



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

County undergoing reassessment

By Henry E. Green
(See related article on Assessor's Office)

Abbeville County is undergoing a process of property reassessment, Abbeville County Assessor Gregg Currin is reminding residents.

"Reassessment is the state mandated process that attempts to adjust the properties in the County to current market values," said the Assessor.

There are a few important things to remember about the reassessment process, he said.

For example, the market values reflect increases experienced over five years

- not just from last year.

"State law limits the amount that a property's tax value, the value you pay taxes on, may increase to 15% in most cases but market value will be set at current market rates," Currin added. "Sales and property alterations--splits, additions and sales known as ATIs--may increase to current market value without an upper limit.

Finally, properties with agricultural exemption are prohibited from reassessment, which is a process which definitely keeps the Assessor's office.

"Reassessment is a multi-year multi-faceted process which requires all our staff

to be proficient at multi-tasking," he said.

"Remember, we are reassessing every property in the county while still performing our full-time day jobs. The Assessor and Deputy Assessor develop, test and verify the various statistical models used in the different market districts in the county.

"With those models and supervision, the staff applies those techniques to result in a certifiable reassessment. All members of the assessment team play a crucial part in completing the reassessment."

Calhoun Falls Mayor Terico Holland (right) participated in the March 12 Lake Russell Hustle, presented by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition. Here he is with Coalition president Bebe Wesson on the day of the 5K event. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



First draft of budget for County complete

By Henry E. Green

The first draft of the proposed budget for 2022-2023 for Abbeville County government has been completed, Abbeville County Director David Garner told Abbeville County Council Monday night.

Also in his County Director's report, Garner told a Council that a compensation and classification study which is being conducted for County government is nearly complete.

A representative of the

firm conducting the study is expected to be at County Council's next budget workshop, whose date is to be announced.

In addition, he noted that the County's process of property reassessment is expected to be implemented later this year.

Finally, he said that a County utility commission has applied for a planning grant from the state's rural infrastructure authority.

The grant would help coordinate the County's

utility and water resources, Garner continued.

The Abbeville County is expecting revenues of \$11 million for the general fund for the coming fiscal year, said County finance director Barry Devore Tuesday.

"It's very preliminary at this point," said Devore, noting that the Consumer Price Index has not yet been factored in the budget.

"Administration is still working through the expenditures," he continued.



Here is a view of the Savannah River from the Lake Russell dam. Such panoramic views were available during the March 12 Lake Russell Hustle. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Bumps in the road

City places speed humps on certain roads in response to speeders

By Henry E. Green

Speed bumps, or humps, have been placed on a number of streets in the City of Abbeville in recent months, and they have provided quite the conversation piece.

A number of them have been placed on Church Street, for example. This thoroughfare serves for many as the bypass for downtown Abbeville.

A letter to the editor in last week's Press and Banner posed the question

of how the City decided which streets needed speed bumps.

We posed the question to Mike Clary, the City's Deputy Administrative Officer.

"Speed humps have been placed on certain City-owned roads which have high a frequency of speeders," he said. "The decision to place the speed humps in those locations was determined by working with the Police Department, SCDOT, and taking into account roads which have

a high level of complaints concerning speeding.

"In addition to the speed humps, several different solutions are being utilized to combat speeding within the City, including a mobile speed radar detector and an increased law enforcement presence."

Besides Church, the others include Rockhouse, Moore, First, Abbeville, Ferry, Hillcrest, Lee, Wingfield, Thomas, Magazine, Poplar, Flower, Perry, Bowie, Calvert and Pinewood Circle, Clary said.

New Abbeville fire chief Clemmons has wealth of experience

By Henry E. Green

Chris Clemmons lives on Abbeville's Court Square.

You can't get too much closer to the heart of the City of Abbeville than that.

And that might be appropriate, since Chris is the new City of Abbeville Fire Chief.

Introduced to City Council by Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone during the March 9 Council meeting, Clemmons served as interim chief about two weeks following the retirement of former fire chief Neal Dickenson.

Clemmons said Friday that his first official day as the new chief came on Jan. 31, 2022.

In his new post, Clemmons supervises a department of 17 fire fighters, some of whom are volunteers.

It is a department that is not without challenges. Recruiting fire fighters is

not as easy as it used to be--you need more hours of training in order to qualify as a fire fighter.

Abbeville has six paid fire fighters, who receive salaries, while the volunteers receive a stipend at year's end for their service. The number of paid fire fighters has doubled since he joined the Abbeville Fire Department in 2015.

"I would like to add about five more volunteers," he said.

Clemmons was born in Greenwood, and spent much of his early life there, although his father's construction work took the family to various places throughout the country, and Clemmons graduated from Vallejo High School in California.

"We traveled a good bit," he said. "I lived in probably eight states."

The new fire chief spent considerable time in his

early years in the states of California, North Carolina, and Florida.

Clemmons has a wealth of fire fighting experience.

"I was a paid fireman in Greenwood for 19 years (before coming to Abbeville)," he said.

The challenges he faces as the new chief include that of aging vehicles. However, a new truck can cost as much as \$400,000 to \$500,000, and that was according to figures of about two years ago.

It is easy to see, Clemmons said with a smile, why the Fire Department is very much aware of the need to write grant proposals.

The price of trucks has probably risen, along with the price of gas, Clemmons indicated.

"It's kind of scary right now," he said.



Chris Clemmons is the new City of Abbeville Fire Chief. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



A Due West Robotics First Lego League team two weeks ago went to a state championship tournament, and won honors. This team was one of 24 First Lego League teams competing in the event, held at Cane Bay High School in Summerville. (Contributed photo)

Marching on Due West Robotics teams continue to do well in various competitions

By Henry E. Green

Due West Robotics is continuing to flourish, with teams doing very well in prestigious tournaments, according to Due West Robotics president Charles Angel.

A Due West Robotics First Lego League team two weeks ago went to a state championship tournament.

This team was one of 24 First Lego League teams competing in the event, held at Cane Bay High School in Summerville.

"This is our sixth and seventh grade team," said Angel. The team, going by the name Squishy Unicorns, won first place in robot design, "which was absolutely amazing," he said.

The team includes Cady Nell Simpson, Zack Melton, Peyton Simpson, Adelaide Culclasure, Darien Culclasure, Owen Angel, Rafael Zghun, Max Stoltzfus, and Harrison McPhail.

While in the Lowcountry, the young people had a little bit of fun, enjoying an escape room, and playing miniature golf.

The team is made up of middle school children, with the exception of fourth grader Adelaide Culclasure.

And there was more joy to come. The Robotics high

school team finished 10th out of 40 teams at a regional robotics competition, featuring teams from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The accomplishment garnered for them the title of Highest Ranked Rookie Team, or Rookie All Star Award, a distinction which could give them a chance to advance to the robotics world championship in Houston April 20-23.

The team will go to another regional before that, and their performance could solidify their chances of going to the championship.

Joel Logan, who is home schooled, and Cole Farley, a Dixie student, were named to a robotics dean's list.

The Due West Robotics kids like charming nicknames, and the high school team is known as the Due Westerners, with the members attired in western hats during competitive events.

The high school team includes Nate Whitwood, Jake Whitwood, Jason Imhoff, Savannah Wojtkowski, Ethan Angel, Cole Farley, Sydney Searles, Daniel Moore and Joel Logan.

Due West Robotics has grown exponentially since its beginnings in 2012. "This

is officially our 10th season," he said.

Robotics is an interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering, and includes the design, construction, operation and use of robots.

To Angel, it has been a "pretty incredible 10 years", replete with glowing accomplishments.

"We have won three state championships," he said. Robotics teams have advanced to the world championship twice, and once to the International Legoland championship.

Currently, there are 50 robotics members on four teams, with the young people ranging in age from elementary school to high school.

The robotics season starts at the beginning of August and ends in the spring, said Angel, whose dream is that every child in Abbeville County will have the opportunity to participate in robotics.

Robotics is an interdisciplinary branch of computer science and engineering, according to Wikipedia.

Angel is immensely happy that, with Due West Robotics, "small town kids" have accomplished great things.

"I can't tell you how proud we are," he said.

Stone introduces new City fire chief

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville has a new fire chief.

During the March 9 City Council meeting, Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone introduced Chris Clemmons as the new head of the City fire department.

Clemmons replaces Neal Dickenson, who recently retired. The new chief lives in Abbeville, and has been a member of the department for a number of years.

In other matters Wednesday night:

Council passed second reading on an amendment ordinance of the City to update Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2-163 of the City of Abbeville Code of Ordinances, Boards and Commissions.

The amendment, centering on the Abbeville Community Performing Arts board, allows Stone to send someone in his place to an ACPA meeting if he cannot attend a meeting.

Council passed first reading on a City ordinance amending Ordinance No. 7-2021, the 2022 fiscal year budget ordinance to transfer \$80,000 within the budget's hospitality fund for the Adams Drive sidewalk project.

The City also received approximately \$30,000 in PARD funding, from the state of South Carolina, for the project.

Council approved the bid of Home Comfort, at approximately \$72,500, for HVAC work at the Abbeville Civic Center.

Greeson recused himself from voting to avoid a possible conflict of interest, because he said he was related to one of the bidders.

Council passed second reading on an amendment ordinance of the City to update Chapter 6, Section 7 of the City Code regarding polling stations.

The Abbeville County voter registration and elections

board has updated the polling locations within the City limits.

The "Rescue Squad Building" on Long Branch Street has been replaced as a polling place by the Abbeville Administrative Complex, and Westside Baptist Church by the Abbeville County Fire Department Headquarters.

The Abbeville Civic Center and Abbeville County Courthouse will remain polling places.

Council member Chris Crawford indicated that the information about the new polling places should be posted in local media at election time, to help inform the public, and Stone agreed that the City will work toward that end in the process of renovating the building.

Mayor Trey Edwards was absent from the meeting, and Mayor Pro Tem Benji Greeson presided in his place.

