



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

Difference of opinion Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards makes presentation to County Council

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards called on Abbeville County Council to reconsider a proposed ordinance, Ordinance 2021-07, which he said was unfair to the residents of the City of Abbeville, all during Monday night's County Council meeting, but Council passed the ordinance later in the meeting.

It is an ordinance dealing with industrial, commercial and municipal haulers of waste brought to the Abbeville County landfill, according to information supplied by the County Council's office.

Edwards made the presentation during the public comment section of the meeting.

The Press and Banner obtained a copy of his message:

“First, I want to thank the members of Council for their hard work and listening to public input on this issue. I come to speak to you tonight about Ordinance 2021-07, which would impose additional fees on City residents. As the Mayor of the County Seat of Abbeville, I know

firsthand the difficult budgetary decisions that have to be made. However, applying a second fee to the citizens of one portion of the County rather than just raising the landfill fee across the board to compensate for any landfill budget deficiencies seems to be the incorrect path to take. It's very simple, the citizens of the City of Abbeville already pay their landfill fee to Abbeville County every year on their tax notice.

“Second, the citizens of the City of Abbeville pay for the transportation of their garbage to the County landfill, by passing the need to use convenience centers as most county residents. This actually saves the county money, as the County itself is responsible for transporting waste from the convenience centers used by County residents to the landfill.”

Passing this ordinance is comparable to charging county residents tipping fees every time they use the convenience center, “which would be unfair and ‘overburdensome’ to the taxpayer,” the Mayor

continued.

“Again, this measure seems to only target the citizens of the City of Abbeville to make up for the budget shortfalls of the landfill rather than just raising the landfill fee across the board to correctly address the issue. I would ask you to reconsider it and look at addressing any budgetary deficiencies via the landfill fee that is already in place rather than rescinding a decades long agreement with the City of Abbeville.”

Later, Council, following a motion by Council member Drew Simpson, voted to table the ordinance, and Council added the proposal to a number of things to be discussed in executive session.

Following the executive session, Abbeville County Council passed third and final reading on the ordinance by a 7-0 vote.

“This ordinance is just updating our ordinances to make it all fair,” said County Council chairman Billy Norris Tuesday morning. He does not believe it is unfair to the citizens of the City of Abbeville.



The Lake Secession boat parade was held on July 3, and the lake was ablaze with red, white, and blue, in this event traditionally held in conjunction with Independence Day. (Contributed photo)



The Lake Secession Boat Parade is a Fourth of July tradition at the lake, and this year's parade was nothing if not colorful. (Contributed photo)

Second Harvest has food distribution

By Henry E. Green

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina recently had a food distribution at the old Fred's parking lot in Abbeville, according to Second Harvest regional branch coordinator Donal Dickens.

The June 28 distribution went well, as Second Harvest served 649 families in about 90 minutes and 49,545 pounds of food was distributed, according to Dickens.

“We plan on returning to Abbeville/Greenwood counties on a rotating monthly basis starting in August,” he said.

“Food insecurity is still very much a large concern in Abbeville County and the county has one of the higher levels in SC. It seems to be leveling off a little but is still elevated above the pre-pandemic rate.

“We are not taking our foot off the gas in Abbeville county until the numbers drop. It

is unacceptable that just under one in four children are considered food insecure and impoverished.”

This was one of a number of food distributions presented by Second Harvest in recent months in Abbeville.

As far as the Upstate counties go, Abbeville has the highest rates (of food insecurity), Dickens said in March. “The childhood poverty rate right now is around 32%.”

Abbeville County closes ‘county farm’

By Henry E. Green

The old Abbeville County “prison farm” has been closed, and the inmates have been transferred to the Abbeville County detention center, according to Abbeville County Director David Garner.

The “prison farm” was actually state trustee housing, where inmates from throughout the state department of corrections were housed--inmates on work release to Abbeville County.

“We had them working all over the county,” he said. They all worked with Abbeville County government in some capacity, from janitorial services all the way to working at the landfill.

Most counties in South Carolina have similar programs, Garner continued.

“We usually have anywhere from six to 12” inmates working in the county, he said.

The length of time they stay here can vary. Some have stayed four or five years, some a

week.

How long they stay here depends on input from Abbeville County government and the state department of corrections.

The health of the inmate, the behavior of the inmate, and other factors all enter into how long they stay, according to the County Director.

“We do give them \$20 a month,” he said, and that money goes typically for snacks, or phone calls or the like.

Typically, it is the inmates who ask to be sent to the various counties, for various reasons--they may want to be closer to their families, for example, if they have relatives close by.

The inmates are not allowed to interact with the public while on work release, and Abbeville County employees who supervise them are trained in how to conduct that supervision.

The county farm building, meanwhile, was closed about two months

ago, as the building needed many repairs.

“The electrical system was outdated,” and the plumbing had considerable issues, he said.

The inmates are housed in a separate block at the detention center from the other prisoners.

The prison farm building is aging, and county officials have not decided what to do with it.

To fix the plumbing alone would cost at least \$30,000, according to the County Director.

The building, a brick structure, is now empty, Garner continued.

Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson said Monday that he believes it would be a waste of taxpayers' money to house inmates in the County farm building, which he said is in very bad shape, when there is a special wing in the detention center that he believes is specially designed to house Department of Corrections inmates.



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JULY 15–AUGUST 15

Leadership course graduates honored

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville County Director David Garner recognized during Monday night's County Council meeting graduates of a leadership course for County employees.

These graduates include Lynn Sopolosky, Daniel Shaw, Andy Price, Ashley Giles, Sharmel Miller, Gregg Currin, Melissa Motes, Will Blackwell, Travis Alewine, Tim Williams, Matthew Graham, Jessica Bridges, Barry Devore, according to a list Garner supplied.

The County worked with Piedmont Technical College to present the class, said Garner Monday night.

The six month program began in January, and placed considerable emphasis on teamwork.

Also following the executive session, Council authorized, 7-0 the County Director David Garner "to sign a contract with the

Town of Donalds to provide services of a licensed building inspector to assist with the enforcement of the Donalds building code within Donalds," Abbeville County Clerk to Council Lynn Sopolosky said.

State Rep. Craig Gagnon presented a State House of Representatives resolution to Lois Rhodes for achievements within the Abbeville County Library.

Rhodes recently won an award for her library work.

Also Monday night, Council had first reading on Ordinance 2021-08 to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map for a parcel of land located on Mt. Olive Church Road from a zoning district of Forest Agricultural to one of General Residential.

