



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

# Renewal, rebirth

## Easter slated for Sunday, April 17

By Henry E. Green

Easter will be celebrated this year on Sunday, April 17.

The holiest day on the Christian calendar, Easter celebrates what Christians believe is the Resurrection of Jesus--when he emerged from the tomb following his crucifixion.

Easter is what is known as a moveable feast. Whereas Christmas is always celebrated on December 25, the day when Easter is observed changes from year to year.

The date of the observance is dependent on the moon, according to Wikipedia.

In western Christianity, Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22

and April 25, within about seven days after the astronomical full moon, Wikipedia tells us.

A number of local government offices will be closed on Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, in observance of the Easter holiday. These include offices of the City of Abbeville, Abbeville County, the Town of Calhoun Falls, and the Town of Due West.

Abbeville County School District schools will be closed on Good Friday.

### Easter traditions

Easter traditions, like those of Christmas, vary from country to country.

According to the Scholastic Parents Website:

--In Bermuda, people

fly kites on Good Friday. According to legend, the tradition started when a local teacher had trouble explaining Jesus's resurrection to his Sunday School class, so he made a kite to explain the concept.

--Residents of Haux, France, serve an enormous omelet on Easter Monday--the Monday after Easter. They use more than 4,500 eggs and feed up to 1,000 people.

--In parts of northwestern Europe, people build large bonfires called Easter fires on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. The tradition started out as a way to chase away winter, but now the bonfires help bring communities together.



Tim Rhodes of Calhoun Falls flipped burgers during the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce Easter Eggstravaganza event on Saturday, April 9. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

# One for the Bunny

## Calhoun Falls Eggstravaganza offers plenty of Easter-oriented fun

By Henry E. Green

Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce presented its annual Eggstravaganza this past Saturday, according to Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce executive director Rebeca McCaslan.

The weather felt far more like January than April. The temperatures were just this side of frigid, and the wind cut like a knife, but the good times rolled anyway.

There was a bounce house, and Calhoun Falls Charter FFA, under the direction of Nancy McCannon, sold hamburgers and hot dogs.

Tim Rhodes of Calhoun Falls could be seen grilling burgers and dogs for the hungry folks.

Rodney Martin of Calhoun Falls was giving archery lessons, and his daughter Gracy was painting faces.

There were cake walks as well for those who possessed a sweet tooth or two.

The Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce has been presenting the Eggstravaganza every year right before Easter for a number of years, with the exception of 2020, when COVID forced its cancellation, McCaslan said.

You could also have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, and the finale was the Easter Egg hunt, in which participants were divided into three age groups. "There were five Golden

Eggs per age group," McCaslan said. "The prizes for those eggs were sponsored by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Calhoun Falls, the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Councilman Long, and Mayor Holland."

Slightly more than 2,000 candy filled eggs were hidden for the hunt on the Blue Hole grounds.

The Chamber's next event will be the Calhoun Falls Springtime in the Falls festival on the third weekend in May.

This year the festival will feature for the first time in a number of years amusement rides, McCaslan continued.



Abbeville High School presented its prom on the evening of Saturday, April 2, at the Livery Stable in downtown Abbeville. (Photo courtesy of Anna Pursley)

# Spring Festival is award-winning event

By Henry E. Green

You probably knew that the Abbeville Spring Festival attracts thousands of people to downtown Abbeville every year.

You probably knew that you could get everything from wings to elephant ears, and listen to just about every kind of music.

But did you know that this yearly gathering place of good times can also be classified as "award winning"?

Yes, the Abbeville Spring Festival was recognized as the best 1989 festival with a community population of

5,000 to 15,000 during the S. C. Governor's Conference on Tourism and Travel.

The award was presented to the City of Abbeville by festival chairman Julye Harris on Feb. 13, 1990.

So says the program from the 1990 festival--May 5-6, 1990, to be exact.

Spring Festival programs are time capsules, giving the reader a taste of the atmosphere, the people, the businesses, and the music from which the festival sprang.

This year, the Spring Festival will be celebrating its

40th anniversary, and much has changed since 1990--and much has not.

The City of Abbeville now presents the festival. Years ago, the stage was in front of the Abbeville County Courthouse, and now it is just north of the Square.

Music is still a big part of the event, as are crafts, rides and--of course--food.

The rides used to be located behind the Abbeville Opera House, and now they have moved to Court Square.



This bounce house delighted youngsters at the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce Easter Eggstravaganza at the Blue Hole recreation area on Saturday, April 9. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

HAPPY

Easter



# Into the heartland

## Abbevillians travel to Minneapolis to see Gamecocks win national title

**By Henry E. Green**  
An Abbeville couple made an excursion into the heartland recently, following their beloved Gamecocks on USC's successful quest for a national title in women's basketball.

Abbevillians Sara Jo Sherard and her husband Don, both USC graduates, both went to Minneapolis to see the Gamecocks play in the Final Four of women's basketball, and go on to win the title.

"This was the second Final Four that we attended," Sara Jo said. "We went to Phoenix, Arizona in 2017 when the USC men's basketball team made the Final Four."

Sara Jo and Don went to Minneapolis with two other couples. "We were all friends at USC and have been best friends for almost 50 years," she said. "We tailgate together at all of the USC football games."

Garnet and black are two colors that come together in the family genes.

"Don graduated from USC in 1976 and I graduated in 1978," said Sherard. "All three of our children grad-

uated from USC, too. We have been Gamecock fans forever!"

The trip itself was something that Sara Jo and Don will not soon forget.

"We flew out of Charleston on Friday morning," she recalled. "The first game was Friday night against Louisville. We stayed for the second game that night between UConn and Stanford. We attended several events while we were in Minneapolis that were sponsored by the Gamecock Club."

The good times continued up until the main event on Sunday, April 3.

"Friday and Sunday, we went to the team 'send-off' events as the team and coaches loaded the bus for the game. It was exciting to see all of the players, coaches, and hundreds of fans. The championship game was Sunday night. It was the most exciting game I have ever attended. My college roommate played basketball for USC and I have always followed our women's basketball team."

"The 'icing on the cake' was at the victory party after the

game. I got to meet Dawn Staley! She is such an incredible coach, leader, advocate for women's sports, and ambassador for our state. This trip was definitely a dream come true!"

The basketball action was not the only attraction for Sara Jo and Don.

"This was our first trip to Minneapolis," said Sara Jo. "The city was very clean and very cold. It snowed on Sunday and left a dusting of snow on the ground. The neat thing about Minneapolis is the Skyway. There are covered walkways over the streets that connect all of the major buildings. We were told that the Skyway is a total of 12 miles. We never went outside except to go to lunch on Sunday."

In this cold, cold city, they even found a measure of fame.

"A funny thing happened," Sara Jo recalled. "My friends and I were on the jumbotron during the game on Friday. We found out that a picture was taken of us from the Jumbotron and was in the NY Times on Saturday!"



Sara Jo Sherard of Abbeville recently spoke about how she and her husband Don went to Minneapolis to see the Gamecocks win the national championship in women's basketball. Here are the Sherards and friends: Carolyn Hash, Sara Jo Sherard, Lisa Rice, Don Sherard and Joe Rice. (Contributed photo)

# CF 'Personality' nominations welcome

**By Henry E. Green**  
Nominations are still being welcomed for the Calhoun Falls Personality of the Year. The deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, May 6, 2022.

Presented by The Press and Banner, the Personality of the Year competition provides a chance to recognize people who have made a positive difference in the Calhoun Falls community.

The nominations are judged by judges chosen by The Press and Banner.

Last year's recipient was Mike Brandt, the commander of American Legion Post 72, which is involved in a number of activities in the

community. Post 72, for example, coordinates a Veterans Day parade in Calhoun Falls every year.

Personality of the Year nominations, meanwhile, may be mailed or e-mailed to The Press and Banner. If they are mailed, they need to be typed.

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

The e-mail address is henry@bannercorp.net

All nominations must be submitted by Friday, May 6, 2022.

No "petition" nominations will be accepted, and the letter must be signed, and a

phone number for further information must be provided.