CTC OKs Funding

By Henry E. Green

The County Transportation Committee approved Monday evening a number of transportation projects, according to Abbeville County Council and CTC member Rick Campbell.

These included a request by the Abbeville County Department of Public Works for \$9,545 for engineering services for Diamond Hill and McIlwain substation access roadways, Campbell said.

Also approved was a sum of \$575,000 for Abbeville

County Public Works road and bridges department, for the following projects, including work on drainage and patching:

Cathy Lane, Gate Road, Pops Drive, Teakwood Lane, Thomason Road, Pearman Road, Morris Road, Campbell said.

The CTC also approved a request by Abbeville County Public Works for \$110,000 to resurface the following roads: Rivers Way and Hanover Road. The Hanover Road work will feature

"patching," according to Campbell.

Also approved was a request from the City of Abbeville for \$225,000 for resurfacing Raymound Road and Johnson Road, he said.

The County Transportation Committee is made up of the members of Abbeville County Council, and the CTC allocates funds derived from the state fuel tax for various transportation projects.



Join us for The Annual
Credit Union Meeting on
March 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm



The meeting will be at
The Abbeville Civic Center in the gymnasium.
We strongly encourage you to wear a mask.

Cash prizes will be awarded.
No food will be served.

This year's Ballot Nominees are:
Gary Burton, Chuck Nash, Wayne Sears,
Frankie Milford, and Barry Creswell

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF ABBEVILLE

A Special Election for Abbeville County School Board Bond Referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Any person wishing to vote in this special election must be registered no later than Sunday, April 17, 2022. Mail-in voter registration forms will be accepted if postmarked by Monday, April 18, 2022.

At 9:00 a.m. on the day of the special election, the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes at Abbeville County Administrative Building, Room 2500, 903 West Greenwood Street, Abbeville SC 29620.

On Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in the special election. The hearing will be held at The Abbeville County Administrative Building, Room 2500, 903 West Greenwood Street, Abbeville SC 29620.

The following precincts and polling places will be open during the special election from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.:

Precincts	Polling Place
001 Abbeville No. 1	Abbeville Civic Center 404 N Main Street, Abbeville, SC 29620
002 Abbeville No. 2	Abbeville Court House 102 Court Square, Abbeville, SC 29620
003 Abbeville No. 3	Abbeville County Complex 903 W Greenwood St., Abbeville, SC 29620
004 Abbeville No. 4	Abbeville County Fire Dept HQ 17 Old Calhoun Falls Rd., Abbeville, SC 29620
005 Antreville	Antreville Fire Dept. 147 Hwy 184 W, Abbeville, SC 29620
006 Broadmouth	Turkey Creek Fire Dept. 6855 Hwy 252, Donalds, SC 29638
007 Calhoun Falls	Calhoun Falls Civic Center 401 Washington St N., Calhoun Falls, SC 29639
008 Cold Springs	Cold Springs Fire Dept. 2106 Hwy 20, Abbeville, SC 29620
009 Donalds	Donalds Fire Dept. 445 W Main St., Donalds, SC 29638
010 Due West	Due West Fire Dept. 13 Church St., Due West, SC 29639
011 Hall's Store	Calvary Baptist Church 5551 Hwy 252, Ware Shoals, SC 29692
012 Keowee	Keowee Fire Dept. 4065 Keowee Rd., Honea Path, SC 29654
013 Lowndesville	Lownds. Community Center 416 Main St. Lowndesville, SC 29659
014 Lebanon	Sharon Fire Dept. 167 Firehouse Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620
015 Smithville	Ebenezer United Methodist Church 2470 Old Abbeville Hwy, Abbeville, SC 29620

ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022 REFERENDUM QUESTION

Question 1

Shall the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County School District, South Carolina (the "School District") be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$43,800,000, the proceeds of which shall be used for the following:

Dixie High School

- Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new academic wing;
- Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new kitchen and dining room; and
- Appropriate demolition

Abbeville High School

- Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new academic wing; and
- Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new kitchen and dining room; and
- Appropriate demolition

Abbeville Career Center

- Constructing, equipping and furnishing additions, improvements and repairs?

Question 2

If and only if Question 1 above is approved, shall the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County School District, South Carolina (the "School District") be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$11,900,000, the proceeds of which shall be used for the following:

Dixie High School

- Constructing, equipping and furnishing new locker rooms and gymnasium
- Constructing, equipping and furnishing new track

Abbeville High School

- Constructing, equipping and furnishing new locker rooms and gymnasium
- Constructing, equipping and furnishing new track?



Margie Blalock (left) and Marisel Losa (center) spoke recently to Abbeville Rotarians about the United Way. They joined Abbeville Rotary Club president Matthew Johnson for a photo following the meeting. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

United Way offers variety of services

By Henry E. Green
So you want to have your taxes done for free?

United Way of the Lakelands has the program for you.

It's called VIDA, and if you meet income guidelines you can have your taxes prepared without charge.

Here in Abbeville County the free tax service is being offered at the Abbeville County Library, and it is just one of the many services being offered by the United Way of the Lakelands.

Marisel Losa and Margie Blalock of United Way talked about some of those services recently in a presentation before the Abbeville Rotary Club.

"We're moving forward dynamically this year," Losa told Rotarians.

United Way of the Lakelands used to be United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties, before it expanded its coverage area.

"We serve four counties"--Abbeville, Greenwood, Saluda and McCormick," Losa said.

Another service is 211. United Way welcomes people to call 211 or visit SC211.org to learn about resources regarding everything from child care to education to employment to financial counseling. Blalock noted that it is NOT for emergencies.

There is also a medical equipment assistance program, through which gently used medical equipment is recycled and redistributed to people in need.

United Way welcomes

donations of gently used medical equipment, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Currently needed are bedside commodes, rolling walkers, walking canes, shower chairs, transfer benches and wheelchairs.

For more information one may call the United Center for Community Care at 864-229-4103.

Then there is the Credible Mind program, which offers "resources for your mental well-being," on such topics as anxiety, depression, burnout and COVID-19 stress, through a variety of formats, from videos to podcasts.

Then, there is Greenwood Counts, which includes a wealth of data about Greenwood County.

Community calendar

Long Cane AME Church Community Outreach will host a "Fill a Bag" Clothing giveaway

Long Cane AME Church will host the giveaway on Saturday, March 19th from

10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., or until all items are gone. Each person will receive a shopping bag to gather items.

All items are compliments of Long Cane AME Church,

Abbeville Community Outreach, where the Rev. Julius Johnson is the pastor, and BinTime of Anderson.

The event will be held in the front parking lot of the center.

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City Leaders of the Lakelands: Lander Alumnus Blake Stone Called to Serve His Hometown

Submitted by
Graham Duncan

ABBEVILLE, S.C.—While he realizes that infrastructure upgrades aren't the most eye-catching headlines for a local community, Lander alumnus Blake Stone, city manager of Abbeville, South Carolina, insists they're some of the most essential.

The core functions of local government, according to Stone, are those things we don't see—those things that happen beneath our feet and above our heads, or in the early morning hours while most people are still asleep. Water lines, power lines and public sanitation. Behind these public services is a hardworking team of professionals at the City of Abbeville, with Stone at the helm.

Since becoming city manager in 2017, making significant investments in those public services is what Stone is most proud of. The City of Abbeville's Community Development Department, which was implemented under Stone's leadership, has so far helped the city acquire over \$6 million in grants for these services over the past five years.

"We've been able to complete some fairly large infrastructure projects that have been nagging issues for the city, including the renovation of our waste water treatment plant," Stone said. That project alone required \$4 million in funding. The city has also invested close to a million dollars into its hydro-electric power plant, and is coming up close on investing over \$2 million on the replacement of its water line that runs beneath the city's Main Street.

"And we've been able to invest over \$600,000 into our opera house," Stone added, which is run in partnership with the Abbeville Community Performing Arts Foundation (ACPA). The city's main departments are also housed inside the opera house building, which hosts concerts, musicals, plays and other special events throughout the year. It's located in the heart of the city's historic downtown district, known

by locals as "the Square" because of its iconic square layout and home to several locally owned boutiques and restaurants. Abbeville is a small community of only 5,500 residents, "but it punches way above its weight limit," Stone said.

His passion for Abbeville stems from the fact that he is an Abbeville native himself. After finishing his B.S. in Political Science, Public Administration Emphasis at Lander, he went on to receive his Master of Public Administration from Clemson University, while also completing an internship under Abbeville's previous city manager, David H. Krumwiede. After finishing his education, he stayed on as Krumwiede's assistant city manager before taking his current post as the city's top executive. "Mr. Krumwiede did a lot for me, and the City of Abbeville," Stone said. "I'm thankful for his mentorship and for his service to Abbeville."

While there are pros and cons to working in the community you grew up in, Stone says the pros far outweigh the cons. "Since I have a lot of connections in the community, I'm able to see the effects of the things we implement," Stone said. Those personal connections with friends and neighbors—people he's known his whole life in some cases—gives him a unique perspective of how the city's progress impacts the lives of the people who live in Abbeville. Stone says those same friends and neighbors are always reliable for "a lot of good feedback, and good constructive criticism, too."

But aside from passion, Stone says it was his education from Lander that laid the groundwork for a successful career in public administration. He valued the personal attention that he received from Lander's faculty, and the support they gave him while he was considering what the next steps would be after graduating Lander. "At Lander, you get that personal touch," Stone said. "They were really invested in me as an individual and my growth as a student thereafter."

Among those professors who put Stone on his current career path was Dr. Lucas McMillan, professor of political science and dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Lander, who also helped coordinate an internship opportunity for Stone with a local member of the South Carolina General Assembly. "Not only did Blake work in the member's local office," said McMillan,

"but also went to Columbia to work in his Statehouse office and see the workings of government."

Dr. Kimberly Richburg, associate professor of political science at Lander who served as Stone's academic advisor, remembers Stone's "insightful" contributions to class discussions and learning experiences. "It was an absolute pleasure to have such an exceptional student

in our learning environment," said Richburg. "It was obvious that Blake was bound for successful future career endeavors."

