Rotary clubs not only throughout the country but throughout the world as well.

Proceeds from the Reindeer Run go to support the Angel Tree Bicycle Fund.

"We were able to give \$1500 to Angel Tree last year," said Rotary Club treasurer Andy Timmerman Wednesday.

Last year's Reindeer Run, which began and ended at the Abbeville First parking lot in Abbeville, drew 70 participants, and the top finishers included Dixie High School student Daniel Boyd and Diamond Hill Elementary student Adyson Ashley, and as the top finishers they received \$25 prizes.

South Side planning Live Nativity program

By Henry E. Green

South Side Baptist Church in Abbeville will be having its Live Nativity program this month, noted congregation member Deborah Ayers of Abbeville.

The Live Nativity will run Sunday, Dec. 20 through Wednesday, Dec. 23, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. nightly, on the hillside outside the church.

The Live Nativity will include Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men and shepherds, all in costume.

There will be no dialogue--just characters in place.

The Live Nativity has been a Christmas tradition at the church for many years.

The Live Nativity is situated so that many people driving by on Highway 72 can see it.

To Ayers, the Nativity is something the community could use.

"In these times to be able to spread Christian joy to a world that needs uplifting," is a good thing indeed, she said.

Zack Little is the pastor of the church, which is located at 505 West Greenwood Street, Abbeville.

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PHILIP SAID

At the installation of a recent president of the University of South Carolina, the US Secretary of State said education is the greatest influence in a person's life. Malcolm Muggeridge, a well-known activist in Great Britain, disagreed and said that television is by far the greatest influence in a person's life.

In the 1960s through early 2000s, the American school child, upon graduation from high school, had spent 11,000 hours in school and 15,000 hours in front of television because they had to have some time to also listen to music. To put that in perspective, if that child gets a badge for perfect attendance every year in Sunday school for the first 18 years of his/her life, he/she would have spent 636 hours in Sunday School.

Six-hundred hours in Sunday School compared to 15,000 hours in front of television.

Six-hundred hours in Sunday School compared to 11,000 hours in public education.

Another way of understanding this reality is to compare 600 hours in Sunday School to 26,000 hours influenced by the world.

And what have children seen on television? Plenty of violence. Plenty of promiscuous sex.

What has been the world view of public education?

That young person will have been constantly drilled in the outlook on life espoused by about 200 Southern California elites who control what is seen on TV, a group which is mostly hostile to Biblical Christianity. Elites produce, select, sell and distribute almost every school curriculum and the textbooks that children must read. No one anymore honestly argues that public education favors Christianity.

Six-hundred hours compared with 26,000.

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"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

Colossians 1:14 (KJV)



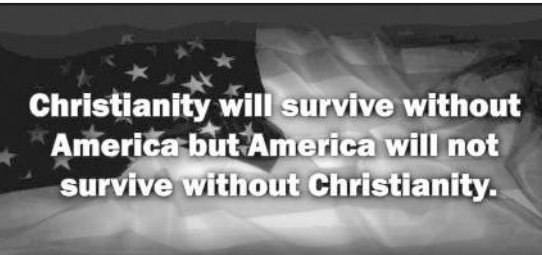
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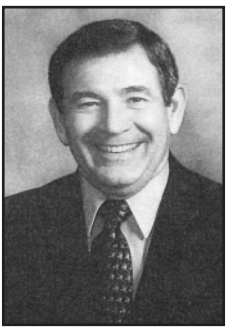
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a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith

The First Christmas Carol



jkeithfbca@gmail.com

Luke 2:13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: (14) glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

In August of 1865, shortly after the Civil War, the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia sent their pastor, Phillips Brooks, abroad for a year. His travels took him through Europe, and in December to the Holy Land. There he traced the footsteps of Jesus southward and visited the scenes of the Bible narrative. After two weeks spent in Jerusalem, Christmas Eve found him in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. He later wrote to his Sunday School back in Philadelphia. He said, "I remember standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born. The whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God. It was as if I could hear angelic voices telling each other of the Wonderful Night of our dear Savior's birth. Two years later he wrote the Christmas carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Being at the scene of Jesus' birth moved Phillips Brooks immensely when he contemplated the birth of the Lord Jesus and he composed a hymn.

was when the first Christmas carol was sung. Let me share three thoughts with you.