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

The winner will be honored during the Calhoun Falls Springtime in the Falls festival, held the third weekend in May in Calhoun Falls.

Established in the early 1960s, the "Personality" program has had winners from many walks of life, from business people to ministers to law enforcement officers.



Veronica Patterson of Abbeville is the new executive director of the Tracy Jackson summer program of General Instruction for Tomorrow (GIFT).

# Patterson to head summer food program

**By Henry E. Green**  
Veronica Patterson of Abbeville is the new executive director of the Tracy Jackson program of GIFT.

This program, which has been operating 22 years, aims to provide nutritious meals during the summer to students who during the school year have free or reduced price lunches.

People who paid for the children's school lunches are still welcome at the Tracy Jackson program, as are preschool children--all children up through the age of 18.

As the new executive director, Patterson takes over from Mary Lou Edens, who is retiring.

Patterson took over as the new executive director on March 24 when the board of GIFT (General Instruction for Tomorrow) hired her.

Employed with the Abbeville County School District for the past nine years, she currently works in school food service at Abbeville High School.

"I grew up in Abbeville County," said the 1986 graduate of Abbeville High School.

She and her husband, James D. Patterson, Jr., have been married 33 years, and she is the mother of three and the grandmother of eight.

Patterson is no stranger to the Tracy Jackson program, which has been a summer tradition in Abbeville County for more than two decades.

"I was site supervisor with the GIFT program for more than six years," she said.

This summer, the program will have at least three sites, including the Ellison Center in Calhoun Falls, the Abbeville Civic Center on North Main and the Carver Apartments on Branch Street in Abbeville.

Patterson is also hoping that Hickory Heights apartments will be a site as well, pending the completion of renovations at Hickory Heights.

The program this summer will open on Monday, June 6, and sites will be open Monday through Thursday. Breakfast will start at 9 a.m., with various activities scheduled between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., and lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. It's all free for kids up

to the age of 18.

What activities will be provided is left up to the site supervisors.

"I have three supervisors and three assistant supervisors and one food delivery person," she said.

The meals are prepared by the Abbeville County School District food service, and the program this summer is projected to serve breakfast and lunch to 115 kids June 6 to July 21.

"We will have the week of the Fourth off," she said.

"I am excited about the position I've been offered," she said. "I know this is a different experience for me--coming from site supervisor to executive director."

"It's going to be a whole lot different," she said. "I'm out here for the challenge and I'm going to do the best I can."

She quoted the motto of the Tracy Jackson program: "We do it for the kids."

Patterson said she is completely on board.

"I'm here to do it for the kids," she said.

For further information, one may call the new executive director at 864-828-0216.

# Doggies and kitties

## Pet Adoption Day held at shelter

**By Henry E. Green**

There was a Pet Adoption Day at the Abbeville Animal Shelter Saturday, designed to encourage people to adopt animals housed at the Abbeville County animal shelter.

The Greater Abbeville Humane Society sold baked goods, including chocolate-covered Oreos and chocolate oatmeal cookies, and had drawings, all to benefit the shelter, which is located on the Old Calhoun Falls Road on the outskirts of Abbeville.

"We netted \$600," said Humane Society president

Ann Davis Monday.

Davis on Tuesday thanked the local merchants who donated items used for door prizes for the event.

"They were just overwhelmingly supportive," Davis said.

The event yielded one definite adoption and several potential adoptions, said Davis Monday.

The shelter houses animals such as Cooper, a 10 month year old beagle given to the facility by way of "owner surrender," according to Stephanie Cocchia of Abbeville, the County's animal control officer.

The owner was not able to care for the dog anymore.

Cooper is exceedingly friendly, "hyper-energetic," and "likes to sniff a lot."

The Humane Society, meanwhile, serves as an advocate for animals such as the ones housed at the shelter.

Davis addressed County Council recently on some of the issues facing the animal shelter, which is run by Abbeville County.

The shelter houses both cats and dogs, Humane Society treasurer Jane Agan said Tuesday.

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4/6/22c

# Drug Take Back Day slated for late April

**By Henry E. Green**

The Drug Take Back Day is slated for Saturday, April 23, according to Betsy Royal, prevention specialist with Cornerstone, which is helping coordinate the event.

This event is designed to allow people to turn in unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs.

This will help alleviate a common problem—too often these drugs fall into the wrong hands.

Collection sites will be set from 9 a.m. to noon at Ingles and the Due West Police Department.

This will be one of two drug take back days, with the other slated for sometime

in the fall—at a time to be announced. It is usually in October, Royal said.

In addition to Cornerstone, Abbeville Police Department and Abbeville County Sheriff's Office and Due West Police Department are helping coordinate the event.

"Each year we set a goal, and each year we exceed our goal," she said. "This year (Abbeville Police Department) investigator Dwane Balchin has set a goal of 100 pounds."

Last year, in October, 90 pounds of drugs were collected against a goal of 75 pounds.

"If people can't come on

that Saturday, they can still come to the drop box locations at Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Abbeville Area Medical Center emergency department entrance, and Due West Police Department," said Royal.

"All medications collected at both the drop box locations and the drug take back event will be collected by the Drug Enforcement Agency for incineration."

Other South Carolina counties are slated to have similar events on Saturday, April 30, according to Royal.

"Any medication that you want to be disposed of" is welcome for the Drug Take Back Day, she said.



Jackie Owens (right), who works at the Renaissance in Due West, was inducted into the Abbeville Rotary club recently. Rotary Club president Matthew Johnson (left) welcomed her into the club. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

# Up, up, up Number of Abbeville County transit riders grows exponentially

**By Henry E. Green**

The number of riders using Abbeville County's public transportation system has grown more than 300 percent since its inception last fall, according to Dr. William Boone, executive director of United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County (UCMAC).

The number of people using it has risen from 18 in November to 37 in December to 41 in January, to 45 in February, to 60 in March, Boone said.

"People from Abbeville, Calhoun Falls and Honea Path are using the system and some are even using it to transfer to the Greenwood Transit System to get them to downtown Greenwood," he said.

"This is good news. However, I am concerned that

if we do not obtain even more ridership, we may not be able to justify the continuation of the system once our one-year federal grant expires. Therefore, we need to encourage even more individuals to use this free service. We are one of six remaining counties in our state that do not have a transit system and UCMAC is trying to resolve this issue."

Launched in November of last year, the transit system in Abbeville County is being funded through a grant, as Boone said. The UCMAC executive director has indicated that he would like to see the number of people using the system get into the triple digits.

"This wonderful system is being furnished by McCormick Area Transit System through a \$100,000.00

federal grant," Boone has said. "The grant is for one year. During this year, it will be determined if there is sufficient ridership to apply for additional funding to maintain this public transportation. To reserve your ride, please call 864-446-6415 or 864-852-6655 and most ride request can be accommodated immediately. The grant for the transit system was established to accommodate all areas and businesses within a five-mile radius of the three towns of Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, and Due West.

UCMAC, which has promoted the use of the system, is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization with three component ministries—a free clinic, a food pantry system, and an emergency assistance ministry.



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Promising everything from catfish to wrestling, the Ware Shoals Catfish Festival is coming up May 25-28. This gathering is the biggest event of the year for the town of Ware Shoals, according to Catfish Festival board chairman Rick Holland (right), vice chairman George Leagans (left), and Teresa Holland (center), a festival staff member. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



# Ware Shoals Festival coming up

**By Henry E. Green**

Promising everything from catfish to wrestling, the Ware Shoals Catfish Festival is coming up May 25-28.

Presented by the Catfish Festival board of directors, this gathering is the biggest event of the year for the town of Ware Shoals, according to chairman Rick Holland, vice chairman George Leagans, and Teresa Holland, a festival staff member.

The three stopped by The Press and Banner recently to talk about the festival, which is in its 41st year.

Held on the Square in Ware Shoals, this year's Festival will feature food, entertainment, crafts, a beauty pageant, professional wrestling, amusement rides, a "cruise in" and a golf tournament.

Why Festival? The answer is simple. "Because we feast our way through the week, said Teresa.

And why catfish?

Well, catfish plates will be definitely in abundance at the Festival. Fried catfish, catfish stew, fillets—it will all be there.