Those class discussions are what Stone says he valued most from his time at Lander—the chance to have meaningful conversations with students and faculty, as well as guest speakers and civic leaders who are routinely hosted on campus

by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Among other things, such as public speaking and research methods, Stone says that thoughtful civil discourse was a vital core skill he learned as a student at Lander, and one that is essential for those working in public administration.

"It's okay for two individuals to have disagreeing ideas," he said, "and still be able to communicate civilly about it."



Wright Middle School Beauty Pageant winners for the 6th Grade Photo: Miss Congeniality: Reese Jones; 2nd Runner Up: Madi Hill; Miss 6th Grade Maddie Wachs; 1st Runner Up: Allyson Pursley; 6th Grade People's Choice Award: Mariah Goodwin; Photogenic Award: Sara Kennedy (Photo contributed).



Lander alumnus Blake Stone, city manager of Abbeville, South Carolina. (Photo contributed)

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Abbeville City Council

Council moves ahead on HVAC project

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council took action Wednesday night on one component of a plan to renovate the Abbeville Civic Center.

The City of Abbeville with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments received bids on Thursday, Feb. 10, for the Civic Center HVAC project, according to a report provided by City Manager Blake Stone to City Council.

The "best and lowest" bid was submitted by Home Comfort Systems for \$72,574, Stone said.

"This project is being funded by the CDBG Program," he said.

CDBG is an acronym for Community Development

Block Grant, and the program is provided through the federal government and administered through the states.

The action taken by Abbeville City Council is in line with a plan to renovate the Abbeville Civic Center.

"We are having all the HVAC Units replaced. The current units are quite old as far as commercial units go and do not work as intended," said Mike Clary, the City's Deputy Administrative Officer, recently.

In addition to the HVAC work, the roof is scheduled to be "completely retrofitted," said Clary.

The Civic Center, located on North Main, is a center

of recreation for Abbeville Youth Athletics, with basketball games in the gym attracting big crowds.

In addition to sports events, the community uses it for gatherings of various kinds. The Abbeville County Democratic Party held its convention there recently, for example.

"We estimate about 20,000 people utilize the Civic Center each year," said Clary Thursday.

"Note, these are not unique visitors but overall visitors. So for example, if a karate class of 15 persons held 10 sessions at the Civic Center. The overall attendance would be 150."

Local firefighters keeping busy

By Henry E. Green

There was a brush fire in the Donalds area last week, and local fire service officials visited Columbia last week to discuss with local legislators matters of interest to firefighters.

Abbeville County Fire Marshal Tim Williams said Wednesday that he and Maintenance Chief Paul Parnell had lunch with Craig Gagnon and Mike Gambrell, and spoke also with Billy Garrett in Columbia for the South Carolina Fire Fighters Association legislative day last week.

The legislative day provides

a chance for firefighters from throughout the state -- typically fire chiefs and fire service officers -- to discuss with their local legislators concerns related to firefighting.

These include the state fire budget, and firefighter training. One much-discussed topic is the V Safe grant program, from which V Safe grants are awarded to fire stations in South Carolina to help with equipment needs.

There is consideration of increasing the amount of money in the program, and broadening the scope of the program as well,

so that it can be used to fund vehicles and the remodeling of stations.

Locally, firefighters have been busy as well.

There was a brush fire on Hawkins Drive in the Donalds-Due West area Monday afternoon. Due West and Cold Spring fire departments assisted Donalds firefighters in extinguishing the blaze, from which there were no injuries.

The Forestry Service also assisted in putting out the blaze.



If it's important to you, it's important to us.

What does the word "details" mean to you at a funeral? Is it the way the guestbook is displayed? Is it how carefully the flowers have been arranged? Is it that nothing seems out of place? We understand there are things that should go unnoticed at a funeral service — that's why we take pride in taking care of the details, so that you won't have to notice them, or have to mention them. Some call it "fussy." We call it "committed."

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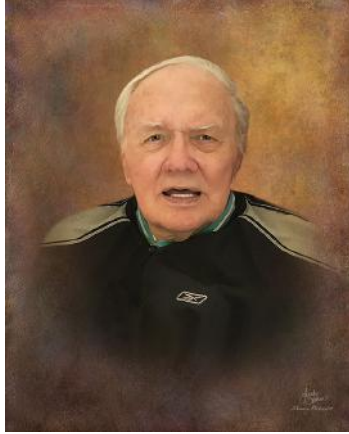
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Obituaries

Page

Parker O. Page, 86, of Abbeville, SC, husband of Carolyn Scott Page, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. He was born in Anderson County, SC to the late Casper W. Page and Nina Page Barrett.



Parker O. Page

Mr. Page was formerly from Calhoun Falls, SC where he lived for many years. He retired from the Bigelow Sanford - Rocky River Plant in Calhoun Falls. Mr. Page was a member of the South Carolina National Guard, Co A, 151st Signal Battalion of Abbeville. Being outside tending his vegetable garden was a favorite past time. Tractors and old model cars made him smile. Mr. Page appreciated all music, especially listening to those singing bass. A dedicated member of Faith Harvest

Fellowship in Calhoun Falls, he was grateful for every opportunity to share Jesus; we know he is celebrating in Heaven. His love for his family was evident as seen in the way he cared for them.

Mr. Page is survived by his wife of 66 years, Carolyn, of the home; five children, Lydia Suarez of Mt. Pleas-

ant, SC, Karen Rice (Rex) of Liberty, SC, Terrie Hall (Chip) of Fountain Inn, SC, Randy Page (Kona) of Abbeville, SC and Rodney Page (Heather) of Hartwell, GA; fifteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

The family received friends 12:30PM - 1:30PM, Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Faith Harvest Fellowship in Calhoun Falls. Funeral services began at 2:00PM in the church sanctuary. Burial followed in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

The family is at the home in Abbeville.

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

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Calhoun Falls Chapel is assisting the Page family.

Obituaries

McCurry

Donna Lewis McCurry, 65, of Abbeville, wife of Benny G. McCurry, died Sunday, March 13, 2022, at the McCormick Post Acute Rehabilitation Center. She was born in Calhoun Falls to the late Donald E. and Jean Addison Hudson Lewis.

Donna attended Calhoun Falls High School, worked at Midland Ross, and spent 20 years with H&R Block preparing taxes. She was a member of Grace Community Church. Donna loved her family, enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, her sister and taking care of Benny. She was happy when caring for others.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son Robby McCurry, and her brothers, Mark Lewis, Matt 'Fuji' Lewis, Al Hud-



Donna Lewis McCurry

son, and Mack Hudson, Jr.

Donna is survived by her husband of 46 years, Benny; a son, Evan McCurry (Jessica) of Abbeville; a sister, Valerie Lewis McCurry (Bubba) of Abbeville; two sisters-in-law, Angie and Judy Hudson of Milledgeville, GA; and three very special grandchildren,

Nate Riley, Charleigh and Waylon.

The family will receive friends from 3:00PM to 4:00PM on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Harris Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 4:30PM in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Rod Shultz officiating.

The family is at the home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Donna, may be sent to Grace Community Church, 1611 Woodlawn Road, Greenwood, SC 29649.

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 McCurry family.

Obituaries

Cole

Doris "Dot" Beck-Cole finished her journey in this world in March 5, 2022. Dot was born September 26, 1929, in Lowndesville, SC, to John "Rayford" Phillips and Robbie Lucille Black Phillips (later married to John E. Carlisle).

She shared cherished childhood memories of picking cotton, visiting family, and playing basketball/softball in high school. The family moved from Calhoun Falls, SC, to Lake County, FL in the early 1940s.

Dot married John David Beck in 1949 and helped raise his son, Danny Lee. Their daughter, Melanie Darae, was born in 1956.

John and Dot were entrepreneurs -hauling fruit, running a truck-stop (restaurant, grocery, gas station), operating a cab stand and selling insurance. In the 70s and 80s, they owned and operated the Penn-Dixie Grocery (HWY 27/441 and



Doris 'Dot' Beck-Cole

Picciola). John was civic minded and they joined a number of clubs in the 1950/60s (Moose/Women of the Moose, Lions, Odd Fellows/Rebekah). They cared for their families and were active in the community.

John passed in 2006 and Dot married Charlie Lee Cole in 2009. Dot was a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Fruitland Park, where she served for several years at the front desk, greeting those who visited the church.

Dot was preceded in death

by her parents, Rayford Phillips and Robbie Phillips Carlisle; siblings, Theron, Lowell, Jo Ann (Danesky), Bobby, and Beverly (Williams); first husband, John Beck; step-son, Danny Beck; and daughter, Melanie McLain, and 3 nieces and nephews. She is survived by her husband, Charlie Cole; sister, Eleanor Swanson; son-in-law, Thomas McLain, as well as 4 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 21 nieces and nephews and their families.