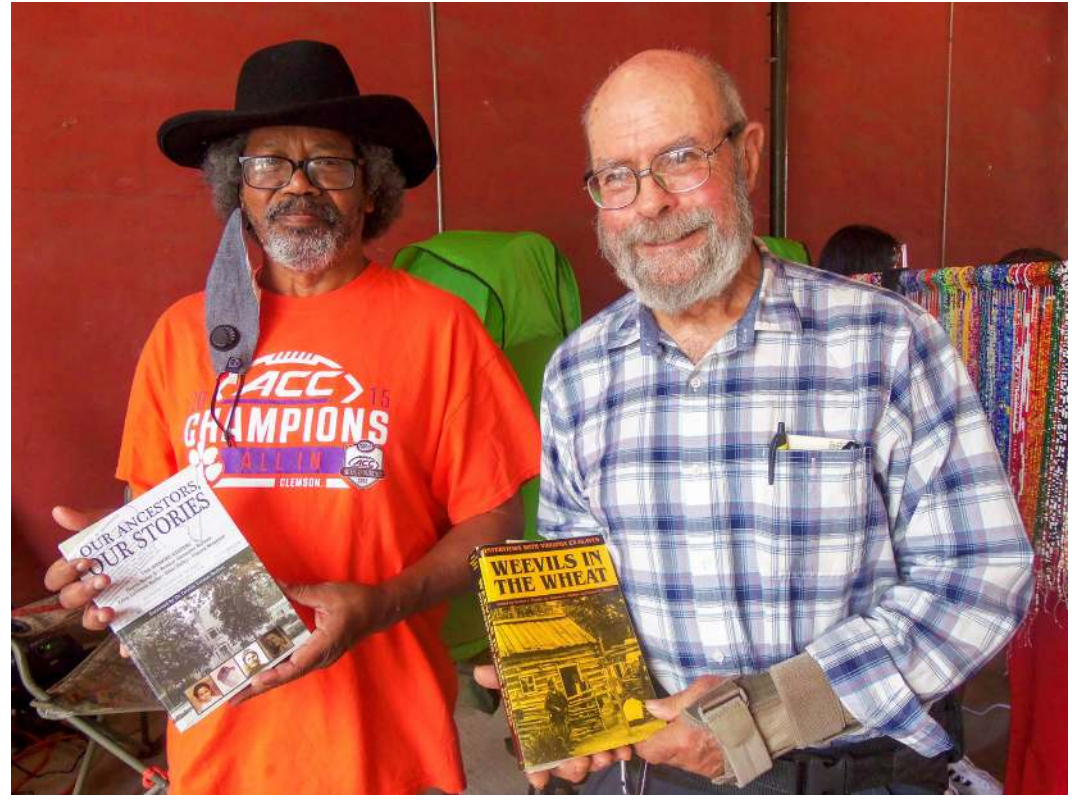
All first readings are read into the record by the chairman, and a vote is not necessary per Ordinance 05-11.

Also Monday night, Council passed resolution 2021-18 authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Andean Chevrolet for the purchase of one 2020 Chevrolet Equinox not to exceed \$23,000.

Council passed Resolution 2021-19 authorizing the County Director to enter into a contract with McCoy Wright Realty, Inc., to sell the building located at 394 Highway 28 Bypass in Abbeville.

Council also passed Resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Replay Systems to perform mandated upgrades to the Eventide Nexlog 740 recording system in the amount not to exceed \$32,000, for E-911.

Also, Council voted 7-0 to reappoint Virginia Boyd to the accommodations tax committee.



Harris Bailey (left) and Robert Phillips (right) are holding up books they offered at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville during the Juneteenth celebration recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

West Carolina elections coming up

By Henry E. Green
West Carolina Telelections are coming up.

"We have nine board members," said Shannon Sears, director of commercial operations Monday.

The terms of these board members are staggered, so that every year three of the members are up for reelection.

This year, two of those three are running unopposed, and the third, incumbent Eric McCall, is facing opposition from challengers Paul Cann and David Earl Campbell.

Running unopposed are Wes McAllister and Jane Stone.

Members may vote in one of a number of different ways. Ballots will be mailed

out to WCTEL members on Friday, July 16, and the members may either mail in those ballots or may vote on-line at directvote.net/WCTEL

"You can also vote on SmartHub, which is WCTEL's account management system," said Sears.

Voting closes at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11.

"Any member may vote for any candidate, regardless of the area they live in," Sears continued.

"The company that we use (to tabulate the ballots) is called Survey & Ballots, and they receive all of the votes, whether they are by mail in ballots, or electronically," he said. "They will certify the results, and results will be sent to West Carolina's

attorney, who will present them at the annual membership meeting on Monday, August 16 at 3 p.m."

The annual meeting will be held at the Abbeville Civic Center at 404 North Main Street, Abbeville.

All members are invited to attend the meeting.

WCTEL has approximately 14,000 members, and its service area covers portions of Abbeville County, McCormick County, and the Starr Iva area of Anderson County with a fiber optic network.

Established in 1952, West Carolina is a cooperative whose original mission was to provide telephone service in rural western South Carolina.

For more information, one may visit WCTEL.com.

Abbeville merchants planning wine walk

By Henry E. Green

The Downtown Abbeville Merchants Association is planning a "Summer Sippin" wine walk for the end of July in downtown Abbeville, according to Association president Jennifer Creswell.

The Walk will be on July 30 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and will include the participation of a number of businesses, and the list of participating businesses was still being compiled at press time.

Each stop will have a sample of a different wine, she said.

All proceeds of the event

will go to the Association. This is actually the first wine walk of the year for the group.

"We had a beer walk in March," she said, going on to say that the Association plans to have another wine walk in October--Vino in the Ville, during the Hogs and Hens Festival.

And then, in December, there will be the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, which the Association introduced last year.

"It was a hit," she said. It was in fact so successful that the Association brought

it back for a second year.

Meanwhile, the "summer sippin" event will include a new business, "Blondie's on the Bricks," according to Creswell.

Tickets for the summer wine walk are available at Breezy Quarters and at the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce.

The tickets, which are \$20 apiece, are also available on line at eventbrite.

Participants in the Walk will all receive complimentary glasses, and one must be at least 21 years of age to participate.

Golf tournament to benefit athletics

By Henry E. Green

The annual Abbeville Football/Baseball golf tournament will be held on July 31 at Star Fort Golf Course, according to information supplied by AHS football coach James Nickles.

Lunch will be served at noon, and then there will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

All proceeds from the tournament will be split between

the Abbeville High School football and baseball programs.

There will be Hole in One prizes for all Par 3s, including a set of irons, for example.

There are a number of sponsorship levels. Team sponsorships may be purchased for \$350, and hole sponsorships for \$100.

One may purchase a sign

to advertise a company or business on the course.

Prizes will be given for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin, and awards will be given for Low Gross and Low Net.

For more information, one may call James Nickles at 379-5148 or Daniel Little at 378-7359.

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First Baptist Church of Abbeville was among the churches getting in the Independence Day mode, with this display of flags. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

History all around her

Pam Knox is a new docent at the McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House

By Henry E. Green

Pam Knox is a new docent for the Abbeville County Historical Society and its headquarters, the McGowan Barksdale Bundy House.

Knox, who lives in Due West with her husband Jimmy, is originally from Michigan.

"That's where I grew up," she said. "I moved South in 1978."

She's been in South Carolina since 1983.

A member of the Historical Society for four years, she donated two charger plates to the Society, plates that are made of Chinese enamel from the early 1900s.

They are now in the living hall of the McGowan Barksdale Bundy House.

As a docent, she will be leading tours of the house, which dates from 1888.

"I'm not ready yet, but I'm

learning," she said. For example, she is learning the vocabulary of the time.

People did not call it a front porch, but a veranda or a piazza.

She is learning about the history of the house. "That is one of the most important stories the house has to tell—the historical background," she said.

"Everything in the house is somehow tied to the house, and all of the people—their lives are intertwined in a most interesting way."