As for the entertainment, Wednesday night will be Gospel Night, with several gospel groups slated to perform, beginning at 6 p.m..

On Thursday, Pickens Creek will perform, with a blend of country and Southern rock, beginning at 7 p.m. "Friday we have a group called the Entertainers", playing a variety of music, at 7 p.m., Holland said.

The Tams will be performing Saturday night at 7 p.m. There will also be entertainment throughout the day on Saturday.

Rides will be provided by BNK Amusements.

There will be a "cruise in" by the Laurens County Cruisers, with plenty of vintage cars featured.

In addition to catfish, there will be barbecue, and shrimp

and alligator meat, along with hot dogs and hamburgers, Greek food, "and plenty more".

The professional wrestling, which has been one of the most popular segments of the Festival through the years, will include this year a Loser Leave Town match on Saturday night.

"We don't charge to park," added Rick.

"We rent shuttles to transport handicapped" people to the Festival," said Teresa.

Ware Shoals is a community of approximately 2,000 people which lies on the border of three counties--Abbeville, Greenwood, and Laurens.

It is a town through which the Saluda River flows, as is noted in the Ware Shoals High School alma mater.

The Festival is presented by a board of 10 people, and a number of volunteers.

For CF police

# County to give two vehicles to CF

**By Henry E. Green**

Abbeville County government will donate two vehicles to the Town of Calhoun Falls for their police department, Abbeville County Council decided Monday night.

Council took the action following an executive session. Council member Rick Campbell made a motion to authorize the County Director to transfer two high mileage Sheriff's Office vehicles to the Town of Calhoun Falls for use by the Town's police department.

This was seconded by Council member Jason Bonds, and passed unanimously by those present.

Council member James McCord was absent from the meeting.

The Calhoun Falls Police Chief had expressed a need to the Sheriff Ray Watson that the Town needed some Police equipment.

Calhoun Falls Police Chief Tim Richey noted Tuesday that the donation of the equipment definitely meets a need. "The generosity (of the County) is outstanding," he said. "He went the extra mile-the Sheriff did."

The police are expected to pick up the vehicles next week.

"We do appreciate it," said Richey, expressing his gratitude to the County Council and the Sheriff.

Sheriff Ray Watson was not available for comment at press time.

In other news, Abbeville County Council will have a budget workshop on April 25. County Director David Garner told Council Monday night.

Also Monday night, Council:

--Passed third reading of an ordinance to amend the County Zoning Map for one parcel of land located on Dorsett Lane, from a zoning district of Restricted Residential and Forest Agricultural to one of General Residential.

--Passed third reading of an ordinance to enter into a lease with First Steps for 1041 square feet of space located in the old Abbeville County Administration Building at 394 Highway 28 Bypass, Abbeville.

--Had first reading on a budget ordinance for the fiscal year beginning July 1 of this year.

--Had first reading on an ordinance on a fee in lieu of taxes agreement in conjunction with Project Foam.

All ordinances are read into the record on first reading, and a vote is not necessary.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contract with Collins Services for painting of the Abbeville County Museum not to exceed \$11, 256.51.

The money will be coming from the remaining funds from a grant the Museum received several years ago.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Heaner Design Group of Greenwood for engineering services for roadway improvements to Diamond Hill and McIlwain fire substations in Abbeville County not to exceed \$9, 545.

--Passed resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Vic Bailey Ford for the purchase of one 2021 Ford Ranger for

Public Works not to exceed \$27, 805.

--Passed resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Vic Bailey Ford for the purchase of one 2022 Ford F-350 Crew Cab for the maintenance department not to exceed \$45,000.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Holston Gases of Greenwood for the delivery of Medical Gases to the Abbeville County Emergency Services Department.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual agreement with Travis Howze for professional services for the Abbeville County Fire Training Day at a cost of \$5,500.

Howze will be speaking at the Training Day, which is slated for June 25, and which will be held at Erskine and the Due West Fire Department. County Fire Marshal Tim Williams told Council.

A retired fire fighter, Howze is also a comedian. Williams said.

Abbeville County has about 270 volunteer county fire fighters.

The municipal fire fighters in Abbeville County are invited to attend Training Day.

"This is our fourth year" of having a County fire training day, he said Tuesday.

--Passed resolution providing preliminary approval for certain incentives to induce Project Foam to establish or expand facilities in Abbeville County.



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# Richard B. Russell Lake to hold 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kid's Fishing Derby

Submitted by  
US Army Corps  
of Engineers

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Richard B. Russell Project Office, is hosting the 32nd Annual Kid's Fishing Derby on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at Blue Hole Recreation Area, located on Hwy. 81 in Calhoun Falls, SC.

Youth, ages 5-15, may participate, if registered. Check-in is from 7-8 a.m. and fishing hours are from 8-11 a.m. A water safety program will follow along with prizes and a free lunch. Lunch is provided to all registered participants by the Lake Russell Recreation

and Tourism Coalition and consists of a sandwich, chips, drink, and dessert. Attendees 16 or older may purchase a lunch for \$5 per person (subject to availability).

Along with fishing for stocked catfish, yard games, a playground, and an archery area will be available and free. Several prizes will be awarded, including a grand prize drawing for a loaded tackle box.

Space is limited to the first 100 anglers, so registration is required to reserve your spot and lunch. To register please call the Russell Lake Project Office at 706-213-3400 or 1-800-944-7207.

Parents and guardians can

fish outside the net during the fishing derby with a Georgia or South Carolina fishing license. Youth 15 and younger do not need a fishing license.

Restrooms and drinking water will be available for everyone, but attendees should plan to bring their own chair, fishing gear, and sunscreen. Life jackets are highly recommended for children and weak swimmers who will be near the water.

For additional information, or to learn how to donate, please call Park Ranger Annette Dotson toll free at 1-800-944-7207 or 706-213-3406.



During the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce Easter Eggstravaganza event on Saturday, April 9, Gracy Martin painted the face of eight-year-old Miriyah Holland. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



## EASTER JOY

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



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# Obituaries

## Stone

Elizabeth Kelly Stone, 94, of Abbeville, SC, wife of the late Howard 'Buddy' Stone, died Thursday, April 7, 2022 at the Abbeville Nursing Home. She was born in Abbeville to the late Emory and Ira Vaughn Kelly.

Mrs. Stone retired from the former Calvin Klein sewing plant in Abbeville. A member of Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church, she worked in the nursery for many years.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Stone was preceded in death by two sisters, Irene Bolten and Amy Hayes.

She is survived by two sons, Gary Stone (Margaret) and Kenny Stone (Cindy), all of Abbeville, SC; four brothers, E. B. Kelly of Anderson, SC, David Kelly (Heidi) of North Dakota,



Elizabeth Kelly Stone

James Kelly of Asheville, NC and Billy Kelly of Abbeville, SC; a sister Linda Kelly of Abbeville, SC; three grandchildren, Angela O'Kelley, Bradly Stone, Jessie Stone; two great-grandchildren, T.J. McNeill and Samantha McNeill; two great-great-grandchildren,

Blayne Toms and Bristol Cozart.

Graveside services were 3:00PM, Saturday, April 9, 2022 in Long Cane Cemetery with Rev. Wayne Wick-er officiating. The family received friends following the service.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Stone, may be sent to Connie Maxwell Children's Home, PO Box 1178, Greenwood, SC 29648.

The family will be at their respective homes.

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting [www.harrisfuneral.com](http://www.harrisfuneral.com).

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

# Obituaries

## Brown

Mr. Dondi L. Brown, 64, of E. Savannah Street, Calhoun Falls, husband of Cynthia Marie Newton Brown, passed away on Monday, April 4, 2022, at Abbeville Area Medical Center.

Dondi was born in Cleveland, OH on May 30, 1957, son of the late Gerald Royce Brown and Shirley Ann Teribury Brown. Mr. Brown graduated with honors from Clover High School, Clover, SC, in 1975 and went on to further his education at Erskine College where he earned a BA in Mathematics Education in 1979. He earned a MED in mathematics and secondary education from Clemson University in 1982.