Visitation for family and friends at 10:00 and funeral services at 11:00 to be held at Calvary Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, with interment immediately following at Lone Oak Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the missions program at Calvary Baptist Church. ^{1tp}

CROSSWORD												
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ACROSS

- Campus military org.
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1968 hit "Harper Valley ____"
- Turkish honorific
- "I captained the Millennium Falcon in "Star Wars"
- Inlet in Greenland
- Map out
- Pharaoh's symbol
- Austin Powers and Shrek to Mike Myers
- "I developed the theory of relativity"
- Sailor's hail
- Lyric poem
- Solar System center
- Portable stairs
- "I am Sgt. George Baker's inept comic strip character"
- Mine deposit
- Shape
- Fairy tale cannibal
- Feline sneakers
- Lawyer group
- "I have a coiled shell and eyes on stalks"
- Very dark black
- Free from obstruction
- ____ Aviv
- Most buffoonish
- Rest or hydration for common cold, e.g.
- Hot springs resort
- "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked ____"
- Japanese stringed instrument
- "I am a runaway slave, an abolitionist, and a best-selling author"
- Email destination
- Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- Food fish
- Silly
- Self-cleaning appliance
- Ad staple
- O in IOU
- P in m.p.g.
- Affirmative, colloquially

DOWN

- Do like Drake
- Eye up and down
- Bangkok native
- Like preserved peaches, sometimes
- Sharpened
- Like Huck Finn's dad, e.g.
- "Some people call me the Rocket Man"
- "I starred as Pam in the "Meet the Parents" movies"
- "I used to host a sports show with Mike Golic"
- Commercials
- Buddhist's enlightenment
- Sham
- "I am a WWE Champion, an actor, and my nickname is geology-related"
- Vision correctors, colloquially
- Greek letters on campus
- "My résumé includes Fly Girl and "American Idol" judge"
- Curaçao neighbor
- Evil one
- Fence board
- Popular gemstone
- Shed tears
- "I am an American who became Princess of Monaco"
- Harangue
- Network with an eye
- "My TV role became synonymous with a hair style"
- Perform at the bee
- Canada's neighbor
- Beginning
- Strong adhesive
- Contemptibly small
- Dry white Italian wine
- Radio receiver
- Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will ____"
- Piercing woodwind
- Water quantity
- Loafer, e.g.
- Adventure story
- United Nations labor agency
- Homer's catchword

Obituaries

Smith

Jedediah "Jed" Andrew Smith, 30 was called home on February 23, 2022 at his home in Watford City, ND. Originally from Abbeville, SC he was born at Abbeville County Memorial Hospital May 15, 1991 to Andy Smith and Theresa Gale Mabry, of Abbeville.

Jed graduated from Abbeville High School in 2009. He worked as a Welder/Fitter/Fabricator until 2011 when nature called. He traveled to Livingston, Montana where he secured a job with Black Otter Outfitters as a hunting guide. In 2014, Jed set out on his own journey leading him to Watford City, ND where he embarked on a career in the oil fields. He was employed by Panther as a Pressure Tester for 6 years.

He was introduced to hunting & outdoors at the age of 2 by his daddy. He never lost his passion for hunting, fishing, or being outside. Jed loved

to share his knowledge of the outdoors with anyone that would listen. Jed was loved and admired by many. Having an infectious laugh and full supply of "bear hugs". He loved nothing more than being with family and friends, hunting, or just being outside. He was well known for his dependability and work ethic.

Jed leaves behind a loving companion Abigail Carpenter, daughter Ember Moon Smith (3) & a special blessing on the way. He was the Grandson of Julius & Gale King and James Rivers Mabry all of Abbeville, SC Paternal grandparents Dennis Smith of Elberton, Ga and Diane Smith of Greenwood, SC; Great-grandson of Jackie Brown McCurry (Bobby) of Abbeville, SC; Nephew to Susan Mabry Thompson, Melody and Stuart Coursey all of Abbeville, SC, and Krista Woolard of Greenwood, SC. Cousins Kale and Cody Thompson,

Zane Coursey all of Abbeville, SC. Jacob Coursey of Panama City, Fla., Christopher Butler of Watford City, ND & Savanna Butler of Greenwood, SC.

A memorial in honor of Jed took place at the Civic Center in Watford City, ND where his mother, father, and Abigail were presented his work uniform, boots and hard hat in a customized shadow box.

Visitation was Saturday March 12, 2022 at 11:00AM at Chandler Jackson Funeral Home. A bonfire Celebration of Life for friends and family to pay tribute and share stories will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to an account at Abbeville Community Federal Credit Union. Or donate: Venmo: [inlovingmemoryofjed](https://www.venmo.com/inlovingmemoryofjed)

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

Your ad here!

County Council

Davis tells Council of shelter concerns

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Animal Shelter has communication concerns, the president of the Greater Abbeville Humane Society told County Council Monday night.

"I would like to make you aware that at present there is no way to reach the animal shelter by telephone," Ann Davis told Council.

"The public has been expressing this to us," she said, noting that the telephone had been removed "and as of this morning it had not been repaired or replaced. There is no message indicating the phone is out of order."

"Also, I have tried to e-mail the shelter and David Garner and my emails have been blocked. I was told the County system had been hacked and they were having problems."

She praised Abbeville County Director David Garner for addressing some of the issues she had discussed with the County Director earlier regarding the animal shelter.

Garner said Tuesday that the County is working through some communication concerns with the Shelter.

The County's IT department has been regulating e-mails from the outside County government to protect cyber-security, and in

the process some e-mails which should have gone through may have been blocked inadvertently.

If people are getting their e-mails to the County government blocked, they need to pick up the phone and call the County departments they are trying to reach, Garner continued, noting that they should never rely solely on e-mail for communication, he went on to say.

In other matters, County Council:

--Had a public hearing and passed second reading on an Ordinance 2022-02 to rezone a parcel of land on 388 Dorsett Lane from a zoning district of Restricted Residential and Forest Agricultural to one of General Residential.

--Had a public hearing and passed second reading on Ordinance 2022-03 to authorize the County Director 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.

--Passed a resolution designating April 2022 as Fair Housing Month.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Ridge Recycling of Johnston, South Carolina for the hauling of scrap tire products from the Abbeville County Public

Works Department.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a construction agreement with Cook's Fence Company for the installation of fencing on the animal shelter property not to exceed \$2,980.

--Passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Love Chevrolet, Santee Automotive, and Vic Bailey Ford for the purchase of seven new Sheriff's vehicles not to exceed \$271,930.

--Passed a proclamation recognizing and honoring the employees of Abbeville County EMS Services for their dedication to the residents of Abbeville County during the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

--Passed proclamations honoring Sheriff's Deputy Benjamin Dockins and Sheriff's Deputy Mark Davis "for demonstrating an act of heroism and bravery while serving the citizens of Abbeville County."

The two law enforcement officers, as noted in a story in last week's Press and Banner, were honored for having rescued a man from a burning house in Calhoun Falls recently.

--Went into executive session, but took no resulting action upon returning to open session.



Abbeville County Council recently passed proclamations honoring Sheriff's Deputy Benjamin Dockins and Sheriff's Deputy Mark Davis "for demonstrating an act of heroism and bravery while serving the citizens of Abbeville County." The two saved a man from a burning house. Here is Council chairman Billy Norris (left) presenting a copy of the proclamation to Davis (right). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Referendum education now in full swing

By Henry E. Green

Time to listen. Time to learn. The Abbeville County School District is working hard to educate the public about the May 17 referendum coming up.

Essentially, voters will be asked whether the District should be given the power to issue bonds to fund a number of improvements at Abbeville High School, Dixie High School and the Abbeville Career Center.

Here is the set of questions for the referendum.

The referendum will consist of two questions:

Question 1: Shall the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County School District, South Carolina be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$43,800,000, the

proceeds of which shall be used for the following:

Dixie High School:

Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new academic wing.

Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new kitchen and dining room and appropriate demolition.

Abbeville High School:

Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new academic wing.

Constructing, equipping and furnishing a new kitchen and dining room and appropriate demolition.

Abbeville Career Center

Constructing, equipping, and furnishing additions, improvements and repairs? (Question 2)

If and only if Question 1 is approved, shall the Board of Trustees of Abbeville County School District be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds

of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$11,900,000, the proceeds of which shall be used for the following:

Dixie High School:

Constructing, equipping, and furnishing new locker rooms and gymnasium.

Constructing, equipping and furnishing new track.

Abbeville High School: Constructing, equipping, and furnishing new locker rooms and gymnasium.

Constructing, equipping and furnishing new track.

Meanwhile, Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary has been speaking to various groups about the upcoming referendum, educating them about what is at stake.

Gary is scheduled to speak to Abbeville Rotarians Thursday, March 17, for example.



Abbeville County Council recently passed proclamations honoring Sheriff's Deputy Benjamin Dockins and Sheriff's Deputy Mark Davis "for demonstrating an act of heroism and bravery while serving the citizens of Abbeville County." The two saved a man from a burning house. Here is Council chairman Billy Norris (left) presenting a copy of the proclamation to Dockins (right). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Freeman promoted to lieutenant colonel

By Henry E. Green

Former Abbeville Mayor Delano Freeman has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the South Carolina Army National Guard, and he will have a promotion ceremony on Sunday, March 20, at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Foundation Building in Abbeville.

Freeman served as Mayor from 2016 to 2020. He has been in the Army National

Guard for 28 years, and has served a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

A 1991 graduate of Abbeville High School, Freeman went on to attend Clemson University, where he graduated in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Currently he is enrolled in a masters degree program at Troy University at the college's Augusta campus.

He has been employed with GLEAMNS Head Start

for 25 years, and currently he serves as the area manager.

In addition to serving as Mayor, Freeman also served as an Abbeville City Council member from 2000 to 2016.

He has a wife Terri, and two sons--Tristin and Tyler--and they live in Abbeville.

The public is welcome to attend the ceremony Sunday.



Abbeville County Council approved unanimously on Monday night a proclamation recognizing Abbeville County EMS for their dedication to the citizens of Abbeville County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council chairman Billy Norris presented EMS members with a copy of the proclamation after Council passed the measure. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Commentary

Abbeville County School Board 2022: Investment in the future

By Lamar T. West, Sr.

We do not intend to try and persuade one on how to invest in the future of Abbeville County and/or its school buildings. We do know from news reports the entire COUNTRY is in a time of skyrocketing inflation and all but tripling our energy prices.

We also noted in last week's edition of *The Press and Banner* that our school district superintendent, Dr. Mason Gary, was nice enough to inform us that if we "invest in the future," Abbeville County School District 2022 Referendum Questions pass that the taxes on a \$100,000 primary resident property will increase by "only" \$278 per year.

Now, we are not sure if this increase is for just the \$47 million or if it includes the \$12 million for the athletic upgrade needs as well. We are not privy to just how long this tax increase is needed (how long will it take to pay the debt).