There are a number of portraits hanging throughout the house that may not seem related at first, but upon further study, one will see the relationships.

To Knox, it is like all the pieces of a puzzle coming together.

Many, many items have been donated to the Mc-

Gowan Barksdale Bundy House, and each of them has a story to tell, and she is hard at work learning those stories.

"I want to be sure that I'm respectful to the house," she said. "I don't want to be disrespectful to the house by giving incorrect information."

Her husband Jimmy Knox was born and raised here.

"I just fell in love with Abbeville the first time I visited," said Pam, who has been living in Abbeville County for six years.

Abbeville's old homes and the Square "just caught my eye," she said. "I just love them."

To Pam, being a docent in the McGowan Barksdale Bundy House is an adventure.

"I'm just so excited about it," she said.

Dixie's big night

High school in Due West gets lots of recognition at school board meeting

By Henry E. Green

Dixie High School principal Paul Prescott has fond memories of the June 29 meeting of the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees.

"It was a big night for DHS at the board meeting," he said.

He wasn't joking.

The Dixie High School varsity softball team, which won the Upper State championship this past school year, was recognized, but that wasn't all.

Hornet track stars and outstanding FFA members were also honored.

Prescott supplied a list of the honorees recognized at the meeting, in addition to

the softball team:

Track:
1600m State Champion- Clara Angel (Broke the school record that dated back to mid 1980's, formerly held by Holly Kennerly)

800m Runner Up- Clara Angel

4x800 meter girls team--state champions--Clara Angel, Neely Bell, Summer Tillman, and Samantha Burnett

3200 Runner Up- Samantha Burnett

4x800 meter boys State Runners Up--Ethan Angel, Jadan James, Daniel Boyd, and Spencer Wieters

1600m 3rd Place
Spencer Wieters
3200 Meters

Spencer Wieters- Runner Up

Daniel Boyd- 3rd Place Triple Jump

Jadan James-3rd Place FFA:

Lylia Overholt- Region II Creed Speaking 1st Place; 2nd Place State

Mary Katherine Hannah- Nursery Landscape competition- 2nd Place State

Julia Busby- Nursery Landscape competition- 6th place state.

FFA is a "premier youth organization preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture," according to ffa.org

Community Calendar

Piano festival planned at Erskine

The Palmetto Piano festival, held on the campus of Erskine College, invites you to enjoy two concerts held this week in Memorial Hall. Pianist Jose Roman Mendez will perform in concert on Wednesday, July 14, 7:30-9:30; the Young Artists Final Recital will take place on Friday, July 16, 7:30 - 9:30. Attendance is limited to 50 people due to social distancing constraints, and masks will be required.

For information on ticketing, visit <https://palmetto-piano-festival.ticketleap.com/>



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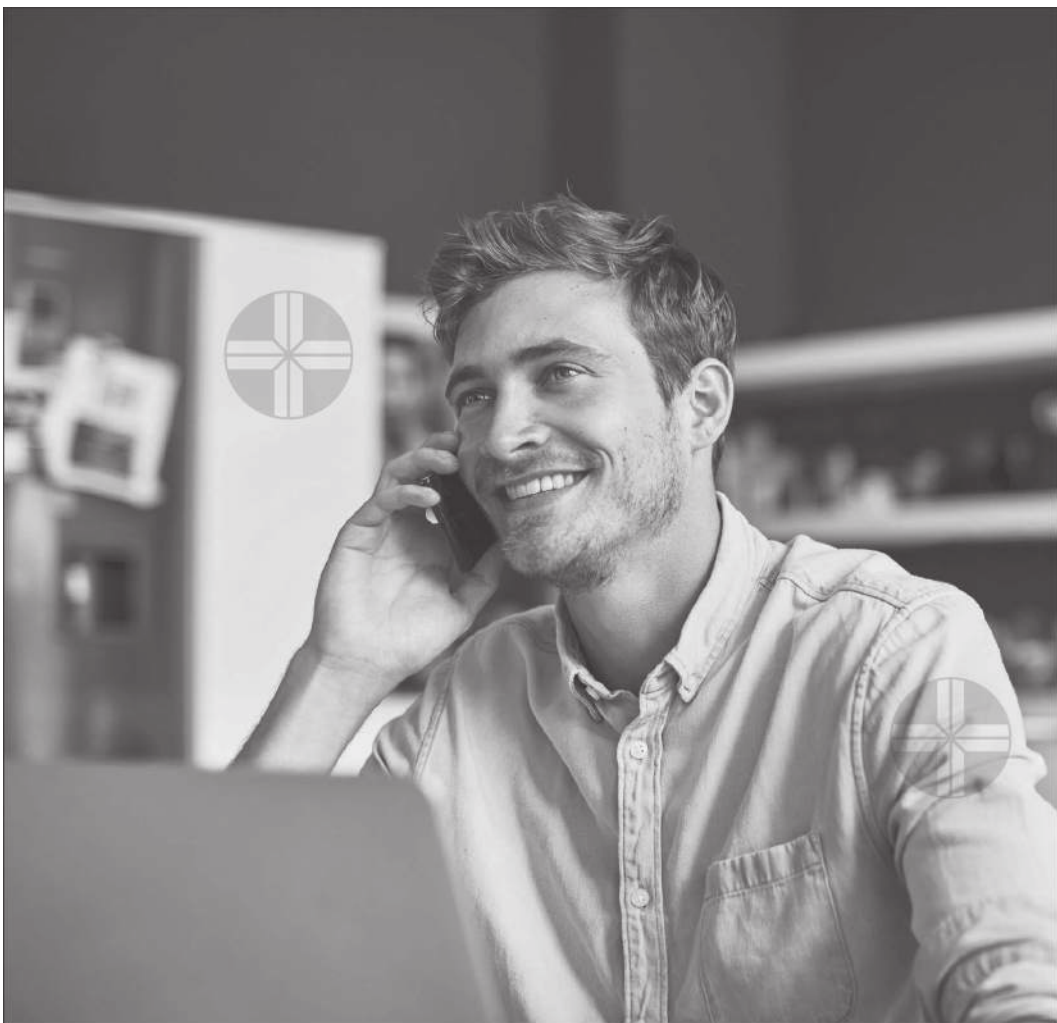


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Hank Hatchell (left), accompanied by his son Benjamin (right), provided some good-time music for Paddle Fest, presented recently by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition at the Blue Hole recreation area in Calhoun Falls. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Society receives number of acquisitions

By Henry E. Green
The McGowan Barksdale Bundy House, the headquarters of the Abbeville County Historical Society, is home to a number of new acquisitions. Among them are a number of items from the old Poliakoff's department store on Abbeville's Court Square. For years, Poliakoff's served the Abbeville community, and while the store is no longer in operation, the building is still very much a fixture at the northern end of Court Square. Last week, Ed Poliakoff, a Columbia attorney who grew up in Abbeville, met with the Society's acquisition chairman, Bill Rogers, and showed him photographs of items he planned to present to the Society. Among them were an old water cooler, and a bench where customers could sit

and try on shoes, and a cloth-cutter that had never been used. Poliakoff's was run for years by Ed's mother Rosa Poliakoff. The store was just one manifestation of how the Poliakoff family has served the Abbeville community. The Abbeville County Library is home to a collection of art that used to belong to the late Dr. Samuel R. Poliakoff, for example. The Society has also been given the diary of Lemuel Reid, a Civil War-era planter who attended a pro-secession meeting in Abbeville, a meeting where delegates were chosen to attend a convention in Columbia, eventually leading to the Palmetto State's secession. Lemuel was born in Abbeville District in 1818, married Sophia Weston White at the age of 22, according to

information supplied by the Abbeville County Historical Society. Sophia bore him 13 children, and the two oldest sons were killed in action in the Civil War in 1862. Lemuel died at the age of 48 in 1867, and he is buried in Long Cane Cemetery. He was the great-grandfather of the late Buddy Reid, according to the Society. In other Historical Society news, Rogers also introduced Pam Knox, a new docent for the Historical Society.

The McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House is located at 305 North Main Street in Abbeville.

The 1888 Queen Anne house was the home of Gen. Samuel McGowan until his death. It was donated to the Society in 1989.

Firefighters fight blaze in Calhoun Falls

There was a fire in Calhoun Falls Thursday on Anderson Street, but no injuries were reported, although one of the firefighters went to the hospital to be evaluated for heat exhaustion, according to Darrell Manning, Calhoun Falls fire chief. Firefighters responded to the call on Thursday afternoon about 5:56 p.m. in response to a fire alarm

in the home on Anderson Street. Firefighters from Calhoun Falls, with assistance from Abbeville County firefighters, responded to the blaze, and fought the fire for about 20 minutes, Manning continued. "With the clean up and all, we were there about an hour," he said. The blaze did major dam-

age to the kitchen area of the home, and there was heavy smoke damage throughout the house, a one-story wooden structure. No one was at home at the time. Manning said that fire fighters suspect that the blaze started with an electrical shortage in a stove.

Late on bills? Residents encouraged to apply for rental and utility help through SC Stay plus

Submitted by SC Housing

Residents in 39 South Carolina counties who are behind on rent and utility payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to apply for help through a new federally funded program from SC Housing. Those who qualify for the \$272 million SC Stay Plus program may receive up to 12 months of assistance for rent and utility payments dating back to March 2020. Applicants may also qualify for up to 3 months of future rent assistance. Residents can find the application portal for SC Stay Plus at SCHousing.com. Applicants who have questions or need additional assistance can call the SC Stay Plus call center at 803.336.3420. Assistance is available for households in which one or more individuals meet all the following criteria:

- Has qualified for unemployment or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship directly or indirectly due to COVID-19 (i.e., since March 2020);
- Can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80% of county median income.

Based upon federal and state requirements, priority will be given to households with an income at or below 50% of the median income, those with an individual who has been unemployed for more than 90 days, or those that are already in the eviction process. Household income will be determined by using the household's 2020 annual income or current monthly income at the time of application. South Carolina residents in 39 counties are eligible to participate in SC Stay Plus. The following seven counties were directly fund-

ed by the U.S. Treasury and will operate their own assistance programs, so residents of these seven counties should apply to their county program at this time: Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Greenville, Horry, Richland and Spartanburg. Details about these programs can also be found at SCHousing.com.

Correction

There was a misprint/misquote in last week's article about a presentation at the Abbeville Rotary Club. A sentence incorrectly stated that the Abbeville County School District's fund balance was over one million dollars, and it should have stated that it is more than seven million dollars. The Press and Banner regrets the error.

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Abbeville Area Medical Center is planning a number of vaccination clinics in Abbeville and McCormick counties. Helping plan them is Meg Davis, the AAMC Marketing, Foundation, and Volunteer Services Director, shown here during the Abbeville Spring Festival earlier this year. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

AAMC planning vaccination clinics

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville Area Medical Center has scheduled a number of vaccination clinics in the battle against COVID, according to a calendar supplied by AAMC Marketing, Foundation and Volunteer Services Director Meg Davis.

AAMC will have vaccination clinics at Ingles, at 1507 North Main Street in Abbeville on July 30 and August 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day, according to the calendar.

The hospital is also scheduling a number of clinics in McCormick, at the Food Lion there, on July 30, and August 6, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Moderna vaccine will be given at these clinics, AAMC reported. "An appointment for your second dose will be made when you

receive your first dose. "If you have insurance, please bring your card. "If you can't make these clinics, you may schedule your vaccination by emailing aahcvax@AbbevilleAreaMC.co or calling 864-366-1647.

"Also, in an effort to create more convenient access to the COVID-19 vaccine, the Healthcare Center no longer requires an appointment to be vaccinated," said Davis. "While the practice's lobby remains closed, those who want to receive the vaccine can call 366-3828 from their cars upon arrival to the Healthcare Center. The Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available and can be administered between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. A 15 minute waiting period is also required after receiving the

vaccine. Appointments can also be scheduled by calling 366-9681."

The clinics are part of an effort to curb the coronavirus pandemic, against which enormous progress has been made. Still, the highly contagious delta variant is cause for concern.

In other hospital news, Abbeville Area Medical Center's Chronic Care Management Program, recently profiled in The Press and Banner, is a new program.

"We just started this program June 1st," said AAMC employee Amanda Morgan, Director, Community Health, Wellness & Outreach.

"It is new for our organization. We are enrolling new patients each week and hope to have our goal of 100 patients by September."

AAMC encourages COVID vaccinations

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville Area Medical Center has so far been able to tackle the threat posed by the Delta variant, according to Meg Davis, Marketing, Foundation and Volunteer Services Director for AAMC.

"Is AAMC seeing an 'uptick' in the number of COVID patients due to the delta variant, or any kind of uptick in COVID at all?" The Press and Banner asked her.

"Fortunately we have not," Davis replied. "We continue to encourage everyone to

get vaccinated. "Also, in an effort to create more convenient access to the COVID-19 vaccine, the Healthcare Center no longer requires an appointment to be vaccinated," Davis went on to say.

"While the practice's lobby remains closed, those who want to receive the vaccine can call 366-3828 from their cars upon arrival to the Healthcare Center. The Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available and can be admin-

istered between the hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm. A 15 minute waiting period is also required after receiving the vaccine. Appointments can also be scheduled by calling 366-9681."

The Delta variant, which is believed to have come from India, is widely feared because it is highly transmissible, although vaccines appear to be highly effective against it, according to reports.

It has become very prominent in the United States.

Beside the sea

Abbeville County to be represented at the Association of Counties event

By Henry E. Green
A number of County Council members are planning to attend the South Carolina Association of Counties conference in Hilton Head later this summer, according to reports.

The Institute of Classes starts on Friday, July 30, and the conference starts on Saturday, July 31, and ends on Tuesday, August 3, according to Abbeville County Clerk to Council Lynn Sopolosky.

The Abbeville County Council members expected to be in attendance include Charles Goodwin, Jason Bonds, Billy Norris, John Calhoun, James McCord, and Drew Simpson, said Sopolosky.

The conference typically

draws county officials from throughout the state of South Carolina.

The South Carolina Association of Counties is the only organization dedicated to the statewide representation of county government in South Carolina, according to www.sccounties.org

The Institute of Government for County Officials is a major component of the conference, providing opportunities for county officials to be trained in the skills they need to perform their jobs successfully.