Mr. Brown was a devoted educator who touched the lives of many during his time of teaching. He taught at Calhoun Falls High School, McCormick High School, Gaffney High

School, North Gaston High School, John de la Howe School, Greenwood High School, Piedmont Technical College, and Calhoun Falls Charter School. In addition to teaching, Dondi was a high school league sports official.

He was a dedicated member of Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church where he was the choir director. Dondi loved his church family, his Gamecocks, his Blue Flashes, and everyone with whom he came in contact during his teaching and sports career.

Survivors, in addition to his wife Cindy, include his children: Adam (Alyson) Brown and Cory (Jenna) Brown; step-children: Vance (Hiro) Johnson, Lyle (Jill) Johnson, Blake (Jennifer) Johnson, and Whitney J. (Trey) Broadwell; grandchildren: Adason, Anslee, Caroline, Ellison, and Sut-

ton; step-grandchildren: George, Ethan, Rylan, Laken, Landon, and Bennett; and siblings: Terry (Karen) Brown, Duane (Stephanie) Brown, Bradley (Robyn) Brown, and Roger Brown.

Funeral services celebrating his life was held on Friday, April 8, at 4 o'clock at Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church with burial followed in Latimer Cemetery. The family received friends at the church from 3:00-3:45p.m. on Friday prior to the service.

Contributions may be made in his memory to Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church or to District 4 SC Football Officials.

Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at [www.berryfh.com](http://www.berryfh.com).

Berry Funeral Home & Crematory of Elberton, GA is respectfully in charge of arrangements for Mr. Dondi L. Brown.

CROSSWORD														
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- In the Queen of Hearts' oven?
- Indiana Jones' quest
- Dance with leis
- Sheikh, alt. sp.
- Opposite of paleo
- Hedgehog of movies and video games
- Toilet, to a toddler
- Pilot's estimate acronym
- One deserving of respect?
- \*Like submarine
- \*Abbey Road location
- Lobe location
- Per person
- To the \_\_\_ degree
- \*\*"Twist and Shout" endearment
- English confection
- Wraths
- Swarm like bees
- Not taken and taken
- Skiing helmet manufacturer
- Homework assignment
- Kamakawiwo'ole's strings, pl.
- Thermonuclear weapon
- Type of list
- Frost residue
- "God, We Praise You" (2 words)
- Redecorate, e.g.
- What Carl Lewis did
- Doctor's order
- December 31st, e.g.
- \*\*"Whisper words of \_\_\_"
- \*\*"Please \_\_\_ Me," 1st album
- Amusement
- Rage
- Scary movie consequence
- \_\_\_ del Carmen, Mexico
- Corn spot
- Reach a goal (2 words)
- Unit of heredity
- Cry of alarm
- Wipe out

#### DOWN

- Cough syrup amt.
- Greeting at sea
- Blood vessel network
- Ownership document
- NASA's first space station
- All over again
- Retired, abbr.
- Aussie bear
- \*\*"I want to \_\_\_ your hand"
- Editing arrow
- Bank holding
- Acronym, abbr.
- Mister in Brazil
- Speak from a podium
- Month X
- Hideous sight
- \*\*"It's been a hard day's \_\_\_"
- Social group
- Roman king of Judea
- \*Starr's predecessor
- \*Fabulous number
- Faquir, alt.sp.
- Swelling
- Ruhr's industrial center
- Not all
- Like a full-fledged Mafia man
- Cry of the Alps
- The enlightened one
- Barn sound
- Nervous (2 words)
- Inflict a blow
- Truth or Dare player?
- \_\_\_ E. Coyote
- Persian Gulf country
- Eye infection
- Peephole glance
- \_\_\_ good example
- Chows down
- Frugal driver's acronym
- Fish eggs
- Unidentified Jane

Answer in the Classifieds

## Ouzts

Kevin A. 'Rock' Ouzts, 60, of Abbeville, died Sunday, April 10, 2022, at his residence. He was born in Abbeville to Jean Scott Ouzts and the late Donnie M. Ouzts.

Kevin was a member of the Class of 1979 at Abbeville High School. Employed with Velux for over 30 years, he most recently worked with Prysmian Cable. Kevin enjoyed kayaking and playing bagpipes. He was a member of South Side Baptist Church.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his grandfather, Bud Scott; and two uncles, Jimmy Ouzts and Tommy Wilson.

Kevin is survived by his mother, Jean Ouzts; son,



Kevin A. 'Rock' Ouzts

T.C. Ouzts (Maddie Howe); brother, Chris Ouzts (Nancy); grandmother, Georgia Scott; uncle, Ronnie Scott (Sara Lee); granddaughter, Marly Ouzts; nephew, Blake Ouzts; and the mother of

his son, Laura F. Ouzts all of Abbeville.

A service to celebrate Kevin's life will be 3:00PM Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at Harris Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends following the service.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Kevin, may be sent to the Greater Abbeville County Humane Society, PO Box 256, Abbeville, SC 29620.

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting [www.harrisfuneral.com](http://www.harrisfuneral.com).

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

## Nixon

Archie Stephen 'Steve' Nixon, 63, of Abbeville, SC passed away on April 6, 2022. He was born in Abbeville on November 14, 1958 to Elaine Payne Nixon and the late Archie 'Bull' Nixon.

Steve attended local schools. He was employed in manufacturing management and administration across several sectors including textile mills, Michelin and Capsugel.

An outstanding musician, Steve was a multi-instrumentalist, sang in choirs and played bagpipes throughout his teenage years, continuing through college and beyond. His love of music allowed him to perform and share his talents across the region and in Europe. Steve graduated from The Citadel in 1981 as a member of the Band Company and was Drum Major of the Regimental Pipe Band.

Steve was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, especially for bass and deer. Steve was well known for being a talented fisherman, competing in many tournaments. He could often be found on a pond, spending the day catching anything



Steve Nixon

that would bite.

Steve passed along his appreciation for nature and music to his children. They learned to hold a fishing pole before they could hold pencils and received degrees in music education.

Steve was thoughtful and understood that life was filled with ups and downs. He assured everyone that there was no such thing as normal, except for a setting on a washing machine. Steve reminded us that the opposite of more wasn't less, as one may think, but simply 'enough'.

He was preceded in death by his father, Archie 'Bull' Nixon.

Steve is survived by his

beloved children, Amelia (Andrew) Prioli, of Cranston, Rhode Island and Cameron (Lisa) Nixon of Cincinnati, Ohio; mother, Elaine, of Abbeville, SC; siblings, Craig Nixon of Anderson, SC, Janet Nixon of Davidson, NC and Todd Nixon of Atlanta, GA; a new grand-daughter, Cora Elaine Prioli; and the mother of his children, Cathleen.

A celebration of Steve's life was at 3:00PM, Sunday, April 10, 2022 in Harris Funeral Home with Rev. Brandon Fulmer officiating. The family received friends following the service.

The family is at the home of his mother, Elaine Payne Nixon.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Steve, may be sent to the SC Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167, or visit [dnr.sc.gov](http://dnr.sc.gov).

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting [www.harrisfuneral.com](http://www.harrisfuneral.com).

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

# Community calendar

### Easter egg hunt planned

Looking to get out of the house? Come enjoy a community Easter egg hunt, bounce house, games and refreshments. All attendees will receive a dinner plate to go.

The Easter egg hunt will be Saturday April 16

from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Haigler Street Church of Christ Tomorrow Center at 294 Taylor Town Road, Abbeville. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to 864-366-4931.

### Surprise service planned

Lower Long Cane Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church will have a Sunrise Easter worship service at 7 a.m. on April 17.

Rev. Eldridge Kelley will lead the service, and coffee and doughnuts will be served afterwards.

# TLC

## Erskine's Alumni House in Due West getting very, very elegant makeover

By Henry E. Green

Last summer The Press and Banner ran a story about Erskine's plans to renovate a house and make it into a center for alumni activities.

Nearly a year later, the house, located on Main Street in Due West, is looking good, thanks to some tender loving care and a number of renovations, and Erskine's Paul Bell was very pleased to show it off to a Press and Banner reporter.