We do not remember a reduction in taxes after the debt on Abbeville High School, Dixie High School, and for that matter when the Calhoun Falls High School debt was paid. So let's not expect the surrender of this \$47 or \$59 million debt to produce a tax reduction "somewhere in the future."

We would also like to point out that the sample of \$278 is for a primary residence only. Your primary residence is taxed at 4% and receives a sales tax credit and a

school tax credit, and if you are over 65, you receive a homestead tax exemption.

Example of point: the property of which we are privy to. Its tax bill is valued at less than \$100,000 and the tax bill before exemptions is \$1,200 per year which equals \$100 per month. This is a primary residence so it is taxed at the 4% rate. Now if this were a rental property and not a primary residence, the property would be taxed at 6% instead of 4%. Oh well, that is just 2% more! Big deal! Actually, it is a big deal, because it is half again as much. Twelve-hundred dollars rises to \$1,800, and those numbers could come from two identical houses sitting next door to one another.

If you rent your house from someone, this means your landlord needs to receive \$150 per month before he can pay the mortgage on the property or make any profit from his/her investment.

Also remember the \$278 is for the primary property and the \$417 is for the rental property. If you own property where you furnish jobs to others and manufacture something, the increase comes to \$730 per \$100,000 assessment. If you have a million dollar building in which you manufacture, your increase comes to \$7,300 more than you already pay just for the school tax referendum portion of your tax bill.

As stated in this week's

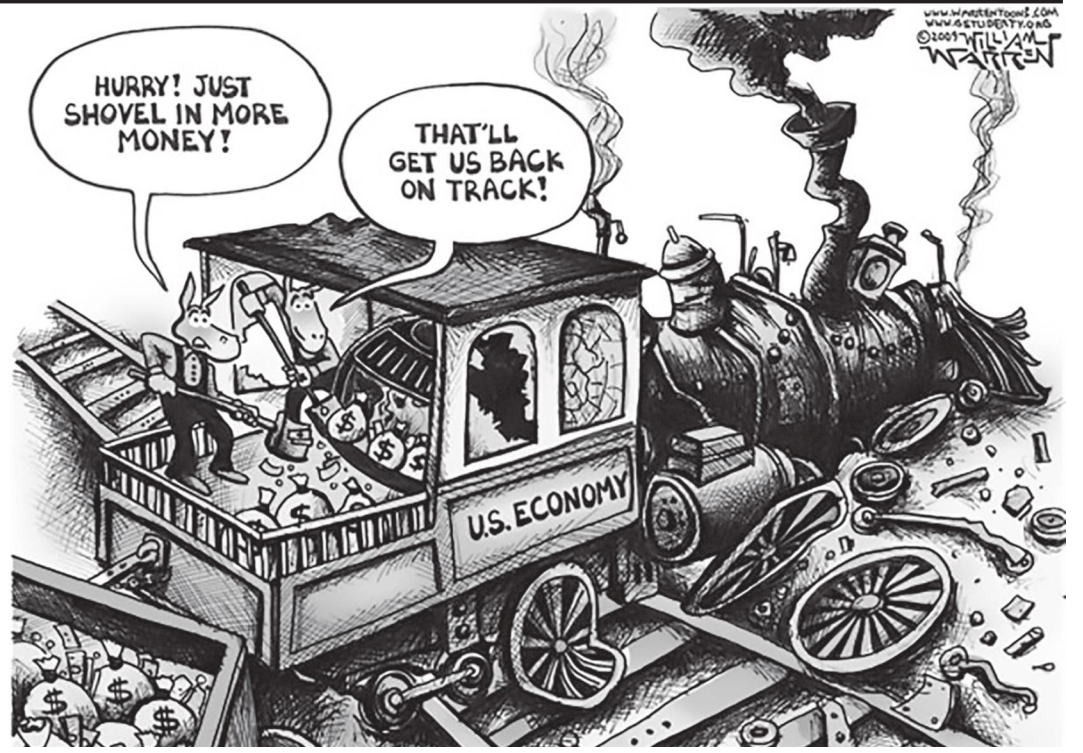
newspaper, this is a year for reassessment. That means more than likely your overall tax bill will increase as well.

Some simple math: before reassessment your house/property assessed at \$180,000, and after a 15% reassessment increase (15% is the maximum increase in a year), your property tax increase will, of course, rise for reassessment. Normal county taxes could/will also rise and the school tax portion per referendum will raise your tax an additional \$556.

We would like nothing more than to have one, two or three new high schools kept up-to-date each year with new technology along with new football stadiums, gymnasiums, baseball fields and all the fixings. Our children deserve it! After all, our children will be in that new building four to six hours a day, five days a week for at least four years, then graduation, and off to work or another school. Remember, it is only 60 MILLION DOLLARS!

If you miss your chance to vote "yes" in May and the referendum does not pass, we understand you will have another opportunity to vote "yea" in November during the general election.

The opportunity to VOTE will be in May. If you are in favor, VOTE "Yes." If you are opposed, VOTE "No." YOU DO NEED TO VOTE! Voting is a right that you do not want to lose, and it is an obligation you must take SERIOUSLY!!!



FBI Secrets: A Book Summary

By Geoff Hult

M. Wesley Swearingen was an FBI Special Agent from 1951-1977, and in 1995 published a book entitled "FBI Secrets: An Agent's Expose." Swearingen is among only a handful of ex-FBI to have the courage and integrity to blow the whistle on the criminality he witnessed while in the Bureau. Swearingen admits to having taken part in many "black bag jobs," as he called them, which were illegal break-ins to people's residences and businesses that were considered by the FBI to have unacceptable political viewpoints, or to be associated with an organization of the like. The bag jobs were meant to gather intelligence/information and were presented to the agents by the higher brass that it was necessary to violate the Constitution for national security. Swearingen bought into this as he admits to idolizing longtime FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. He later documented 500 bag jobs against more than 50 targets between 1952-1957 in Chicago alone. He makes clear through the book that lying and corruption were so pervasive and part of the daily routine that he adapted to this in order to function as an Agent, but had always wanted to be a crime fighter which was why he had joined in the first place. Some may say that Swearingen lacked integrity for his acquiescence to this, and he does indeed admit that he lacked the guts to take a stand or blow the whistle while a Special Agent. He feared retribution because government whistleblowers have never been treated kindly and are sometimes met with a fatal "accident," or wind up suicided. That being said, let's look at what this insider later revealed about the real workings of an agency with the motto of: Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity.

On page 26 Swearingen writes of a Security Index, which was a "secret FBI list of subversives who were to be arrested in the event of a national emergency." Subversives does not mean criminals, terrorists, or truly dangerous people. It means political dissidents. This is important to note because the same thing exists now, and it is not only the FBI with watchlists of "subversives" but the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as well. Today's political dissidents are medical professionals who publicly advocate for medical freedom, soccer moms who speak out at school board meetings against mask mandates or the teaching of critical race theory, journalists like James O' Keefe of Project Veritas because he is particularly adept at exposing government corruption, whistleblowers of any kind, and conservatives in general. The FBI has always been more of a domestic intelligence agency than a crime fighting agency. Swearingen writes on

page 110: "Very few citizens know the extent to which the FBI has gone to control our society..."

On pages 82-83, Swearingen writes that FBI Agents arranged for the assassination of Alprentice Carter and John Huggins, both members of the Los Angeles Black Panthers, by FBI informants on January 17th, 1969. Darthard Perry, an admitted FBI informant, claims that the informants who had committed the murders were convicted and sent to San Quentin prison in 1969, but made their escape in an FBI engineered prison break in 1974. Sylvester Bell was another Black Panther murdered by FBI informants at the behest of their handlers on August 15th, 1969.

a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating wrongful convictions. In a case like this, the LAPD were just following their orders from their federal bosses to help frame a man for murder and attempt to put him away for life.

Regarding these kinds of operations, Swearingen writes on page 104: "I knew then that the whole security intelligence operation of the FBI was no better than Adolf Hitler's Gestapo. The only difference was that the Gestapo did not pretend to be the good guys in white hats. The Gestapo wore black, and they were proud."

COINTELPRO was officially in operation from 1956-1971, but Swearingen writes it is still in operation under different names. It goes by names today such as Infragard. The program has always been to neutralize anyone deemed an enemy of the state. The enemies of the state at the time were anti-war activists, teachers, professors, writers, doctors, lawyers, scientists. Anyone that held unacceptable political viewpoints and had the power and wherewithal to influence others. With today's technology, the modern day COINTELPRO operations are particularly stealth and lethal. Another FBI whistleblower to attest to this is GERALD SOSBEE, a Special Agent from 1971-1978.

In a sworn affidavit in Cameron county, TX, on March 14th, 2014, Sosbee writes: "For the past 25 years, the FBI has engaged in a vendetta or revenge campaign against me for my reporting crimes committed by the FBI during my service as a Special Agent in the FBI and thereafter. The illegal and criminal assaults by the FBI against me include a 24/7 surveillance and assaults by Directed Energy Weaponry, chemicals, psychological operations, and occasional assault and battery by street thugs in the employ of the FBI. Also, the FBI has attempted on some occasions to end my life by causes that may appear to be natural."

On the final page of the book, M. Wesley Swearingen leaves us with these final words:

"Not until the FBI is forced to tell the truth will the citizens of the United States of America be safe from the national police force the FBI controls and the COINTELPRO it secretly continues to operate. May God have mercy on those who disbelieve."

This is an example of the system of mammon that Yahushua (Jesus) refers to in Luke 16:13 and Matthew 6:24. You can't serve the Almighty and mammon. Choose one or the other.

"For whatever is hidden shall be revealed, and whatever is secret shall be known and come to light." (Luke 8:17)

Geoff Hult
nonwo222@gmail.com



Scott Statement on Omnibus Spending Package

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) released the following statement after voting against the Democrats' \$1.5 trillion government spending package.

"I am a strong supporter of helping the Ukrainian people resist Vladimir Putin's

vicious and unjust war, and I will be the first to vote for a standalone bill that bolsters the fight for Ukraine.