First of all, notice the choir. It was the heavenly host. Can you imagine how beautiful it was? I have heard some magnificent choirs in my time but I am quite sure they did not compare to the heavenly host who proclaimed praises to God. This choir knew the Lord in a personal way, they knew Him as Lord of Lord and King of Kings before He condescended to come to planet earth. The world for the most part did not recognize Jesus as the majestic, marvelous, master of the universe, but the angelic choir sure did. They not only knew Him in a close personal way but they praised Him in a spectacular manner.

Second, notice the content of their praise—"glory to God in the highest..." they attributed glory to Jesus, and rightfully so. This angelic choir singing the praises of God was just the added boost for the shepherds to go and investigate.

Verse 15 records that the angels said to one another, "let's go and see this thing that has come to pass."

The content of the choir's song helped speed them on their way.

Third, notice the context of this first Christmas carol—"...on earth peace, goodwill toward men." I imagine those words rang in their ears and gave their feet impetus to pick up speed and hurry to the manger in Bethlehem.

Literally, Jesus is God's peace—He is the Prince of Peace. When he was born into the world quite literally the peace of God was sleeping in the manger. Not only the peace of God was on the earth but the actual and literal proof of God's goodwill toward men was on earth as well. Since the fall in the Garden of Eden God had promised a savior and now He had arrived. The good will of God toward sinful man was encapsulated in the little baby Jesus.

John 3:17 illustrates the goodwill of God: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

What a wonderful gift to lost and suffering mankind.



One of the treasures of the holiday season in Abbeville is the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce's Christmas wreath auction, and the Chamber presented a Dec. 3 reception to go along with the auction. Among those in attendance were (from left) Julie Wilson, Jason Edwards, Jimmy Wilson and Karen Sherwood -- all admiring the Christmas tree in the lobby of the Welcome Center. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Patricia Richey Owens was one of the vendors at the Handmade for the Holidays craft show at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Self Regional COVID-19 testing events open to the community:

Greenwood County residents are invited to our drive-through testing site for a free COVID-19 test.*

Mondays and Thursdays in December
Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.)

*** Call (864) 725-8200 to pre-register for your COVID test.**
MyChart users may pre-register at mychart.selfregional.org.
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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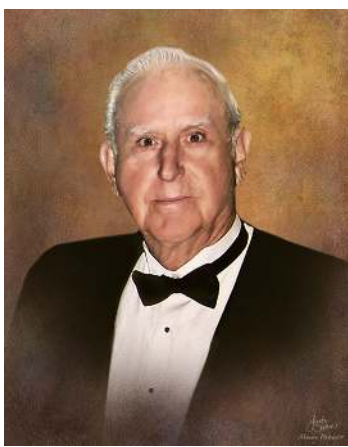
Obituaries

Newell

James 'Jimmy' M. Newell, 90, of Abbeville, SC, husband of Beth Hall Newell, died Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at the Ashley Place Assisted Living in Greenwood. He was born in Abbeville to the late Daniel Emory Newell and Lois Williamson Newell.

A 1948 graduate of Abbeville High School, Mr. Newell served in the Korean War with the U.S. Army. He retired from Pirelli/Prysmian Cable after 27 years of dedicated service. Mr. Newell was a lifelong member of Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church where he enjoyed being a part of the Men of the Church and serving on the Property Committee.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Waymon New-



James M. Newell

ell and three sisters, Edna Wilson, Sarah Ann Wolfe, and Hazel Newell.