Also, the conference allows county officials an opportunity to network.

County Council chairman Billy Norris underscored on Monday some of the reasons he goes to the

conference. "I don't like the beach," he said. "I'm going for the classes."

To Norris, the conference offers an excellent opportunity to learn about new laws affecting county government.

"You can get a lot of information that will help you from that conference," he said.

The opportunity to network with county council members from other counties is also significant, said Norris, noting that it gives him a chance to see how those council members handle problems similar to ones Council might face in Abbeville County.

"I go for the education," he said.

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Answers on back page

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- *Rubik's _____
- Bryan Stevenson's "Just _____"
- * _____ -Wan Kenobi
- Egyptian falcon-headed deity
- Top of a steeple
- * _____ -I-Am"
- Vernacular
- **"Walking" spring toy
- *Purple dinosaur
- Foot the bill
- Smidgen
- *KIDZ _____
- Like a mattress?
- Stay clear of
- *Dumbo's were huge
- *Arnold Lobel's "Frog and _____"
- Emotional punishment
- At the summit of
- Young hooter
- Shakespeare's hometown river
- Increase rpms (2 words)
- *Pinocchio or Baron Munchausen, e.g.
- Retired, shortened
- Soft palate vibrations
- Bob of the boxing world
- Bovine hangout
- Give the cold shoulder
- Unagi on sushi menu
- *Place called Sesame
- *Place for Pong and Pac-Man
- Semolina source
- It would
- Mourning fabric
- Arterial blood vessel
- Atlantic catch
- Partner of pains
- Emeralds and rubies
- *One of "Little Women"
- Haul something heavy

DOWN

- German river
- Large edible mushroom, pl.
- Seed covering
- Substitute for tender
- *Shenzi, Banzai and Ed in "Lion King"
- *One in a pocketful
- Lawyers' league
- Horizontal bar dance
- It's knee high by the Fourth of July?
- Strong desire
- Channel marker
- Eastern Standard Time
- What bullies do
- City in Japan
- Past tense of eat
- Popular salad dressing
- *Winnie and Paddington
- Derived from oats
- Utah city
- Thanksgiving turkey, e.g.
- Burn to a crisp
- Václav of Czechoslovakia
- Be theatrical
- *One of the Darling children
- Horse prod
- Letter opener
- More true
- Bygone Spanish money
- "He said, _____ said"
- Place that attracts visitors, pl.
- Ancient city in Africa
- Cooler climate conifer
- *"One, two, buckle my _____"
- Four years in the White House, e.g.
- ** _____ of NIMH"
- * _____ Walker, American Girl
- **"Matilda" and "The Gremlins" author
- **"The Three Musketeers" sword
- Tail action
- *Huck's friend
- Sixth sense

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ABBENVILLE COUNTY'S
The Press and Banner
an Abbeville Edition

A Slice of Mike

"Comedy as Advertised"

By Mike Elis

As a comedian, I get asked a lot, "Who are some of your favorite comedians?" Truthfully, I am not a student of comedy as I watch so very little of it. The great writers of yesteryear have been overtaken by the ranters and over-animators of performance comedy.

There are comedians who take off their shirts, there are ones that use puppets, and others that hop around the stage to make people laugh. I have no problem with the fact that everyone has different tastes; I just prefer jokes.

Truthfully though, the writing that makes me laugh the most these days is not intentional humor. Thanks to social media and the fact that one can now post whatever is on their mind without editing is humorous in itself, especially for those that are lacking in the sphere of what we call intelligent communication.

And it is never more apparent in any formats as it is on the Yard Sale pages on social media. I can't help but want to laugh at some of the ads, and some that aren't ads.

As I am moving into an apartment in a few weeks, I am in the market for furniture and so I have been combing these sites for a good deal because there are some great deals out there. But little did I know that there is such a combination of great humor and communicative misery that comes along with them as well. Let's take a quick tour of some of the actual ads that I came across on these sites, shall we?

"2004 Pontiac Montana. Car is loaded with brand new CD/DVD/TV. Sliding door, new brakes, and steering wheel. AC doesn't work and estimate to fix is \$250."

Wait a second, this car has a steering wheel? Wow, that is loaded. I was going to dismiss this vehicle at first, but now I'm interested. And who in their right mind pays to install a DVD/TV when the air conditioning doesn't work?

But I will give the seller this much; at least he is trying to sell something. Let's move on to this winner.

"If you were the driver of a green Kia this morning over by the Dollar General, thanks for being rude and cutting me off."

Let's all make it a point from now on to respond to these. To this one, I replied, "Yeah, they caught that guy and he is now at the police station. They want to know if you would like to press charges. This would be his third strike and will spend the rest of his life in jail."

"Electric Toothbrush - Brand New, Only Used Twice. Paid \$85, Asking \$62. Firm" Before we all make a face of disgust and question if the seller knows the definition of the phrase "Brand New," we shouldn't discount the genius that comes with being able to pinpoint an \$11.50 depreciation per use. There must be a reason for it. And be sure on your next visit to let your dental hygienist know you purchased a used electric toothbrush online. Disclosure is everything with these people.

And my favorite ad on

a yard sales site goes to (Drum roll please)...

"Weather Channel Says 70% chance of rain tonight. Does anyone know for sure if it is going to rain or not?"

How does one answer that? "Yes, I am God and it will rain. So how would you like to buy a brand new rain jacket only worn a few times with holes in it and an umbrella which can be used to keep you from getting wet?"

There are some others we can mention like pet adoption ads that always lead to arguments and the listings where something is for sale and somehow leads into a political argument. The biggest political argument I ever saw online stemmed from an ad for a used Whirlpool Dishwasher. Four hundred and fifty-seven comments and this poor guy was just trying to sell an appliance.

So, look for my new hats for sale, Make Yard Sales Pages Legitimate Again. As for me, I'm still trying to find a bedroom set but in my search, at least there is a forecasted 70% chance I will get a good laugh or two.

Comedy returns to the Abbeville Opera House on August 6th with the hilarious Shaun Jones. You've seen him in Ace Ventura, and on Comedy Central and BET. Now, he returns for his encore performance in Abbeville.

Come see why so many asked for him to come back for another show. Special guest Jason Allen King. Get your tickets now at abbevillecitysc.com.



Mr. Bill Quarles and his daughter, Alison Quarles of Greenville, presented Mr. Quarles' great-grandfather, Mr. Lemuel Reid's Diary (1860) to the Abbeville County Historical Society at the McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy Home, the Society's headquarters. (Photo contributed)

Bill Quarles presents Diary of his great-grandfather to the Abbeville Historical Society

Submitted by Pam Knox

Mr. Bill Quarles and his daughter, Alison Quarles of Greenville, presented Mr. Quarles' great grandfather, Mr. Lemuel Reid's Diary (1860) to the Abbeville County Historical Society at the McGowan Barksdale Bundy Home, the Society's Headquarters. Along with the original diary (they also donated) a transcribed copy. Lemuel Reid was an Antebellum Abbevillian. One event describes his son John returning to Erskine College in 1860.