"Sadly, Democrats used an international crisis to jam through another reckless government spending package. The Democrats'

spending has already overheated our economy, driving inflation to record highs and saddling Americans with trillions of dollars of debt.

"I cannot support another wasteful, big government spending bill at the expense of the American people."

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

Legislative summary

Senator Mike Gambrell
Legislative Summary
March 11, 2022

On Monday I attended a meeting of the Honea Path Development Group. Arriving in Columbia on Tuesday for the Session, we flipped the schedule and held a full Finance Committee meeting prior to the Senate Session. The bills which were discussed and reported out favorably from that meeting were S.1087, the Comprehensive Tax Cut Act of 2022, and two bills that would increase the percentage of funds held in the General Reserve Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund. The Senate on Thursday gave second reading to the Comprehensive Tax Cut Act of 2022, and it should be sent to the House of Representatives for their consideration early next week.

In Session on Tuesday, we debated H.3205, which had previously been set for Spe-

cial Order. This legislation is a Joint Resolution to make application to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. After considerable discussions of the historical intentions of the Constitution, and several amendments that were introduced, the Senate passed H.3205. Because of an amendment, the bill must go back the House of Representatives. If they pass it, and if it is signed by the Governor, South Carolina would join the approximately 20 states who have passed similar bills. A two-thirds majority is required for such action, so it would take 34 states passing nearly identical legislation for the United States Congress to convene a Constitutional Convention. Wednesday was Cancer Awareness Day as well as Alzheimer's Awareness

Day. Sadly, in a body of 46 members, everyone has been touched personally by one or both of these destructive diseases. It is always bittersweet to talk to those citizens who have come to the State House to talk about these issues.

I had a chance to meet with Leadership Anderson on Wednesday. It was great to see so many of my friends at the S.C. Firefighters Day at the State House this week. I welcome any occasion when we can express our appreciation and respect for these first responders. Please feel free to contact me on any issue.

I can be reached at my district address, Post Office Box 194, Honea Path, S.C. 29654, 864-844-3614; or at my legislative office in Columbia, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, S.C. 29202, 803-212-6032, or through my email address: Mike-Gambrell@scsenate.gov.

Filing period opens for various offices

By Henry E. Green

The filing period for a number of Abbeville County offices opens today--Wednesday, March 16-- at noon, according to Randy Curtis, Abbeville County voter registration and elections director.

These offices include South Carolina House District 11, and the County offices include those of County Auditor, who is currently Sue Simpson, Probate Judge, who is currently Mark Sumner, and Treasurer, who

is currently Betty Cowan.

Filing opens also for a number of County Council seats--District One, currently occupied by Jason Bonds, District Two, occupied by John Calhoun, and District Seven, occupied by Drew Simpson.

The filing period will conclude on Wednesday, March 30 at noon, Curtis continued.

Those wishing to file as candidates need to come to the voter registration office on the second floor--

Room 2500--of the Abbeville County Administrative Complex in Abbeville, and fill out the proper paperwork and pay their filing fees.

All filing fees are by check or money order, he said.

The filing is for the primary elections slated for June 14.

The primary winners will move on to the general election in November.

For more information, one may call the voter registration office at 366-6690, extension 53.

Rockets' red glare? Abbeville City Council looks at possible regulation of fireworks

By Henry E. Green

Do fireworks need to be regulated inside the city limits of the City of Abbeville?

That was the question before Abbeville City Council Wednesday night.

City Council member Jason Edwards brought up the topic during the "new business" segment of the meeting. Edwards noted that fireworks, with the noise they generate, can cause a number of concerns--they scare pets, for example, and often people set them off during the late evening, when other people are trying to sleep.

"They're a fire hazard," he added.

Edwards, who said that he had heard a number of complaints about fireworks, said that he would like to see them regulated, so that they would be set off only by professionals during an approved fireworks show within the City limits.

There is an ordinance from the 1970s to regulate fireworks, but the language is very dated, and Edwards

proposed an amended, updated ordinance.

Council member Faye Thomas said that she had heard complaints as well, suggested that the City establish a curfew or cut-off time for setting off fireworks.

Concerning pets, she advised sheltering pets in anticipation of holidays such as New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July.

Council member Chris Crawford said that there is a local business that sells fireworks, and he does not want to see that business hurt.

Council member Louise Aikens said that if the City does come up with a new ordinance, the language of it needs to be easy to understand.

Thomas wondered if the Police would have the manpower to enforce such an ordinance if it were enacted.

"I'd be good with a curfew," said Council member Matt Gambrell, adding that he would otherwise like to see ordinary citizens allowed to shoot them off, and

indicating that setting off fireworks can be a bonding experience for parents and their kids.

City Manager Blake Stone indicated that he would work on an updated ordinance to present to Council at the April Council meeting.

In other matters, Council: --Reappointed Willie Mae Burnside to the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals.

--Reappointed Catherine Gray on the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals which expired on June 19, 2021.

--Appointed Jim Grant to the Board of Zoning Appeals which expired on October, 10, 2020.

During the public comment period, Ray Peck expressed concern about City utility bills.

"People shouldn't have to choose between heating and eating," he said.

In other matters, Council went into executive session but took no resulting action.

VITA offers free tax preparation service

By Henry E. Green

VITA is a free tax service provided through United Way of the Lakelands, and the Abbeville County Library has been hosting it at least five years, according to Abbeville County Library System Director Mary Elizabeth Land.

It is a service that is immensely simple to use. All you do is stop by the Abbeville County Library on North Main between Tuesdays

and Thursdays between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

You fill out a form, and leave your pertinent tax documents--W2 forms and the like--for the taxes to be prepared.

Five to seven days later, you will receive a text or a phone call telling you that your taxes are ready.

It is all free to anyone who meets income guidelines--that is, anyone who makes

\$57,000 a year or less.

"It's been a very popular program at the library," said Land, adding that the Abbeville County Library System is immensely happy to be working with United Way of the Lakelands to provide this service to the community.

For more information, one may call United Way at 864-229-4103 or the Abbeville County Library at 459-4009.

City takes step toward new police station

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville moved closer to establishing a new home for the Abbeville Police Department, as City Council passed second and final reading Wednesday night on an ordinance "authorizing the purchase of real property within the City of Abbeville."

The property, located at 104 West Pickens Street, is being purchased for \$200,000, and is intended to be the new home of the Abbeville Police Department.

The Police are now based

at the Police/Fire Complex on South Main in Abbeville, and there have been concerns that they need more space.

Council member Chris Crawford noted Wednesday night at the Council meeting that the building at 104 West Pickens has a front exterior that includes glass, and he was wondering if it could be fixed for the protection of those inside the building, and City Manager Blake Stone said that the City would look into replacing the glass.

Stone also indicated that the City would try to establish a parking area for the property.

The building on West Pickens used to be the home of Abbeville Area Medical Center's "home health" agency, and also at one time housed a seafood restaurant.

At one point in its history, it was also a grocery store.

Meanwhile, the City's fire department will remain based at the Police/Fire Complex, as will the Municipal Court.

SC Statehouse Reports 2022-The House of Representatives

House Week in Review

Rep. Craig A. Gagnon, District 11--SC House of Representatives
March 8, 2022

This past week, in preparation for Budget Week, intended to "clear the calendar". This means all bills currently being considered by the house were to be acted on. This meant some long days (and long debates) on the floor.

There were some important bills that passed the House and on to the Senate and some went to the Governor's desk for approval.

H. 3444 was passed (and I supported) and sent to the Senate. There are several different safeguards and protections of this bill, but notably, this bill improves identity verification and addresses early voting and absentee voting. The bill: Makes election fraud a felony and creates a SLED hotline to report suspicious activity at the polls;

Requires all voters to attest that "to their knowledge" they are not registered to vote in a state other than South Carolina;

Requires a photo id to return an absentee ballot in person as is on Election Day. To submit an absentee ballot application, the last 4 of your social security number must be provided for identity verification;

Requires the witness of every absentee ballot to be verifiable by providing a printed name, signature, and address;

Creates a system where deceased individuals are purged from the voter roll;

Improves cybersecurity, by ensuring ballot machines will never be connected to the Internet;

Creates an 'early voting' system, which extends 2 weeks before an election for all qualified voters

Modifies the reasons that an absentee ballot can be cast, replacing being "on vacation" with "absent from the country for the duration of early voting and Election Day" to the list;

County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections must determine locations for early voting, considering geography, population, and ADA compliance. Boards must distribute the locations throughout the county to maximize accessibility for all voters. The Executive Director of the State Election Commission may, at his discretion, direct the move of early voting centers to ensure proper distribution through each county;

Eliminates the '10 miles apart' rule for polling locations, allowing polling places to be closer than 10 miles apart if it better accommodates the population;

Prevents candidates from being nominated by more than one political party or appearing on the ballot more than once;

Allows absentee ballots to be opened before the election for quicker election results when polls close but makes disclosing information about results a punishable offense.

I supported the following bills: The House approved H. 4082, adopting the proposed amendment by the committee, and sent to the Senate, a bill that creates a new license for hair designers to be regulated by the Board of Cosmetology.

The House amended, approved, and sent the Senate H. 4837, a bill establishing requirements and authorization that allows a not-for-profit program to operate optometry mobile units to visit Title I public schools and provide services onsite to their students.

The House received message from the Senate that the Conference Report for H. 3308 was adopted and enrolled for ratification. The bill increases the watercraft idle speed wake distance on certain lakes including Lake Secession, Lake Russell and Lake Thurmond.

After adopting the proposed Committee amendment, the House amended and sent H. 3600 to the Senate. Those House amendments made minimal changes regarding highway crossing and helmet requirements. H. 3600 extensively addresses the subject of utility terrain vehicles (UTV).

This bill would define the term utility terrain vehicle and provide for the registration and operation on highways and streets (to include side-by-side, four-wheel drive, off-road vehicle, transporting individuals and cargo or both, tires, width, steering and seating).