Mr. Newell is survived by his wife of 68 years, Beth; two daughters, Donna Newell Horne of Greenwood, SC and Marilyn Barrett (Ben) of Rock Hill, SC; five grandchildren, Brad Barrett (JoAnne), Chris Barrett, Jacob Horne

(Taylor), Samantha Smith, and Zach Horne; and three great-grandchildren, Daniel Barrett, Allison Barrett, and Emory Cook.

A service to celebrate Mr. Newell's life was 11:30AM, Friday, December 4, 2020 in Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church with Rev. Wayne Wicker officiating.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mr. Newell, may be sent to Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church, 194 Highway 20, Abbeville, SC 29620 or to All Season Hospice, 7142 Woodrow St., Irmo, SC 29063.

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

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Abbeville is assisting the Newell family.



Santa Claus made an appearance in the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade on Dec. 6. The Jolly Elf enjoyed his buggy ride, we trust. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Obituaries

Smith

Jeffrey R. Smith, 61, resident of 43 Fletcher Dr. passed away Tuesday Dec. 1, 2020 at AnMed Hospital in Anderson, SC surrounded by his loved ones. He was the son of the late Billy Ralph Smith and Melva Dye Smith. Many nicknames he was known for "Jeff", "Smitty", "Doodie Roodie", "Bubba Lane" and "Uncle Buddie" by his co-workers, friends and family.

Jeffrey grew up in Donalds, SC graduated from Dixie High School, and worked at Milliken plant in Belton, SC. He was a faithful member of the Masonic Lodge in Donalds, SC. Immediately upon graduation, he accepted a job in Indiana and retired from the Federal Penitentiary. After retirement to stay busy, he was employed at Wal-Mart only part-time during seasonal holidays.

Jeffrey is survived by his partner and companion, Jimmy Woods. He has one sister Regina Alewine who he had an unconditional love and relationship with. He reared a niece, Christel Bedenbaugh Parnell, who worshiped the ground he walked on and a nephew,



Jeffrey R. Smith

Jonathan Gerald Bedenbaugh, who he cherished every conversation with, unconditional love and spiritual guidance. He leaves behind a great nephew, Bristol Issac Parnell, who he enjoyed shooting hoops with and playing golf with and was proud of all his accomplishments and loved him with all his heart, another great nephew, Bryce Aiden Lollis, the absolute joy of his life, his smile and caring personality on his face lit him up every visit with him. Jeffrey was so excited to move from Indiana back to South Carolina to watch both of them grow up; how-

ever, God had other plans.

His hobbies included golfing, watching the Gamecocks play and loving his fur babies Mia and Sugar. Jeffrey will always be remembered for his heart of compassion and love for his family and friends. He fought a good fight and now is in the arms of Jesus.

Services were conducted Saturday Dec. 5, 2020 at 3:00 PM in the Chapel at Chandler-Jackson Funeral Home with the Rev. Marion Argo officiating. The family received friends Saturday afternoon from 2:00 until 3:00 PM at the funeral home prior to services. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic mask will be required and social distancing observed. The family is at the home of his sister Regina Alewine, 1157 Willie Kay Rd. Donalds, SC.

Memorials in memory of Jeffrey may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be made to the Smith family by visiting www.chandler-jacksonfh.com

The Chandler-Jackson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is assisting the Smith family.

CROSSWORD														
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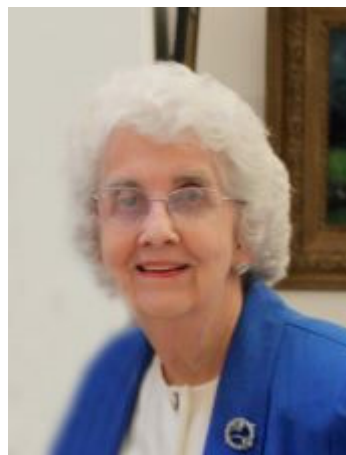
Answers on back page

Obituaries

Gordon

Lillian Todd Gordon, 90, of Due West, wife of the late Milton Gordon, died Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at the Abbeville Area Medical Center. She was born in Iva, SC to the late Ernest and Rosa Lee Strickland Todd.