In an entry on November

22, 1860, they all went to the great mass meeting of the Ordinance of Secession, held in Abbeville, SC. His boys returned for the torch parade celebration that night. Two years later, in, 1862, Lemuel Reid describes the death of his two oldest sons who were killed the same day during a battle at Mechanicsville, June 26th in a cornfield. One of the sons died as the result of being hit by a cannonball and the other was shot. They were in Colonel Orr's Rifles and General Samuel McGowan's Brigade.

After his son's deaths, Lemuel Reid went to war. He

later died in 1867 at the age of 48, probably of war-related conditions.

The Society's Board has removed the diary to its fire-proof vault for safe storage. If you have items related to Abbeville County history that you feel appropriate to donate, contact Bill Rogers, the Society's acquisition Chairman at 864-828-0462.

One of the main missions of the society is to collect, preserve, interpret and share all the history of Abbeville County.

You can learn more by visiting their webpage at Abbevillecountyhistoricalsociety.org.

She's fast

Dixie's Clara Angel setting records

By Henry E. Green

A Dixie High School track star has won widespread acclaim for her fleet feet, and she is only a rising ninth grader.

This past school year, Clara Angel won a state championship in the 1600 meter run and as the anchor leg of the four by 800 relay team, and she also finished second in the 800 meter run, according to published reports.

"Dixie did have a very strong showing at the state track and field meet," earlier this year, Dixie track coach Joel Boyd has said.

"Our girls team ended up

in 5th place, and the boys team was in 6th place. We took a total of 16 athletes to the state meet in individual and relay events. Our results are as follows. I am proud of what these kids have accomplished, especially considering that Dixie doesn't even have a track to practice on!"

"Ethan and Clara Angel are two of the best mid-distance Class A runners in the state, and happen to be a brother-sister team from Due West," Boyd continued.

"Ethan has won state cross country championships with Dixie, and Clara just added two titles of her own on the

track," earlier this year, he continued.

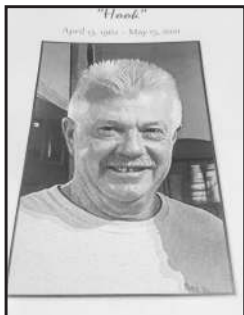
Clara was recognized during the Gold Star Highlights segment of the June 29 meeting of the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees.

Clara is not the only Abbeville County student-athlete receiving praise for accomplishments.

Dixie's Caleb Simpson was recently recognized for his prowess on the baseball field. Caleb was a force of nature on the Hornet baseball team this past spring.

Caleb graduated from Dixie this past spring.

Card of Thanks



There are no words to express our thanks to the Abbeville community and surrounding area for all the love, prayers, memorials, other kindnesses and food showered on us during the sorrow of Scott and Shannon's sudden passings. Our Family appreciates everything and everyone, with much love, thanks and gratitude.

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Main Street UMC has new pastor

By Henry E. Green

Brandon Fulmer is the new pastor at Main Street United Methodist in Abbeville.

He took over as pastor on June 30, replacing Brian Arant, who moved to Vermont.

Fulmer comes to Main Street from Jackson, South Carolina, where he served at Bethel and Wesley Chapel United Methodist churches. "Originally I'm from the Augusta area, and I grew up in Grovetown, Ga," he said.

Though he was born in Georgia, he has relatives on this side of the Savannah River. His mother, Beth Treaster, was born in Abbeville and grew up in Greenwood, and she currently lives in Honea Path.

Fulmer graduated from high school in Harlem, GA,

and went to LaGrange College in LaGrange, GA, and then secured his master of divinity degree at Erskine Theological Seminary.

Fulmer has been a pastor 18 years, and being a pastor is something to which he felt a calling.

"I enjoy speaking and preaching," he said. "I was just called to it."

It was in October, 1994, that he felt God speaking to him. He was a sophomore in college at that time, and a friend of his invited him to a campus ministry meeting one night, and the speaker talked about how God could use people to accomplish his purposes.

Brandon listened, and the message sank into him, and resonated, and even though it was another nine years

before he committed himself to the ministry full time, the course of his life was set.

His mother's advice helped as well.

"My mother said she thought I would make a good pastor. She had some foresight that maybe I didn't."

Brandon has a family. "I have a wife (Shari) and one daughter (Josie Beth)," he said.

Shari is a licensed professional counselor, and Josie Beth is six years old.

"She will be starting first grade," he said of his daughter.

Abbeville is a place to which he already feels a bond, even though he has been living here only a week.

"I do feel connected to his community," he said.



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7/7;2tc

Mayor to help out with Little Free Library

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards will be lending a helping hand to the Abbeville County Library System, building a Little Free Library at the Abbeville Library on North Main Street in Abbeville, said Mary Elizabeth Land, Abbeville County Library System Director, Monday.

The project is being funded by a Friends of the Library grant of \$250.

The mayor will be building something similar to a "blessing box" he built on South Main in Abbeville, a place where people can share nonperishable items of food in this era of food

insecurity.

The Little Free Library operates on something of the same concept. It will be a structure with shelves, where people can take, free of charge, books deposited there, and place books there as well.

Edwards "expects to complete the project in the next couple of weeks," said Land.

"The grant is for library projects, and I specifically wrote the grant proposal for a couple of projects, one of which is the Little Free Library.

"There are several instances in which I can see this being helpful for our

patrons," she said.

"There are times, for example, that we all need a book we don't have to be so concerned about protecting. When you go to the beach for vacation, when you want to read a book in the bathtub, when you don't know how long you might need a particular item - all of these are times when being able to take a book instead of checking it out from the library may be helpful.

"We so appreciate Trey's volunteering of his skill and his time," she said. "I think that many patrons will find this a great addition to our offerings."

JOB OPENING

Abbeville County Public Works Department is seeking qualified individuals to fill a part-time position of Recycling & Household Waste Collection site attendant. Attendants are required to promote recycling and to direct Abbeville County residents as to the placement of their recyclables and household waste. Must have own transportation and be available to work at any of our sites when needed. Job requires being in the elements of weather, standing on your feet for periods of time, and being able to lift up to 50 pounds. Recycling & Household Waste Collection sites are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Applications are available at Abbeville County Public Works Department, 1094 Gassoway Farm Rd or Abbeville County Administrative Complex, 903 West Greenwood Street. Applications can also be found at abbevillecountysc.com.

Submit completed employment application by Friday July 30, 2021 to:



Recycling Coordinator
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12/30;mb



Josh Baughman of Abbeville has adorned the Welcome Center in Abbeville with his collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia. The display is expected to stay up for much of the summer. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Is County Council Ignoring Freedom of Information Act Breaking the Law of the Land?

by Lamar T. West

Abbeville County Council seems to be discussing information in executive session (behind closed doors) which legally should be discussed in open session. Why would they table a vote on Ordinance 2021-07 at the June meeting, go into executive session, reappear in open session (once a majority of those in attendance have left), then vote in the affirmative on the tabled ordinance? Who changed their position, and why?

This month, Mayor Edwards (Abbeville) presented County Council information which shows City residents are already paying a landfill fee and also paying the City each month

for garbage pick-up. The City then delivers garbage to the landfill, and City residents pay the landfill fee.

The County had an over three decade long agreement with the City (residents paying landfill fee) that said County would accept City's garbage at no extra cost.