H. 4534 Legal Scrap Metal Purchasing and Transportation was approved and sent to the Senate after receiving three readings in the House.

The House amended and gave it third reading to H. 3509. This proposed legislation could extend foster care past age eighteen.

The House amended S. 947 and sent it to the Senate. The bill exempts the electric cooperatives of South Carolina from being regulated as a driving school by exempting an association formed by a group of electric cooperatives

pursuant to the extent that it trains member cooperative employees.

The House non-concurred in Senate amendments to H. 3590. The bill would provide that public school districts may hire noncertified teachers if a certified teacher is not available (if certain circumstances and requirements are met).

The House amended, approved, and sent the Senate H. 4161, a bill that revises provisions relating to prohibited gaming machines to allow manufacturers to produce gaming machines and equipment designated for out-of-state use.

The House amended, approved and sent to the Senate H. 4866, a joint resolution to provide for a three-year pilot program for public school-based canneries.

The House approved H. 3537, adopting the proposed amendment by the committee, giving the bill third reading and sending it to the Senate. This legislation outlines that provisions of any homeowners' association (HOA) governing documents may not prohibit the installation of a flagpole for the display of the flag of the United States or South Carolina.

The House amended and gave second reading to H. 3958, legislation that outlines that a coroner is considered a public safety officer if killed in the line of duty in counties which have both a coroner and a medical examiner. In addition, the bill adds that a coroner or designee may possess and administer an opioid antidote in accordance with the requirements of the "South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act."

Finally, The House set H. 5150, the General Appropriation Bill, and H. 5151, the joint resolution making appropriations from the Capital Reserve Fund, for special order on Monday, March 14, to begin its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 State Government Budget on the House Floor.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you in Columbia. If you need help with any state agency, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me at home at (864) 366-4112 or in Columbia at (803) 212-6934 or by email at craiggagnon@southcarolinahouse.gov.



US House of Representatives

Rep. Duncan Votes NO on Democrats' Omnibus Overhaul

Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C.—Congressman Jeff Duncan issued the following statement regarding his opposition to the Democrats' omnibus package after its passage last night.

"House Democrats rammed a \$1.5 trillion+ omnibus spending bill through Congress that does nothing to change the reckless spending trajectory and proposes an irresponsible 6.7% increase in spending at a time when we are past \$30 trillion in debt," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "Democrats did this without even allowing adequate time for congressional debate or transparency for the American people, completing the 2,700-page omnibus spending bill at

2:30 a.m. before the vote last night, which allowed us little time to review what all is actually in this monstrosity of a package. From what we have been able to review, the omnibus package is an antithesis to what our country needs."

"This is nothing more than a product of the Swamp and another Democrat spending spree at the expense of the American taxpayer and our nation's values," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "The omnibus includes no change to federal COVID-19 vaccine mandates, no steps to unleash American energy, and no policy to address southern border security, and would send taxpayer funds to Planned Parenthood, increase funding for the radical rush-to-green agenda, and hypercharge inflationary spending. This

massive spending bill is rushed and used as political leverage to ram through the Democrats' failed globalist and Green New Deal agenda."

"Democrats lumped in aid to Ukraine in the omnibus in an attempt to pressure bipartisan support from risk-averse Republicans attempting to avoid a government shutdown," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "I voted against the omnibus, which included aid to Ukraine, since there is no way to ensure the \$13.6 billion in aid is properly distributed and placed in the right hands. After seeing the reckless abandonment of billions of dollars' worth of equipment in Afghanistan, this opens the door to unintentionally bolstering Russia's military state and is a risk we cannot afford to take."

Noble Ruin of the South

by Tom Poland

When man abandoned it, the traffic diverted west, and the forest began to claim it. Today, sycamores, cedars, and oaks console it, and wind and water song replace the hum of tires. If you know when and where to look, you can glimpse this noble ruin of the South.

A mere second, my glimpse, but it whispered, "Take time to visit me," so I did. I knew the place would give me a good feeling, and it did. The place? The old U.S. Highway 25 bridge that used to straddle Turkey Creek.

"Used to, you say?"

"Yes, men cut away its mid-section."

Now like book-ends, its truncated ends stare at each other across a westward-flowing creek. You won't see books suspended mid-air, but this place is a book, and it deserves to be in a book, and I just might put it in one.

In winter light, the north end looked Romanesque. The snow-white limbs of sycamores added brilliance to the dry brown of January, and the azure sky reigned perfect, not a cloud in the sky. Only man's orange safety netting, a band-aid of sorts, marred the setting. Rains had the creek swollen and muddy, a chocolate-colored torrent.

I like ruins. I've been to Rome's Coliseum. I like going to the Glendale Ruins up Sparkle City way. I've never been to Cumberland Island's

Dungeness Ruins, but I will. Best of all I like the ruins beneath my nose, the ones no

the vanquished Silas N. Pearson/Cooper River Bridge.

But the old Highway 25 Bridge stands still, and it gives me that ancient Rome vibe. It's truly a bridge to the past. I think of old makes and models of cars and trucks it ferried north and south. Old Coca Cola trucks. Women in labor. Men bound for labor. Surely an old crew from the abandoned chain gang camp five miles south worked the highway here. Come torrid summer days I bet they leaned over those cement guardrails and dreamed they were swimming.

The chain gangs are dead now. All those trucks and cars rusted to death. Those who built the bridge are dead. Those who traveled it? Many are dead. When you and I are dead, it will still be there as it holds its place among the ranks of forlorn bridges forced into retirement.

On a cold, windy afternoon I stood on the old bridge's south end watching the newer distant bridge ferry traffic across a creek turned small river when rains come. None, I daresay, knew a man was watching from the past, but I was, a witness to God Change. I watched them speed along oblivious to the old bridge and God Change who's patiently waiting for them as well.

Photos by Tom Poland



North End Old Bridge



Sycamores

one cares about but me. And so it was I found myself walking toward this old bridge. On the way in I walked past coyote scat and a deer stand.

A refugee from the Old West and primal instincts seek safe harbor here near this bridge to the past.

When I got to the old bridge, right off I noticed that missing midsection. I noticed, too, two strange steel towers, green moss, white quartz embedded in gray cement, and those dazzling sycamores—a majestic setting for majestic ruins. This bridge speaks to me. "Like you, I was younger and essential once, but to see me is to see your future."

Time and something called progress leave many a bridge behind. Many get razed, like

Sacred Heart plans Lenten fish fries

By Henry E. Green
Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Abbeville will be having its annual Lenten fish fry dinners again this year.

The dinners will be held on Friday, March 25, and April 8, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sacred Heart parish hall, at 206 North Main Street, Abbeville.

The cost is \$15 for adults, and \$10 for youth 12 and under. "Carry out" is available, and tickets are available after Mass and at the door, according to a Press and Banner advertisement.

The menu includes "all you

care to eat fried flounder with a baked potato, cole slaw, hushpuppies, a drink and dessert."

Church history

Located at the corner of North Main and East Pinckney, Sacred Heart is a church which became a reality largely because of the generosity of Irishman Thomas Enright.

Enright settled in the Abbeville area, purchasing a number of tracts of land, one of which he willed to the Catholic Diocese of Charleston for the construction of a church, according

to a church history found on the church Website.

Under the direction of John J. Monaghan, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Greenwood, construction was completed and Sacred Heart was dedicated on Oct. 24, 1885.

The fourth oldest church in Abbeville, Sacred Heart is considered a fine example of Norman-Gothic architecture. Through the years, a number of new features have been added.

On May 11, 2008, a prayer garden on the grounds of the church was dedicated.

The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce will host first community meet and greet this month

Submitted by Anna LaGrone

"The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its first community meet and greet event this month. This is a new program for 2022, says Executive Director Anna LaGrone. "We are a county-wide Chamber, and we want to really emphasize that we serve the entire Abbeville community," she said. "Our first meet and greet will be on March 28th, at 6pm in the Due West town hall. The goal here is to provide an opportunity for business owners and community leaders to meet with representatives from the Chamber and share ideas and feedback.

A Chamber membership is not required to attend—we want to hear from you and see what the business owners would like to see from the Chamber moving forward." The plan is to start having meetings all over the County in areas like Due West and Lowndesville, hopefully on a quarterly basis. "Abbeville County has so much to offer, and we as a Chamber want to do everything we can to make these businesses more visible, to provide any resources they may need, and to promote them to everyone who comes through our doors. Hearing what they need from us is just the start," says LaGrone. In addition to these new meet and greets, the Chamber has

also started its own Business Education program, with monthly workshops, she noted. "2022 is going to be a big year. We are adding more services and more resources so that we can help our members build better businesses and be more impactful throughout the County."

The Chamber is now also accepting nominations for the Hall of Fame and for the Business of the Year. Applications for these awards and for the Chamber's Community Spirit scholarship may be picked up at the Chamber.

Recipients will be announced at the Chamber's Annual Banquet, slated for the end of May.

Visit the Church of Your Choice this Week!



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"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand."

Ezekiel 33:8 (NKJV)

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Interested in becoming a volunteer? Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont is seeking volunteers. Pictured is a Group of Spring Volunteer Training. (Photo contributed)

Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont Volunteer Training

Submitted by
Andrea Scott

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont is seeking volunteers.

Volunteers are needed in many areas: patient sitting, working in the Hospice House, running errands, selling and sorting donations, repair work, clerical, fundraising and many other exciting opportunities that provide services to patients and families of the terminally ill. Becoming a hospice vol-

unteer is similar to helping a neighbor in need.

Hospice is excited to have two thrift stores operated by paid staff and volunteers with locations in Greenwood and Abbeville. Training at the stores is conducted on site where all other requires training sessions.

Volunteer Training will be held: May 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 9am - 3pm at the Hospice Volunteer Community Center, 217 North Creek Blvd, Greenwood, S.C. Evening date and time to be arranged.