For the past 30 years, Mrs. Gordon has been employed with the Erskine College Dining Hall. She loved her job and, to many, was considered the face of the dining hall. The students loved her dearly and she regarded them as family. Mrs. Gordon was a member of New Hope Baptist Church.



Lillian Todd Gordon

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her two sisters, Sallie Todd Josey

and Alma Todd Czach.

Mrs. Gordon is survived by her close friends, Kenneth and Martha Wood and family and the Erskine College students and faculty.

Funeral services were 3:00PM, Sunday, December 6, 2020 in the chapel of Harris Funeral Home with Rev. Richard Ashley officiating. Burial followed in Long Cane Cemetery.

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

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Obituaries

Crittendon

Sara 'Issie' Crittendon, 94, of Lowndesville died Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Magnolia Manor in Greenwood. She was born in Abbeville County to the late James Monroe Crittendon and Reba Waters Crittendon.

A 1943 graduate of Lowndesville High School, Issie retired from Clark Schwebel in Anderson after many years. She was a member of Lowndesville Baptist

Church.

Issie is survived by her family, Robert Spires, Danny Ray Spires (Vickie), Shane Spires (Amy), Shaney S. Young (Brant), Clary Spires, Danni Spires, Crystal S. Wiley (Darris), Mallory Wiley, Susan Temple (John), David Crittendon (Christy), Sam Crittendon, Cathy C. Cheek (Davey), and Sara Crittendon.

Graveside services were held 2:00PM, Thursday,

December 3, 2020 in the Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lowndesville with the Rev. Dr. Fred Griggs and Rev. Scotty Willoughby officiating.

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 Crittendon family.

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THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

1. "Lord of the Flies" shell
6. *New Year's Eve choice: Brut or Demi-
9. Get-out-of-jail money
13. Convex molding
14. ** I Want for Christmas...
15. Sign of life
16. Redo, to a carpenter
17. Flying saucer acronym
18. Often-missed humor
19. *Hanukkah toy
21. * Santa, gift-giving tradition
23. Ides mo.
24. Part of a hammer
25. Cook's leaf
28. "Hey!"
30. Brain's ___ system
35. Revered one
37. "___ Your Enthusiasm"
39. Capital of Egypt
40. Went by horse
41. "I do" spot
43. * ___ Sandler's "Eight Crazy Nights"
44. Scary movie consequence
46. Dexterity
47. Boundary line
48. Modern self-portrait
50. Superman's last name
52. Actor's domain
53. Wild plum
55. Mama sheep
57. **I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my ___
60. *African-American celebration
64. Town news announcer
65. Charged particle
67. Elephant poacher's ware
68. Give new guns
69. *The night before Christmas
70. Present
71. *Like a Christmas sweater, often
72. Uncooked
73. Adherents of Sikhism

DOWN

1. Umbilical connection
2. **Grandma got run ___ by a reindeer...
3. *Santa's "cheeks were like roses, his ___ like a cherry"
4. Request to Geico
5. Carriage on top of elephant
6. Pulitzer winner Bellow
7. *Santa helper
8. Bring to an end
9. Jefferson's Vice President
10. Medicinal succulent
11. Negative contraction
12. Bovine hangout
15. Alfresco meal
20. Novelist Jong
22. Sushi restaurant choice
24. *Have a piece of Christmas Goose, e.g.
25. **Five golden rings, four calling ___
26. Dig intensely
27. Cry of the Alps
29. *Time for log
31. Address with apostrophe
32. Stays somewhere
33. About to explode
34. *Vixen follower
36. Table extension
38. Diamond's corner
42. Sign up again
45. Divest one of a gun
49. "Slippery" tree
51. Mark and Shania
54. Twig of a willow tree
56. End of a poem
57. Fortune-teller's residue
58. Iranian coin
59. Suggestive of the supernatural
60. Was aware of
61. Fall asleep, with 'out'
62. Foot part
63. Pirates' affirmatives
64. French vineyard
66. Female gametes

Lions celebrate Arbor Day at Westwood

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville Lions celebrated Arbor Day Friday with a special program at Westwood Elementary School.