Since last summer, the house's interior has been supplied with a number of furnishings--tables, chairs, rugs, mirrors--and Bell, Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations, and Hope Seymour, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, talked about how the house has come alive thanks to some tender loving care.

Dating from 1880, the house was built by William McGee of Due West. "He was a very wealthy merchant," said Bell.

McGee made a fortune in textiles, and was a major benefactor of what is now Furman University. He was also one of the founding members of Due West Baptist Church.

Erskine has owned the house since the 1940s, and began renovating it last June.

The renovations included demolition of parts of the house that were in disrepair, according to Bell.

"We enclosed some open spaces, renovated bathrooms, we finished floors and replaced some floors with heart pine," he said.

The renovations also included all new plumbing and all new wiring, and central

heating and air conditioning were installed for the first time in the house's history.

Interior decorating was provided by Kayli Hibbard, the executive director of the Bowie Arts Center.

Renovation work was provided by Greg Graber of GT Building in Due West.

"We replaced porch roofs with metal, and repainted the exterior", and the front terrace as well, Bell continued.

A number of the furnishings came from the Klugh House, which has been donated to Erskine by the Bradley-Klugh family.

Art work came from an art collection at Erskine, Bell continued.

A number of gatherings have already been held there, and the future looks bright for the house that Mr. McGee built.



Erskine's Alumni House, located in downtown Due West, has been getting a very serious makeover. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

## RYLA experience priceless for teens

By Henry E. Green

Mark Peeler learned something when he was nine years old that he would not soon forget.

As he told Abbeville Rotarians recently, he was playing basketball when he was fouled--tackled, basically--by an opposing player.

Yet, no foul was called, much to Peeler's dismay and to the dismay of much of the audience. He went over to talk to his coach, Fred Rosencamp, and to his surprise, Rosencamp did not complain about the lack of a foul.

Instead, he said that Peeler should not have been in a position to be fouled, because he had a teammate who was open.

Peeler, he said, should have been passing the ball instead of hanging on to it. "You're a really good passer," the coach told the young man.

This made a big impression on the young man, who grew up to be the athletic director

at Erskine College.

During his college years, Peeler remembered his coach's words when he was playing basketball.

"I led our conference for three years in assists," he told Rotarians.

In his job as athletic director, Peeler also directs RYLA, a week-long program helping to develop leadership skills in young people.

This year, as many as 80 to 100 high school juniors and seniors are expected to attend RYLA, which will be held on the Erskine campus in June.

Chosen largely on the strength of their leadership potential, upon the recommendations of high school guidance counselors working with Rotarians, the young people--all juniors and seniors-- stay on campus during the week of RYLA, listening to speakers and engaging in activities designed to foster teamwork.

The Erskine RYLA was es-

tablished approximately 40 years ago by Dr. Jim Gettys, who started out with about 20 students.

"I took it over in 2000," said Peeler.

Today, according to Peeler, it is the only RYLA in South Carolina. There are other RYLAs in other parts of the world, however.

After a two-year absence because of COVID, RYLA is back. "We're kind of starting over," said Peeler.

Rotarian Jennifer Erwin noted after Peeler's presentation that upon arriving on the Erskine campus, many of the RYLA kids were reluctant to be there, but by the end of the week, they did not want to leave.

They had during the RYLA experience made valuable friendships that could in some cases last a lifetime.

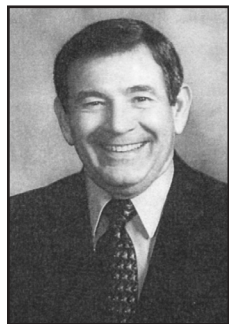
"They've made all these new best friends," said Erwin.



Erskine's Paul Bell (right) and Hope Seymour (left) recently showed off some of the renovations made at the college's Alumni House. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

## a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith



[jkeithfbca@gmail.com](mailto:jkeithfbca@gmail.com)

## Seeking the Lord

Psalm 105:4 "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!"

As the oldest resident of his retirement center, Chester was interviewed by the local paper on his 100th birthday. When the reporter asked about the secrets for longevity, Chester mentioned that he abstained from alcohol, tobacco, and immoral living. He also talked about the virtues of his healthy diet and the benefits of his consistency with exercise. The reporter noted that his own uncle had a similar regimen but only lived to be sixty-five. So he asked, "Since my uncle did the same things you did why do you think he died so much younger than you?" Chester replied, "He didn't keep doing it long enough!"

When it comes to seeking the Lord and His strength, some folks don't do it long enough. They lose patience and stop seeking if they don't receive it instantaneously. I would like to share three things from this passage of Scripture.

First of all, we should

seek the Lord's strength daily. So many only seek the strength of the Lord intermittently--only when they need something. We need to daily seek the Lord and His strength. Every single day we will encounter problems that require the Lord's strength. Every day we face challenges that are beyond our human strength and intellect. What a good habit it is to daily seek the Lord's strength.

Second, we should diligently seek the Lord's strength. Sometimes the Lord does not answer right away. Sometimes the Lord wants us to continually seek Him. It is in the continual seeking of the Lord that strength is built into us. It is from the continual coming to the Lord seeking His strength for the problems of life we face that builds character and stability. When we first come to the Lord and ask for strength, the timing may not be right, and so the Lord makes us wait on His timing. What do you do

while you wait? Keep on seeking His face.

Third, we should deliberately seek the Lord's strength. The direction of the Lord's strength comes from His face. Notice the Psalmist instructs us to not just seek His strength but also to seek His face. Why do you suppose he said that? I believe it is because His face will reveal His pleasure in us. Too often we just seek the hand of the Lord--give me this, or give me that, help me with this or remove this obstacle. The face of the Lord reveals what He is thinking about us. He will smile on us, or He will frown on us. His frown reveals that He is not pleased with what we are doing. His smile reveals that He is pleased with our lives and that gives us strength. What a reassurance His smile is, what a comfort to see His face and know that He is pleased with us.

What strength comes from knowing we are doing what pleases Him.



RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) director Mark Peeler (left) was the featured speaker during a recent Rotary meeting, and he talked about the history and mission of the program. Here he is with club president Matthew Johnson. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

## Two arrests made in Lake Russell case

The Abbeville County Sheriff's Office has made two arrests in connection with an incident involving dogs being thrown into Lake Russell near the Jim Rampey boat ramp, according to the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office.

On April 7, the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office arrested one of the

individuals involved in the Jim Rampey incident from April 3.

Authorities arrested and charged Calvin Bynes Hufflin of Anderson with "animals/ill treatment of animals in general, torture," the Sheriff's Office reported.

On April 8 the second suspect involved in the incident at Jim Rampey State Park, turned himself into authorities. Carondus Allen from

Anderson is being held at the Abbeville County Detention Center awaiting bond, the Sheriff's Office reported.

At press time Abbeville County Sheriff's Office has been in contact with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office on the whereabouts of the other dog involved. Arrangements have already been made to remove the dog from the owners, according to the Sheriff's Office.



Abbeville County First Steps collaborated with the Abbeville County School District in presenting an Easter egg hunt at Pete Smith Complex in Abbeville Friday, April 8. Among those enjoying the activities were (from left) Rebecca Lyman and son Richard, M.J. Gambrell,

# First Steps holds Easter Egg hunt

**By Henry E. Green**

Abbeville County First Steps collaborated with the Abbeville County School District in presenting an Easter Egg hunt at Pete Smith Complex in Abbeville Friday, April 8, according to Abbeville County First Steps executive director Angela Pruitt.

Twenty six people attended the event, said Pruitt, noting that a number of families signed up for speech services as well as services for four-year-olds and five-year-olds from the School District.

The School District offers

services for preschool children, ages three and up, to help with any developmental delays the children might have..

Dione Ashley, coordinator of elementary programs with the Abbeville County School District, was on hand, meeting with the families to see about their needs, Pruitt continued.

Swartzentruber's Bakery donated chocolate chip cookies for the event.

Board member Corrina Gambrell was there with her children, and Jennifer Johnston, from an area home school association,

was present as well, with her children, Pruitt continued.

"I do think it's important to serve children as early as we can," said Pruitt. This makes it easier when they start school, so that they do not fall behind their peers.