If you personally take your trash to a convenience center, you pay no additional fee. The County then picks up trash from that convenience center and transports it to the landfill. This service is included in the landfill fee. City residents pay the City a monthly trash pick-up fee and the City then transports the garbage to the County landfill, thereby saving the County a transport expense.

Now, Abbeville County Council has voted to start charging the City, which would be an extra fee for residents.

We do not need to tip the County for something we are already paying the City.

If the Abbeville County Landfill is not collecting adequate funds to maintain the landfill, they need to raise the fee on all County residents, not just those in the City of Abbeville.

As far as we know, County Council had NO reason to discuss the ordinance behind closed doors, return to open session and, putting the matter of a tabled motion up for a vote, vote unanimously to pass the tabled resolution/ordinance.

What is being discussed in executive session?

City experiences recent power outages

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville has been experiencing a number of power outages in recent days.

"Abbeville Public Utility customers--in particular, the Lowndesville area--have experienced three power outages over the past week," said Mike Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer with the City.

"These incidents are the result of several unrelated issues, ranging from a downed tree to an osprey nest being built on top of a transformer.

"The City does apologize for any inconvenience caused by these outages, and is working

to make improvements to the Abbeville electrical grid, such as the proposed Duke tie in point, which would help to lessen the number of, and duration of, outages experienced in the Lowndesville area."

These three outages resulted in power being out in Lowndesville anywhere from about 45 minutes to about two hours each time.

Meanwhile, the outages in the city of Abbeville lasted eight to nine seconds apiece.

"The length of the outages varies by geographic area," he said. In each outage, the entire community was affected.

The three outages, which all occurred in the afternoon or early evening, occurred at the same time, but they affected different sections of the power grid in different ways--in terms of duration.

The osprey nest was built by a bird near Lake Secession, and the nest was destroyed when it came in contact with the electric apparatus.

"The issues with the ospreys is not a new one," he said. "In recent years, the City has actually built osprey nests that are not located on our power infrastructure, in an attempt to lure the ospreys away from the City's power apparatus."

Obituaries

Argo

Carol Preston Argo, 91, of Abbeville, wife of the late William Andrew 'Bill' Argo, died Sunday, July 11, 2021 at the Abbeville Nursing Home. Born January 2, 1930 in Carrollton, GA, she was the daughter of the late John Pittman Preston and Bessie Pitts Preston.

Mrs. Argo was affectionately known as 'Mer'. She enjoyed extensive traveling and was always happy "on the road". Shopping was Mrs. Argo's favorite past time; however, family held her heart. She was a member of First Creek Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother and sister-in-law, J.P. and Julia Preston; three grandchildren, Travis, Jessica and Drew; a sister, Margaret Hightower; and a brother-in-law, Jesse Lynch.

Mrs. Argo is survived by a son, Andrew A. 'Andy' Argo (Tammy) of Abbeville;



Carol Preston Argo

three daughters, Reesa Argo Schultz (Dieter Strohacker) of Denver, NC, Christi A. Hutchens (Allen) of Iva, SC and Billi Argo Beard (Chris) of Greenville, SC; a sister, Betty Preston Lynch of Carrollton, GA; seven grandchildren, Nikki, John Paul, Justin, Angel, Alleson, Kayla and Jake; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends 1:00PM - 2:00PM, Thursday, July 15, 2021 in

First Creek Baptist Church. Funeral services will begin at 2:00PM in the church sanctuary with Rev. Donnie Muddock officiating. Burial will follow in First Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family extends their appreciation to the doctors and staff of the Abbeville Nursing Home for their loving care of Mrs. Argo.

The family is at the home of her daughter, Christi and Allen Hutchens, 7 1st Ave, Iva, SC 29655.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Argo, may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association - Upstate SC, 901 S. Pine Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302 or First Creek Baptist Church, 9511 Abbeville Hwy., Iva, SC 29655.

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 Argo family.

McCormick Middle College to Move Back to PTC McCormick County Campus

Submitted by Kristine Hartvigsen

After a year of fully virtual instruction, McCormick County School District and Piedmont Technical College (PTC) will be returning the McCormick Middle College to its original home on the PTC McCormick County Campus this fall term.

"One of the lessons we've learned from our experience with Covid is that it's important for our students to have a sense of place—and to have a connection to our local community. McCormick County is immensely proud of these students, so we're happy that we've been able to work with Piedmont to begin the transition back to local course delivery for the upcoming school year," said Dr. Jaime Hembree, superintendent of McCormick County School District.

When it comes to academic rigor and career development, McCormick High School offers opportunities on par with schools many times its size thanks to the critical partnership between PTC and the school district. The McCormick Middle College is just one example of what can be achieved when like-minded organizations partner to expand opportunity for youth in their

communities through dual enrollment programs.

Dual Enrollment is a concept in which students can take college courses while still in high school. This affords many high schoolers a taste of college-level academics so they can gain confidence that they can indeed succeed in college.

"We're continually working with McCormick County Schools to deepen the ways we work together and to provide additional options for students," said Tameika Wideman, director of Dual Enrollment at Piedmont Technical College.

The Middle College program has a longstanding history in McCormick County. Launched in the fall of 2011, it is a prime example of a school district providing students with a structured way to maximize the opportunity that comes along with dual enrollment, because participants can earn an associate degree while still in high school. Those credits can transfer to a four-year college or equip them with the skill set they need to enter the workforce immediately and earn a good living.

In past years, up to 30% of the McCormick High School graduating class has earned an associate degree

concurrent with high school graduation.

In addition to the Middle College, McCormick County School District also partners with PTC to provide a wide range of career pathway coursework, including mechatronics, automotive, welding, machine tool, HVAC, cybersecurity and criminal justice on the Greenwood Campus. The District provides students with transportation to take advantage of these opportunities.

"PTC is committed to making opportunities in dual enrollment available to the widest possible number of students in our service area," said Dr. Hope E. Rivers, president of PTC. "We know that this coursework can change lives and have seen it firsthand over and over. We continue to be impressed with the forward-looking, innovative way that McCormick County School District provides opportunities to their students."

PTC strives to make opportunities for early exposure to college-level coursework available to all students, so classes are available to all South Carolina residents taking at least 6 credit hours (generally two classes) tuition-free.



Career Opportunities at Savannah Lakes Village

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We continue to build a team that is focused on enhancing the experience of our members and guests at Savannah Lakes Village.

Here's what we are looking for:

- A great attitude and a drive for continuously improving
- A team member who lives what we believe (see below)

For our Full-Time Senior Groundskeeper

- Technical training in landscaping or lawn maintenance
- Knowledge of safe operation of equipment is required
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Full-Time Field Inspector:

- Experience in the building industry or a related field
- High school diploma or equivalent required

For our Part-Time Recreation Center Receptionist:

- One to two years' experience working in an office environment required, preferably in a community center, activity center, multi-purpose or recreational facility
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Full-Time Equipment Operators (Golf Course and Community Services):

- One year of equipment operation experience preferred
- Knowledge of safe operation of equipment is required
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Part-Time Golf Cart Attendant:

- One or more years of Golf Shop experience preferred
- High school diploma or GED preferred

For our Full-Time Servers:

- Must be 18 years of age or older due to state laws regarding alcoholic beverages
- Reliable work history of working well with others and interfacing with the public; serving experience preferred
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Full-Time Bartender:

- Must be 21 years of age or older due to state laws regarding alcoholic beverages
- Reliable work history of working well with others and interfacing with the public; bartending experience preferred
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Full-Time Cooks:

- One or more years of full food service cooking experience required
- High school diploma or equivalent preferred

For our Full-Time Utility Person:

- Basic knowledge of chemicals used for cleaning required
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1. All growth and improvements to community begin with attracting awesome people with unique talents to our organization who care for and love people as much as we do.
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3. There is power and purpose when everyone works together in the support of common direction and goals.