Lions gathered on the school grounds to plant a red maple, continuing an Arbor Day tradition for the Abbeville Lions Club and the school.

Not only did the Lions plant a red maple, but the club provided 100 red maple seedlings for the school's fourth graders--one for each student--in what the Lions call the Fourth Grade Foresters Project.

Arbor Day is a nationally

celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care, according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

Established by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates the future, while other holidays celebrate the past.

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates according to the best tree-planting times.

Arbor Day in South Carolina is the first Friday in December, and the state tree is the Cabbage Palmetto.

The National Education Association has called for

observation of Arbor Day in all of the nation's schools on the official Arbor Day of their own states.

"An Arbor Day celebration can be as large or as small as you want to make it," according to the Foundation. "Your Arbor Day can be a few neighbors gathering to plant trees in a park near your home or at a nearby school. Arbor Day can be a single class project or an event for the whole school."

Arbor Day in South Carolina is the first Friday in December and the state tree is the Cabbage Palmetto, according to the Foundation.

Abbeville Lions Charles Crowther (right) and J.J. Jackson (left) took on the burden of planting a red maple tree on the grounds of Westwood Elementary School recently for Arbor Day. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Ho! Ho! Ho!

Dixie High band, Hardwood Cruisers highlight Donalds Christmas parade

By Henry E. Green

The Town of Donalds and the Donalds Fire Department presented a Christmas parade Saturday.

The parade started at Tribble Road and proceeded through downtown Donalds to Scott Street, said Michaela Marshall of Donalds, who coordinated the parade along with Jessica Vaughn of Donalds.

Between 30 and 40 units participated in the parade, whose grand marshals were the veterans who reside in Donalds, said Marshall.

The Dixie High School band also participated, as well as numerous floats, Marshall continued.

"The Hardwood Cruisers started our parade," she said.

The Cruisers are a motor-

cycle club. "They come from all over South Carolina to attend the parade," she said.

Prizes were also given for the best units:

First place--Dance Hall Academy of Donalds

Second place--R and R Heating and Cooling

Third place--Dixie Band

"I appreciate the turnout of everybody," Marshall said.



Area Lions gathered at the Westwood Elementary School recently to plant a red maple for Arbor Day. Joining in were Lions (from left) J.J. Jackson, Mike Allen, Rick Pressly, Sandi Hood, David Dority, Claudio Dority, Danny Grubbs, Charles Crowther, and Jim Wilson. David and Claudia Dority and Grubbs are from the Matthews Club, and the others are Abbeville Lions. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



This float was part of the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade on Dec. 5, a parade presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

WCTEL Celebrates with the SC Governor's School for Agriculture

Submitted by Virginia Smith

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) announced the recipients of 23 grants totaling \$104,000 to advance the quality of life and enable economic development in communities served by members of NTCA--The Rural Broadband Association.

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (WCTEL) is pleased to announce the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la

Howe as one of these grant recipients. The Governor's School for Agriculture received \$5,000 to purchase a Promethean ActivPanel Board and Surface Tablet Go for use in the Education Center at John de la Howe which provides agriculturally-centered K-9 field trips, summer camps, and adult education opportunities for any resident of South Carolina and surrounding states.

"Especially during the ongoing pandemic, the work or projects these

grant recipients are going to accomplish will make a significant impact in their communities," said FRS Executive Director Pam Becker.

"It is more important than ever before to expand telemedicine options and ensure that students have access to technology. We are grateful for all our recipients' hard work, the NTCA members that endorsed them and continue to help their communities, and to our grant sponsor Womble Bond Dickinson."

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In Abbeville County Coronavirus cases pass '900' mark

By Henry E. Green

The coronavirus numbers for Abbeville County are headed in the wrong direction—in a big way.