Abbeville County First Steps is planning a Mother's Day event on Friday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Pete Smith Complex.

A Father's Day event will be presented by Abbeville County First Steps on Friday, June 17 at the Pete Smith Complex.

# New things to grace this year's festival

**By Henry E. Green**

This year's Abbeville Spring Festival will feature a number of new things, according to City of Abbeville Community Development Director Austin Walker.

"Moments and Mimosas" will be a ticketed event on May 7, which will provide the kickoff for the festival.

"We're going to be sharing and celebrating festival memories," Walker said.

For example, an award will be presented to the family of the late Julye Harris, who was for years the executive director of the festival, before the City took it over. She volunteered for 13 years with the event, said Walker.

"We're going to cut a ribbon to officially kick off the week long celebration," she said.

The Festival will present Mother's Day Gospel Fest at the Abbeville Opera House on Sunday, May 8 at 5 p.m.

The Spiritual Voices of Charleston will be performing, along with five special guests-- Calvin Brownlee and the New Gospel Aires of Abbeville, The Good Shepherd Gospel Singers of McCormick, C.J. and Ah-Noint'd of Elberton,

GA, the Five Star Gospel Singers from Calhoun Falls, and The Sons of Allen of Abbeville and Greenwood, Walker said.

The doors open at 4 p.m., and the program will begin at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Roses will be given out to the first 25 mothers. Tickets are also available at [aftontickets.com/gospel](https://www.aftontickets.com/gospel)

The Festival will also feature a doughnut eating contest. This will take place on Saturday, May 14 on the front porch of Two Brews restaurant on Court Square.

This will be the first time the Festival has featured such a contest.

"It's a benefit for the Caroline Project," said Walker.

The Caroline Project is a suicide prevention program operated through Bow and Arrow Center of Hope.

The restaurant's owner, Matt Gambrell, has entitled the contest "Donut Ever Give Up"

There will be Food Truck Alley on May 9. "We're going to close down Trinity Street," she said. "Right now we have confirmed Smokey Gray's Barbecue, Naps Food Truck, Blondies on

the Bricks brick oven pizza, Wired Treats, and Common Pops."

Tents and food trucks will be set up to house the vendors.

"We'll also have tables and chairs in the Livery Stable and down Trinity Street," she said.

Other new things will include a Kidzone on Washington Street, on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, Walker continued.

This is geared toward kids who may not be old enough to ride the rides.

Various community organizations will be on hand to offer "kid centric activities."

The Department of Natural Resources will be teaching kids how to use a bow and arrow.

Finally, "we have added a second stage for the main weekend," she said. It will be located on Trinity Street between Divine Your Space and Indigenous Underground.

This will be an "acoustic" stage featuring local artists playing acoustic music on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, Walker continued.

Calhoun Falls Charter FFA sold hamburgers and hot dogs during the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce Easter Eggstravaganza on April 9. Here's advisor Nancy McCannon slicing a juicy tomato. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



## Abbeville Opera House

# 'Catfish Moon' to conclude its run

**By Henry E. Green**

"Catfish Moon," a production of the Abbeville Community Performing Arts, will conclude its run at the Abbeville Opera House this coming weekend.

This weekend's performances are on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, April 16 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, according to the City of Abbeville's special events director, Emily Bledsoe.

The play is being directed by Bess Park, while the assistant director is Shelley Reid, and the producer Brad Christie.

The cast includes David Moody as Curly, Andy Tiller as Gordon, Elliot Hawk as Frog, and Kimberly Broome as Betty, according to Park.

The play is a study in friendship and love, and

Park recently provided a glowing testimonial for it.

"It's funny that this show brings out such beautiful aspects of best friends-- family, love, and childhood companionship that inevitably dissolves and grows into adult isolation (about making ends meet) and we forget how important the friendships we forge throughout our lives are to us," she said..

"Kimberly, Andy, Elliot and David bring to this script a sense of deep understanding about our humanity that is so tender and so loving. It's as if they have lived through these very same things and they bring it alive onstage. I believe Laddy Sartin, the playwright, who I've known for many years, is so brilliant about creating.

He invites, he invokes those moment by moment deep connections and friendships and awakens them in us. In later life we often take for granted these friendships and we would be better off if we remembered how precious each and every moment is with all our loved ones.

"In short, I love what these four actors are bringing to this work. They are true, authentic and real. So when it's time to 'go fishing,' it's a plea from the heart to remember joy and friendship, brotherhood and sisterhood.

It's a play that reminds us, from the heart, to follow our dreams and to boundlessly love each other."

# Program helps women battered by abuse

**By Henry E. Green**

Contessa Tate of Calhoun Falls is starting a program to help women battered by domestic violence, a program called Estella's Way: The Home of New Beginnings.

She is hoping to establish a transitional housing facility for victims of domestic violence, and she has named the program after her late grandmother, Melvne Estella Bowie, who passed away about three years ago.

"She was my biggest push," Tate recalled. "My biggest motivation."

Tate, who works in Greenwood, shared the organization's mission and vision.

"Our mission is to be a breath of fresh air, to accept, inspire and rebuild each woman and child into becoming the best version of themselves.

"Our vision is to empower, encourage and educate all while being an inviting place of refuge, as well as to make a significant difference in

the lives of women and their children whose existence has been compromised by abuse. We will provide them with a structured plan to identify and renew their improved well-being.

"My goal is to house women who are in or coming out of domestic situations," she said.

She is looking for a facility in which to house the program. "Abbeville is my desired location," she said.

Tate launched the organization last fall, and she is in the process of making it all come together. Estella's Way, she said, has already been granted its nonprofit 501c3 status, and the organization has already established bylaws as well.

Tate works with Laurens County SAFE HOME, and she is willing to work with other organizations in helping her organization become effective.

She wants to be a voice for women who find themselves

in "domestic" situations.

Many of those women are not aware of the options they have open to them.

In addition, other people often wonder why abused women do not simply leave their abusers.

It is not always that simple. The abuser, for example, could be the sole provider for the household.

Then, too, the woman for whatever reason may be afraid of being alone.

Estella's Way, which is on Facebook, has already begun to make a name for itself in the community, having launched a coat drive, for example, last November.

Tate is looking for a grant to fund the establishment of a facility to house Estella's Way, a facility which would provide transitional housing for women "compromised by abuse."

"I am looking to get funding from different places," she said.

# 'Forever to thee' Carolina fans tickled garnet and black over national hoops title

**By Henry E. Green**

University of South Carolina fans were tickled pink--or should we say "garnet"--over the national championship the Gamecocks recently won in women's basketball, by virtue of a 64-49 victory over Connecticut in the title game.

"Just happy for those kids," said Tom Howie of Abbeville. "Can't imagine the pressure to succeed with being number 1 all season and then proving themselves so. Cudos to Dawn Staley,

Very impressed with both the talent and the quality of the athletes she has brought to the Gamecocks. Forever to thee."

The national title was the second for the women's basketball team, which also claimed the title in 2017.

It might be too early to say that the Gamecocks are establishing a dynasty in women's basketball, but two national titles definitely do not hurt.

Is it possible that Carolina will reach the truly lofty

heights attained by the University of Connecticut?

That much we do not know, but what is certain is that Gamecock Nation is enjoying the moment.

In fact, there will be a parade in Columbia today beginning at 6 p.m., according to WLTX-TV.

The parade will proceed down Main Street and at the State House, where there will be a ceremony honoring the team, according to WLTX.



# A good thing

## Abbeville Lions receive bench for collection of plastic for recycling

**By Henry E. Green**

Looking to protect the environment, Abbeville Lions Club members have been collecting plastic, and the plastic has been turned over to a company called Trex, said Abbeville Lions Club secretary/treasurer Rick Pressly.

When Abbeville Lions, or any other Lions Club doing that, report 500 pounds of plastic collected in a six

month period, the company provides the club with a bench made of recycled plastic, according to Pressly.

The club is donating the bench to Pro Towels, because the firm has provided about 80 percent of the plastic collected by the club, Pressly said.

Trex melts down the plastic and uses it to make decks, as well as furniture, and other items.

This is part of a nationwide program in which many Lions clubs are involved.