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Apply in person at the Center St. Cafe (senior center) at 201 Center Drive, Abbeville from 9-12 pm. For inquiries, please call Becky Wilson at 864-223-0164, ext. 8. EOE

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Gilgal Cemetery Association Meeting

Gilgal Cemetery Association annual meeting on July 19 at 11:00 a.m. in the dining room at Gilgal Methodist Church. 7/7:2tc

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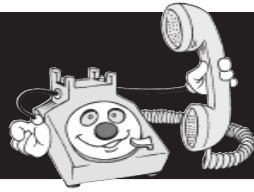
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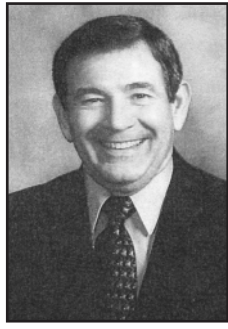
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a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith

Fellowship



jkeithfca@gmail.com

1 John 1:3-4 "That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full."

What does the word "fellowship" mean to you? When you hear the word "fellowship," what image does it conjure up in your mind? For most folks raised in church, the word fellowship brings to mind food. While people do have fellowship around food, the word has a much deeper meaning. The word fellowship is the word koinonia and it means communion, sharing something in common, a partnership. Here in 1 John 1 verses 3-4 we have a wonderful description of fellowship. In verse 3 the apostle John describes fellowship as a partnership with God the Father and Jesus the Son. Because of our relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ we have a common partnership with each other. In verse 3 John describes the source of our fellowship and in verse 4 he deliberates on it. I would like to share three thoughts from verse 4.

The first one is the purpose of fellowship—it is joy. What a joy to have fellowship with

God. We can have a joyful relationship with God no matter what our circumstances are. No matter what is going on in your life, if you are a Christian you can have joy in your fellowship with God. What a joy to realize that God wants to have fellowship with me. Out of the more than 7 billion people on planet earth, God wants to fellowship with me. That thought just blows my mind. The same is true for you as well—God wants to hang out with you. If God had a refrigerator He would put your picture on it. If God had a mantle He would place your picture in a prominent place. God longs to fellowship with you.

Second, notice the people of fellowship—brothers and sisters in Christ. There is something special about the family of God. When you run into a fellow believer in Christ there is a special bond. I have traveled to many places in the world on mission trips and fellowshiped with many believers in various cultures—no matter what the

culture, the fellowship with a fellow believer is special and sweet. It is a joy to fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ at church, in a missions setting, in a hospital room, or in a home setting. People of God have a special bond that cannot be found anywhere else.

Third, notice the passion of fellowship—"that your joy may be full." The passion of fellowship with one another should be full to the brim and spilling over. The words I heard most often during the time of the Covid quarantine were: "I miss the fellowship with fellow church members." Worship online is ok, but it will never take the place of being together in person with the body of Christ. With joyful hearts we have returned to congregating in worship. With grateful hearts we gather together to sing the praises of God and to encourage one another.

Nothing will ever take the place of being together as a family in the house of God. Praise God for fellowship.



At the Due West Fire Department on June 26, firefighter training was held for various aspects of the fire service experience. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Librarians are angels

by Tom Poland

Non-textbooks got our attention, and grammar school trips to the library always perked us up. We'd form a line and head to the library where a wonderful librarian, Miss Sarah, read to us and taught us the Dewey Decimal System. I can see her smiling now. She'd pull up a chair as we gathered around and tell us about the books she was about to read to us.

After her readings, I'd go from section to section reading the titles of books and looking at the strange numbers in white ink upon their spines. Some of you will recall the card catalog and how you located books. The system is a sort of methodical, if primitive, Google. Numbers 800 to 899 cover literature. Numbers 200 to 299 cover religion and 200 forth. Decimal points after the main number direct you to the sub-section you're seeking. The letters following the decimal points come from the author's name or book's title. Books are shelved in alphabetical order. It works pretty well. And I'll say this about Google. It's fast and comprehensive but you don't get that familiar fragrance of paper and ink. And Google comes with no smiling librarian.

All these memories of libraries and librarians came back to me a good while back when I stumbled across an old card catalog in an antique shop. Remember those long drawers stuffed with cards? Today computers guide you to what you seek. When Google made the scene a lot of doomsday prophets predicted the death of libraries. Who

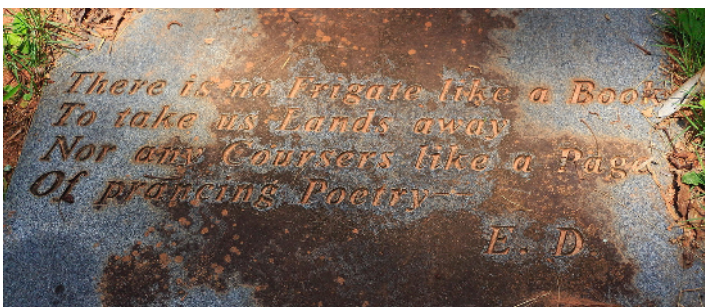
needs a library anymore? Find whatever you want from your home or office.

Not so fast. The libraries and librarians adapted to the new ways and going to the



Wilmington Grave by Tom Poland

library is more productive than ever. I speak at a lot of libraries about my books and back-road adventures. I go too to hear other authors discuss their work. You can go-



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gle a book while in a library, then mosey over to a shelf and hold said book in your hand, but we still need librarians for their insight and assistance in accessing a myriad of resources.

Librarians. What angels. What great help they have long provided. Thursday July 1 two ladies and I made a back-road trek into western South Carolina. Near Wilmington, South Carolina, we searched for the site of Wilmington Academy. Doctor Moses Waddell's Wilmington Academy, a log-constructed classical school for boys, was perhaps antebellum South Carolina's most prestigious

preparatory school. We left a back road for another back road and left it for a dirt road. Near the Wilmington Academy marker was a cemetery, and there I came across the grave of a librarian. Devilish fire ants had put up a mound right by the lady's marker and their hill of mud had obscured much of the engraving.

Ms Ryan was born in 1900 and died in 2002. What changes and history she witnessed. And imagine the students she helped through tumultuous times. On her librarian's grave were these words. "There is no Frigate like a Book

To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry." — E.D. The initials stand for the author, Emily Dickinson. The entire poem reads... "There is no Frigate like a Book/To take us Lands away/Nor any Coursers like a Page/Of prancing Poetry/This Traverse may the poorest take/Without oppress of Toll/How frugal is the Chariot/That bears the Human Soul.

Back when I saw that old card catalog I made a mental note to write about librarians someday. Seeing the librarian's grave gave me the push I needed. Librarians hold the key to knowledge and we owe librarians, past, present, and future, a huge thank you. Visit your local library soon. You'll be glad you did.