Abbeville County had a total of 908 positive coronavirus cases, according to figures from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for the early afternoon of Monday, Dec. 7.

There were 18 coronavirus-related deaths in Abbeville County, DHEC reported.

In Abbeville's neighboring counties, Anderson had 8,342 cases, and 224

deaths, while Greenwood had 3,137 cases and 78 deaths.

McCormick County had 331 cases, and seven deaths, while Laurens County had 2,637 cases, and 67 deaths.

In South Carolina as a whole, there were a total of 218,820 positive cases, and 4,249 deaths.

The numbers in the Palmetto State are part of a particularly unpleasant surge which the United States is experiencing, a surge which has prompted some comprehensive measures

to curb the virus.

More than 30 million Californians are under stay at home orders, for example, after a major surge of cases in that state.

Meanwhile, infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci says, according to ABC News, that at least 75 percent of Americans need to be vaccinated in order to break the pandemic under containment in the United States.

That vaccine is expected to be approved in the coming days.



The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce presented a Cookie Walk on Dec. 5. It all started at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville, where Chamber executive director Janice Corriveau (left) and administrative assistant Julie Wilson (right) got participants started on the Walk, which featured gourmet cookies at the stops. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Firefighters contain mobile home fire

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County fire fighters fought a structure fire Thursday on Brookside Drive on the outskirts of Abbeville, according to Abbeville County Fire Marshal Tim Williams Friday.

The call came in at 11:11 a.m. and Long Cane, Sha-

ron and Cold Spring fire fighters responded to a blaze involving an abandoned, single wide mobile home, according to the Fire Marshal.

"Due to the distance from a hydrant, tankers were used for water supply," said Williams.

The fire was contained within half an hour, no injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire is under investigation by the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, the Abbeville County Fire Marshal, and the State Law Enforcement Division, Williams continued.



These Christmas decorations in front of the Abbeville police/fire complex on South Main in Abbeville are helping to set the tone for the holiday season. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Abbeville Christmas parade set for Saturday

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville will have its annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 11 a.m., followed by carriage rides in downtown Abbeville, according to Emily Bledsoe, special events coordinator for the City.

Today--Dec. 9--is the last day to register to participate in the parade, according to Bledsoe.

To register, one may visit

the Website of the City, or its Facebook page, said Bledsoe.

"There's no entry fee, so all you have to do is submit the application," she has said.

The parade will proceed down North Main and pass through Court Square before breaking up on South Main.

The grand marshal will be Trey Edwards, the new Mayor of Abbeville, said Mike Clary, community

development director with the City.

The City has a number of different participants for the parade, including the City Fire Department, Volunteer Departments, the American Legion, Antique Cars, and Dance Dynasty, said Clary.

"Altogether we have over 20 entries signed up for this year and expect more to come in in the coming days," he said.



DHEC wants everyone to be safe and healthy this holiday season.

If you plan on visiting family or friends, be positive that you're negative before you go. Get tested for COVID-19 and know your results before traveling to or hosting a gathering.

Continue to wear a mask, keep a safe distance, and avoid large gatherings even if you test negative. If you're sick or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, the best precaution is to stay home to keep your loved ones safe.

Find more helpful holiday planning tips at scdhec.gov/holidaytips.

Visit scdhec.gov/findatest or call 1-855-472-3432 to find COVID-19 testing near you.