"We're collaborating with the Due West Lions" in the program.

The Abbeville Lions started collecting plastic in July of last year, and thus far have collected 4,633 pounds so far, he said.

The bench being donated to Pro Towels is actually the second Trex has given to the

club. The first was received in October, and the club is looking for a donor, Pressly continued.

Pro Towels and other industries have donated most of the plastic collected by the Lions, but individual Lions have collected grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping bags, cereal bags—all made of plastic.

"We have a drop box at

Highway 28 Farm and Garden," he said.

Other members of the community are also encouraged to donate plastic as well. You don't have to be a Lion to collect it, Pressly continued.

"This is part of the focus of Lions, to protect the environment," he said.

Established in the 1930s, the Abbeville Lions Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at the

Abbeville Veterans Memorial Foundation building on Long Branch Street in Abbeville.

The club has a scholarship program for local high school graduates, and the Abbeville Lions have also adopted a portion of Highway 28 Bypass on the western outskirts of Abbeville, assembling periodically to pick up trash along the highway and to keep it clean.

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## AHS has good week in baseball action

**By Henry E. Green**  
The Abbeville High School Panthers had a very good week indeed, according to AHS varsity baseball coach Daniel Little.  
The Abbeville High School varsity baseball team won all three of its games last

week, with the Panthers defeating Ware Shoals, and Greenville Tech Charter twice, Little said.  
The Panthers improved their record to 12-1 overall and 5-1 in the Region, the coach continued.  
This week, AHS was slated

to play Ninety Six yesterday, and is scheduled to host Region foe Ninety Six Friday, and to host Greenwood Christian in non-Region game Saturday morning at 11 a.m., he said.



The Dixie High School soccer team, which recently enjoyed a trip to Tennessee, posed for this picture recently. Dixie has a rich tradition in soccer, and the Hornets already have one state championship under their belt. (Photo courtesy of Brian Gamble)

## Dixie beats Whitmire in baseball action

**By Henry E. Green**  
The Dixie High School varsity baseball team played only one game last week, but that game was a victory, according to Dixie head coach Michael Turner.  
The Hornets defeated Region foe Whitmire at Whitmire 8-3 on Tuesday, April 5, Turner said Monday.  
The winning pitcher was Brandon Hershberger, who struck out four, walked four, and gave up three runs on

six hits, Turner continued.  
The Hornets pounded out six hits, and were led by Hunter Satterfield, Brandon Hershberger, Case Minor, and Kendon Kelley. Hershberger and Minor each had a single and two RBIs, and Satterfield and Kelley each had a hit and an RBI.  
Max Peeler and Thomas Ferguson were one for three at the plate.  
This week the Hornets will be busy, playing three

Region games. They were slated to host Ware Shoals yesterday, Whitmire today in Due West at 7 p.m., and Friday at Ware Shoals at 7 p.m.  
As of Monday morning, the Hornets were 8-6 overall, and 3-2 in the Region, Turner said.  
"I'm pleased with where we are right now," he said. "We played a solid game against Whitmire."

## AHS defeats Ninety Six in softball action

**By Henry E. Green**  
The Abbeville High School varsity softball team played just one game last week, but that game turned out to be one in the "win" column, according to AHS varsity softball coach Tim Collins.

The Panthers defeated Ninety Six 16-2 Friday at Ninety Six, Collins said Monday.  
"A good win for the Panthers," he said, noting that his team is now 3-1 in the Region, and 13-4 overall.

The AHS softball team is now slated to play Greenwood Christian Thursday at Greenwood Christian, in a varsity doubleheader beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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If so, you qualify to participate in our study regarding the health and mental healthcare needs of rural veterans. Participation entails an interview of approximately 20-45 minutes, which can be done via phone or Zoom (audio only). You will receive a **\$25 gift card** as a token of our appreciation. If you are interested in participating in the study, **please complete this short survey by scanning this QR code OR by copying this link into your Web Browser OR making an appointment over the phone/ email with Camden Patsel**

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SC Statehouse Reports 2022-The Senate--Senator Mike Gambrell

## Legislative summary

Senator Mike Gambrell  
Legislative Summary  
April 8, 2022

This was a busy week in Columbia, and we were visited by many groups from around the State. The Citadel Alumni hosted their annual barbeque on Tuesday night. It is always well attended. On Wednesday, I met with the Superintendent and Board Members of Anderson School District 1 at the Governor's Mansion. The Governor presented a Proclamation making April military families and children month. This Anderson School District is a Purple Star District, a designation given in recognition of

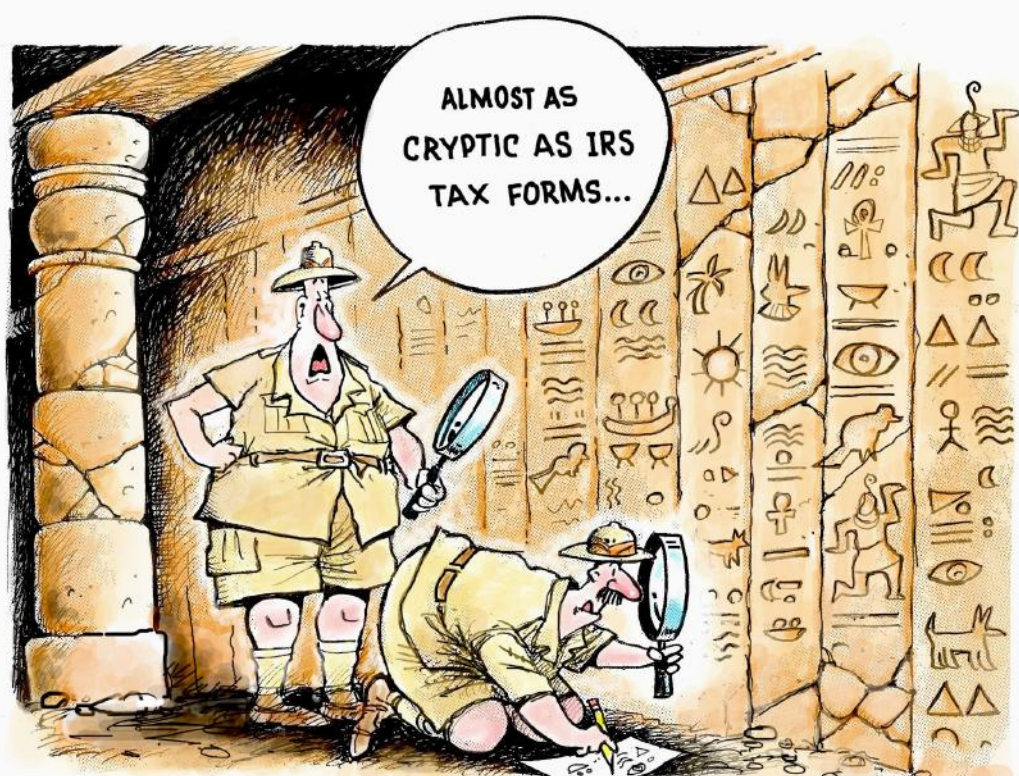
schools and districts that make a significant commitment to welcome and support military families. We are very proud of the District for these efforts.

The SC Hospital Association was on the grounds of the State House Wednesday, and I met with officials from both Self Regional Hospital in Greenwood and AnMed Hospital in Anderson. There was a reception later hosted by the SC Optometric Physicians, and I visited with Marion Williams and John McNeely there.

As predicted last week, there was a flurry of bills back and forth between the Senate and House, as it was cross-over week. We held

additional Sub-Committee meetings, and next week will be primarily Senate Finance meetings to finalize the State Budget that will go on the full Senate floor the week after Easter. There are only four weeks left in the regular session, and much to do!

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



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## Scott to Honor Veterans of the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq at Appreciation Event

WASHINGTON – Today, Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) announced an upcoming event to honor all active, reserve, and National Guard military personnel along with defense contractors who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I am grateful to each and every one of our men and women and uniform," said Sen. Scott. "The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq undoubtedly shaped the world that we live in now, and it's critical that we don't forget the

sacrifices of servicemembers and their families over the last two decades."