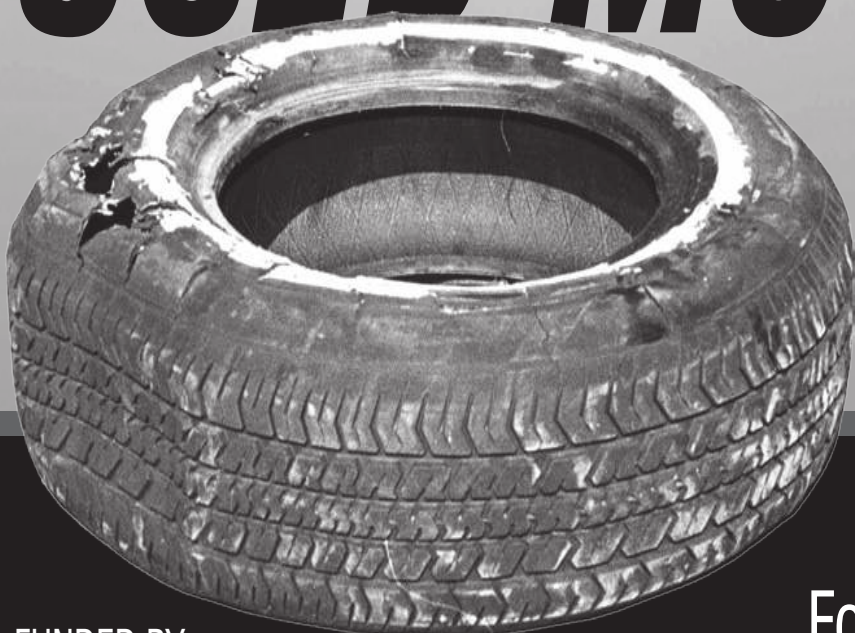
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Sports

State championship game postponed

By Henry E. Green

The state championship game between Abbeville and Marion has been postponed to Dec. 18 because of issues with COVID-19.

The location and time are to be determined but the game, originally set for Dec. 4, will be on Friday, Dec. 18, according to a Dec. 3 posting on the Abbeville County School District Website:

"ACSD parents, students and staff, we just received a call from Jerome Singleton, Commissioner of the High School League, informing us that the Marion High School football team has a high number of players

testing positive for COVID 19, hence the state championship has been postponed until Dec. 18, time and location to be determined.

The posting went on to indicate that the change of plans meant that there would be no early dismissal for Dec. 4.

Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary said he received the phone call from Singleton Thursday morning about the postponement, and that he, Dr. Gary, informed the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees and principals of the postponement,

and they in turn notified staff, students and parents.

The championship game had been scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, at Spring Valley High School in Columbia.

The Panthers had punched their ticket to the state championship game with a victory over Gray Collegiate in the Upper State championship game.

"We've heard the news, and now we've had to make another adjustment," said Dr. Gary Thursday afternoon about the announcement of the postponement.

Oglesby claims this week's contest honors

By Henry E. Green

Joe Oglesby is the winner of this week's Press and Banner college football contest, according to Contest Editor Lamar T. West.

"Joe Oglesby wins this week with a little help from 'Mr. Tie Breaker'," said West.

"Three entries missed only two picks--Kenny Hilley and Joe Oglesby. With only 578 points scored in the 11 games played, the low score wins. Kenny Hilley's two entries 856 and 812 points gives him second place behind Joe Oglesby 711 point guess.

As most people (football

people) know by now Coastal CAROLINA defeated BYU and both Kenny and Joe picked Coastal to win over Liberty. Although it did not count as a victory on the contest it was a great victory for CAROLINA "COASTAL".

"Football continues and hopefully all games in contest will be played this week!"

It was the week in which the University of South Carolina found a new football coach.

Shane Beamer served on the staff of former Gamecock coach Steve Spurrier from 2007 to 2010, so that the return to Columbia will be something of a home-

coming.

The 43-year-old Beamer, spent three seasons as an assistant coach at Oklahoma, will head a program that needs all the help it can get.

With a rash of turnovers and a defense that appears to have taken an early Christmas vacation, the Gamecocks lost at Kentucky 41-18 this past Saturday night.

Clemson, meanwhile, is headed to a re-match with Notre Dame in the ACC championship game, with the Tigers going on the road and defeating Virginia Tech.

Guidelines on use of AHS gym announced

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville High School athletic director Maggie Jameson has released a set of policies governing the use of Abbeville High's Moffat gym during the winter sports season.