The appreciation event will take place at Seacoast Church, 750 Long Point Rd, Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464 on May 7, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The program will include a performance from the Marine Corps Band of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, as well as remarks from Sen. Scott along with other distinguished military officials. Representatives from

the Veterans Administration and other veteran-serving organizations will be present to provide assistance and resources to veterans in attendance.

All who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as friends and family, are encouraged to attend.

The event is free to attend; however RSVPs are required. All who wish to attend can RSVP at OurHeroes.Eventbrite.com

## US House of Representatives

### Rep. Duncan Pushes Back on Democrats' Gas Price Gaslighting

Submitted by  
Congressman  
Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C.— Last week, Rep. Jeff Duncan and House Republicans pushed back on the Democrats trying to shift the blame of the energy crisis away from the Biden White House's America-last energy policies and onto oil and gas companies. The Energy and Commerce Committee hosted a hearing Wednesday where oil and gas company executives testified before Congress, and House Republicans proved how the pain Americans feel at the pump is a result of Joe Biden's cancellation of American energy production and his

war on domestic production.

"This hearing is a complete and total deflection by the Democrats to distract from the energy crisis that President Biden and Congressional Democrats have created. They're trying to find someone else to blame. Don't let them gaslight you – record high gas prices don't just lay at the feet of Vladimir Putin or oil and gas companies," said Rep. Jeff Duncan during the hearing on Americans' pain at the pump.

"While the world is focused on the war in Ukraine, Americans really need to be focused on the Biden War against American energy here at home. ...," said Congressman Jeff

Duncan during the press conference. "The real issue at hand here is that America is blessed with abundant natural resources, unfortunately we're cursed by liberal politicians who would rather harm American families by causing them to pay more at the pump because of these America-last energy policies put forth by the Biden Administration. This isn't Putin's price hike – this is Joe Biden's war on American energy. Joe Biden did this on day one. ... It is past time to flip the switch on American energy production to restart American energy production in order to give American families the relief they deserve by producing here at home."

## Letter to the Editor

Mr. Editor,  
I would like to express my opinion about something while I still have the freedom to do so.

Since the present party in office has been in power, this country (which I love dearly) is going down fast. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realize this.

I know that a lot of people are going to scoff at this and call me a religious nut, but what made this country great since the beginning when it was founded was faith in God, and yes, the majority of them were Christian.

A country that murders human beings in the early stages of life and makes it legal and brags about it like New York did deserves what is happening right now.

If we thought COVID was bad, we haven't seen nothing yet. Hold on to your hats, the best is yet to come unless this country repents of these things and we get on our knees and get back to what this country was founded on in the beginning.

Only Jesus Christ (Yashua) can give us this peace that passeth all understanding.

Jesus said that people would know we belonged to him by the love we show for one another.

This faith in God (and yes you might not like to hear it) repents of these things. If America is a sinking ship, I'm going to go down with her.

I thank my God often for letting me be born and live in this Great Nation where I can acknowledge faith in Christ without getting my head cut off or losing my job.

I'm also grateful to be a South Carolinian, and yes, I love Abbeville also!

God Bless,  
Michael D. Allen

## Letter to the Editor

I realize that what I write, many people may have an aversion to. The point is not to cause people's moods to plummet or their blood pressure to soar, but rather, as it reads in Ephesians 5:11, to expose the unfruitful works of darkness and raise awareness on issues the system makes every effort to conceal. Although people may have an aversion to such subject matter, this doesn't make it irrelevant. The relevancy is that if the official version of something on the magnitude of the OKC bombing is a lie, ponder for a good, honest moment on what else is a lie. This affects everyone whether they realize it or not.

I leave my email so that anyone can address what I've written whether they agree or disagree. Since I wasn't contacted via email by Dr. Bob Phillips and he left no contact info. in his letter last week, I need to address some of the points he made here.

It was stated that my "paranoid suspicion about the Oklahoma federal building bombing trashes Sheriff Hanger's courage." Then Oklahoma state trooper Charlie Hanger, who later became Noble County Sheriff, pulled Timothy McVeigh over shortly after the bombing of the Murrah building on April 19th, 1995, on the interstate because McVeigh was driving with no license plates. McVeigh also had no proof of insurance and no bill of sale for the car. McVeigh had a loaded Glock .45 and a knife. McVeigh did not draw the weapon and was arrested for the possession of a concealed weapon and driving without plates and insurance. It was also stated by Dr. Phillips that McVeigh "was armed to the teeth at the time." I don't find having one gun and one knife to constitute being armed to the teeth. Hanger did not know who this person was. He did not know McVeigh was the alleged bomber of the Murrah building. The traffic stop and the arrest fall within the parameters of being routine. Hanger did not exhibit any more courage than any other officer would have given these circumstances and so, I find these statements by Dr. Phillips to be inaccurate and misleading spin. If I have come to the conclusion that the official government and media version of the

OKC bombing is not the truth, how does this trash Charlie Hanger in any way? The arrest of McVeigh on the highway is actually a very minor detail in the entirety of the real story of the OKC bombing. Hanger was simply doing his job and made a proper arrest, albeit not knowing who he was arresting. There is nothing outstanding in this situation regarding Charlie Hanger and any resulting notoriety fell into his lap from this incident.

Instead of addressing any points I have made in previous writings on this subject, ad hominem attacks are made by Dr. Phillips and I am referenced as a "conspiracy nut" and "conspiratorial extremist." These labels go with the territory and are easy to heap on someone, but in no real way support the notion that what I've written on this subject is not true.

The official version of the bombing is that a truck bomb from McVeigh's Ryder truck parked on the outside of the building blew up the building. The next paragraph is a verbatim account from what was written in an editorial in the Press and Banner dated 10/27/21:

"Wright Armament Laboratory at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida conducted its own independent analysis of the same type of ammonium nitrate bomb from the McVeigh Ryder truck that allegedly did all the damage to the Murrah building. Their conclusion was that: "the damage at the Murrah Federal Building is not the result of the truck bomb itself, but rather due to other factors such as locally placed charges within the building itself." As well, nuclear physicist and inventor of the neutron bomb Samuel T. Cohen stated: "I believe that the demolition charges in the building, that were placed inside at certain key concrete columns, did the primary damage to the Murrah Federal Building. It would have been absolutely impossible, and against the laws of nature, for a truck full of fertilizer and oil...no matter how much was used...to bring the building down." A third witness in this testimony is Benton K. Partin, ret. USAF, who spent his career conducting bomb damage analysis with explosives for the military. Partin concluded that

explosives were placed at four critical junctures on supporting columns within the building."

McVeigh did not place these charges in the building that Cohen, Partin, and Eglin AFB enumerate. If McVeigh was somehow sophisticated and stealth enough to place these charges inside the building beforehand, then he would have never used a Ryder truck. He wouldn't have placed himself at the scene to be identified by eyewitnesses later. Also, if he were sophisticated enough to do this on his own, he wouldn't be rolling down the highway in the getaway car with no license plates and no proof of insurance, begging to be arrested.

The aforementioned constitutes reasoned and justifiable doubt about the official version of the OKC bombing being the truth, not "paranoid suspicion." There is a 500 page book entitled "The Medusa File II: The Politics of Terror and the Oklahoma City Bombing," by Craig Roberts, a 27 year veteran of the Tulsa PD, which definitively shows the official version of the OKC bombing to be anything but the truth; with McVeigh merely playing the role of the fall guy, but not the mastermind behind the event, and the Ryder truck serving as a diversion from the real source of the blast. It's not so easy to write off the likes of Partin, Cohen, and Roberts as "conspiracy nuts." That is, if one is intellectually honest.

And as for the final statement in Dr. Phillips' letter of "America, love it or leave it," my response is this: The love of country does not equate to believing everything the government and media tell us. Patriotism is not pretending deep criminality does not exist at the highest levels of the system. The love of country is not the love of Big Brother. The philosophy behind the construction of the US Constitution can be summed up with a quote attributed to John Philpot Curran: "The condition upon which God hath given liberty is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt."

Geoff Hult  
nonwo222@gmail.com





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(5) The name of the applicant and the address of the business to be licensed.  
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