It is all done with the aim of curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

The guidelines for 2020/2021 include the following:

All tickets will be sold using an e-ticket service, and the ticket link will be available on the school Website at 8 a.m. the day before each day.

The gym will be cleared between girls and boys

games, and doors will open 30 minutes prior to tip-off.

Masks are required for entry and should be worn at all times, and disposable masks will be sold for \$1 prior to entry.

Meanwhile, there will be social distancing protocols to be followed, with one way traffic flow patterns. People are asked to sit only at designated spots.

All fans should enter through the side entrance of the high school, and all children ages seventh grade and below must be accompanied by a parent or guardian 21 years of age or older.

Children must remain with the parent or guardian during the duration of the event, and all children must have a ticket unless they will be sitting in the parent's lap.

Hand-sanitizing and hand-washing stations will be available, and a clear bag policy will be enforced.

Finally, only authorized personnel will be allowed on the playing service of the basketball court.

Similar guidelines were provided for Hite Stadium during football season.

Winter sports at AHS include wrestling and basketball.

Due West plans socially distanced holiday event

By Henry E. Green

It will be a Christmas event that is very much in tune with 2020--one designed to keep the coronavirus at bay.

Due West will not be having a Christmas parade, but a Christmas drive-through--a little unconventional, in keeping with a year that has been anything but conventional.

"We are planning a 'Santa

Claus is Coming to Town' drive-around with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the fire truck. They can greet families in neighborhoods and still be socially distanced," said Due West Mayor Jeannie Knight.

It's all planned for Dec. 18, with the exact times to be announced.

"I am responsible for limiting crowds in town so I will

have to encourage only local children to be part of the street stops," said Knight.

"And Santa and Mrs. Claus will stay on the fire truck without interacting directly with the children. We will encourage them to write 'wishes' to Santa and will have a drop-in bag for their notes! Hope the weather cooperates."

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US Senate

Scott, leads letter to SBA Administrator on plans to spur entrepreneurial growth

Submitted by
Senator Tim Scott

U.S. Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Chris Coons (D-DE), members of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, co-led a letter to the Small Business Administrator (SBA), Jovita Carranza, requesting the SBA's current and prospective plans and recommendations for encouraging entrepreneurial growth, particularly for minority owned small businesses and businesses in communities of color.

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had witnessed the longest economic expansion ever recorded in the United States, with unemployment at 50-year lows, poverty on the decline, and incomes on the rise for most, albeit not all, com-

munities and populations in America. The pandemic, unfortunately, has reversed these encouraging trends, triggering widespread job losses and small business closures. While our economy is proving resilient, a robust and sustainable recovery will demand an aggressive entrepreneurial growth strategy," **wrote the senators.**

"The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which has enabled essential short-term relief for job creators across the country, provides an optimistic illustration of Congress's ability to work on a bipartisan basis, in consultation with federal agencies, to protect American jobs and preserve pathways to economic opportunity. That said, in order to effectively rebuild, expand, and innovate,

our small businesses and entrepreneurs will need additional tools and support, including through practical guidance and mentorship," **the senators continued.**

Abipartisan group of seven senators joined the letter, including Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Senators Jim Risch (R-ID), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Todd Young (R-ID), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV).

Prior to being elected to Congress, Senator Tim Scott was a successful entrepreneur and small business owner in South Carolina. He continues to fight for small businesses and workers in Washington to ensure that everyone has access to opportunity.

Classifieds & Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371PC with the Probate Court of ABBEVILLE COUNTY, the address of which is 903 WEST GREENWOOD ST., SUITE 2300 ABBEVILLE, SC 29620, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371PC) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

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 Personal Representative: Mary Lois White
 Address: 93 Whitehill Dr. Calhoun Falls, SC 29628
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 Date of Death: 11/06/2020
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 Personal Representative: Linda Eve Himes
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Estate: Patricia Ann Jackson
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Estate: Lester Nisly
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Estate: Nancy Lee Frank
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