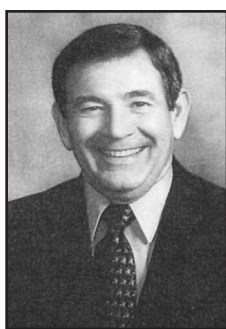
To sign up for training or for more information, contact Susan Harris, Director of Volunteers at 229-8461 or visit our website, www.hospicepiedmont.org.

Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont is your community non-profit network of care that provides expert, life-changing health care for those living with advanced illnesses. Serving patients and families in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties since 1981.

a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith

Wisdom



jkeithfbc@gmail.com

Psalm 101:2 "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will you come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."

In his book, "Leadership Gold" John Maxwell shares this profound statement from William Ward: "Committing a great truth to memory is admirable, committing it to life is wisdom." In Psalm 101:2 that is what David is doing—committing a great truth to his life. The great truth that David was committing to his life was that he wanted to behave himself wisely. If he did that he would have a perfect heart. The word perfect here has several meanings, one of which is "without blemish" or "integrity." There are four thoughts from this verse that come to my mind.

The first thought that comes to mind is the word resolve. David resolves in his heart that he will live wisely and in order to do that he must not blemish his character. A wise person is one who is careful not to tarnish his integrity. A wise person resolves ahead of time to do the right thing. Notice where David wants to walk wisely without blemish—in his own house. It is so important to have integrity in one's home. It is not wise to hit a home run at the office but strike out at

home. David's resolve to walk wisely extended to his home as well as to the nation. There is something drastically wrong if the ones who know you best think the least of you. David resolves that he will not blemish his character at home or anywhere else.

The second thought is recognition. David recognizes that resolve is not enough, he knows that he needs the help of God. If he is to walk wisely he knows that God must help him. He recognizes ahead of time that he is not strong enough to keep this commitment in his own strength. None of us are strong enough to face the difficult things in life on our own. Without the help of God we will fail miserably.

The third thought is request. David not only resolves to do the right thing, he not only recognizes that he needs the help of God, he also requests God's help. It is possible to recognize that one needs the help of God but not request it. Many folks allow their pride to keep them from requesting the help of God. I visited a man in the hospital once and when I asked him if I could pray for him he refused. He told

me that he had not sought the Lord's help when he was well and he didn't think it was right to ask for it when he was sick. That was not only prideful but unwise as well.

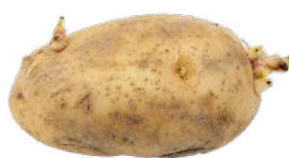
The fourth thought is rejoicing. When one recognizes he needs the Lord's help so as not to tarnish his integrity and that person requests the Lord's help he will be able to rejoice at what the Lord does. The Lord is gracious and gladly answers our requests to live wisely. One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

God is able to do more than we can ever imagine, and when we request His help in behaving wisely His answers are so exciting that it takes our breath away.

What a mighty God we serve! Don't be afraid to ask Him for the strength to live wisely—at home and everywhere else.



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Noah Cape sporting his Gold Medal from the SCYWA State Championship with his Coach Daniel Roberts. (Photo contributed)



Matthew New on top of the Podium with his Gold Medals. (Photo contributed)



Pictured (l to r): Jase Roberts, Coach Daniel Roberts and Noah Roberts showing off their hardware from the tournaments. (Photo contributed)

Softball

Dixie's Lady Hornets off to good start

By Henry E. Green
The Dixie High School softball team is off to a very good start, sporting a 5-1 record as of Monday morning, according to Dixie coach Samantha Ferguson. The Lady Hornets won the Greenwood Christian preseason tournament recently, defeating Abbeville 5-2, Wardlaw Academy 15-0, and Strom Thurmond 5-4 on the way to the championship.

On Saturday, March 5, the Lady Hornets defeated Wardlaw Academy again, 11-0, and then faced AHS for the championship. The Lady Panthers had to defeat Dixie twice to claim the tournament title, and they won the first game, 5-0, but then AHS forfeited the second game, giving Dixie the victory, according to the Dixie coach. "That leaves us with a 5-1 record," said Ferguson

Monday, adding that last week's games were all rained out. The Lady Hornets were slated to play Emerald this past Monday, and at Southside Christian yesterday. Dixie is scheduled to play at Crescent today--Wednesday, March 16, at 6 p.m. The Dixie jayvees will host McCormick Friday for a doubleheader beginning at 5 p.m., Ferguson continued.

Washed away Inclement weather limits Abbeville High School varsity baseball action

By Henry E. Green
You can't argue with Mother Nature. Abbeville High School played only one game in varsity baseball action last week, with the Panthers defeating Dixie 4-0 on Monday, March 7, in Abbeville, said AHS head baseball coach

Daniel Little. The other games scheduled for that week were all rained out, and rescheduled for later in the season. The Panthers will play Ware Shoals on March 23 and Clinton on March 28, Little continued.

The Abbeville High School baseball team was scheduled to travel to Emerald this past Monday--March 14--before traveling to Whitmire Wednesday, March 16, for a 6 p.m. contest, and then Friday the Panthers will host Greenwood Christian at 6 p.m., the coach said.

The Panther Club Wrestling Team competed in SCYWA Tournaments

Submitted by Bill Glace
The Panther Club Wrestling Team had two young wrestlers compete in tournaments on March 5th and 6th. Noah Cape wrestled in the SCYWA State Qualifier where he walked away with 2 wins both coming by pin and a Gold Medal for winning the 8 and under heavyweight weight class. He wrestled on March 12th at the SCYWA State Tour-

namment. Noah again came home with the gold medal as champion for his weight class. Noah pinned both of his opponents in 27 seconds and 35 seconds in route to claim his gold medal. Jase Roberts competed in two divisions at the SCYWA Rookie State Championship Tournament. Jase fought valiantly on the mat to earn 7 wins with 3 pins and 4 wins by decision (points) and walked away with Two

Gold Medals. Another young man from Abbeville who competed at State is Matthew New. Matthew competed for Team Bear out of Belton-Honea Path and wrestled at the SCYWA Rookie State Championship as well. Matthew also wrestled in two divisions at the tournament and walked away with 5 wins, all coming by pin, and taking home Two Gold Medals.

Dixie pounds Hawks in baseball, 14-1

By Henry E. Green
The Dixie High School baseball team had a good week, said Dixie varsity baseball coach Michael Turner. Dixie lost 4-0 to AHS at Abbeville, but the Hornets bounced back, playing Friday at home in Due West against Greenwood Christian, and defeated the Hawks, 14-1.

The Hornets, meanwhile, pounded out seven hits. The top hitters for Dixie were Brandon Hershberger, who was two for two with an RBI; Kendon Kelley, who was three for three, with a double and two RBIs, and Staten Rice, who was two for three with one RBI. Turner praised his team for playing on a wet, wet day. "I'm proud of how they handled the weather conditions," he said. "It was rainy-- it was nasty."

ring to a contest which had been slated for March 8. Dixie was slated to host AHS this past Monday--March 14. "We start Region play this week as well," he said. The Hornets were slated to visit High Point yesterday, and then High Point will come to Due West for a 6 p.m. game with the Hornets on Friday, March 18.

Michael Ashley was the winning pitcher," he said. Ashley struck out six, walked three, and gave up one run, and two hits.

"The Emerald game got rained out," he said, refer-

"Our overall record is 4-2," he said, noting that this includes the preseason.

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Above the water

Lake Russell Hustle takes participants across Lake Russell dam

Susan Caldwell of Georgia was the top female finisher in the march 12 Lake Russell Hustle, a 5K event. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



By Henry E. Green

It may be the best dam race on either side of the Savannah River.

The Lake Russell Hustle was held Saturday at the Lake Russell dam, with a Calhoun Falls Charter junior and a Georgia accountant emerging as the top finishers.

Presented by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition, the 5K event attracted about 40 participants.

Quade Lindler was the top male finisher, and the top female finisher was Susan Caldwell of Oglethorpe County, Georgia.

Lindler, who finished with a time of 18:57, won the state championship in the 800

meter run last year.

The Calhoun Falls Charter student is a veteran participant of the Lake Russell Hustle, and he typically takes part every year.

Caldwell, meanwhile, finished with a time of 39:40. An accountant, she has been participating in running events for several years.

The participants included the Mayor of Calhoun Falls, Terrico Holland.

"This is my first time" participating in the Lake Russell Hustle, he said.

In the past, the 5K event was held at the Blue Hole recreation area on the outskirts of Calhoun Falls, but this year's event featured a new location, with participants making their way

across the Lake Russell dam.

It was a Hustle that crossed state lines. Participants gathered in a parking lot just south of Calhoun Falls, and boarded a bus which took them to the Georgia side of Lake Russell, where the 5K event started.

They crossed the dam and finished at the parking lot where they had boarded the bus, and medals were awarded to the top finishers in various age categories.

It all took place on a cold, windy day which made the waves on the lake choppy.

The Coalition, a nonprofit organization, promotes recreational opportunities on Lake Russell.



The Lake Russell Hustle, a 5K event, took participants across the Lake Russell dam. The March 12 event was presented by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Calhoun Falls Charter junior Quade Lindler was the top male finisher in the recent Lake Russell Hustle. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The Tuck Cup: "Helping children in need in memory of our great friend"

Submitted by Lindsey Jones

"Helping children in need in memory of our great friend"

During the first week of March, the RVs were hauled, the boats were packed, and the coolers were full as family and friends gathered to raise funds in memory of one of their beloved. Tommy Tucker; lovingly known as "T-Tommy-Turtle-Tuck" passed away on March 16, 2018. Since that time, Tommy's daughter, Lindsey Jones, and his longtime friend, Keith Stewart, have worked together to reopen Hester's Bottoms Campground in Mt. Carmel, SC. Keith, having fished many times with "Tuck", decided shortly after the reopening that he wanted to properly honor his friend with a Crappie tournament fundraiser.

After many months of planning and organizing, he did exactly that. On March 4th and 5th, the weather was beautiful, and the 1st Annual Tuck Cup was underway on Lake Strom Thurmond (also known as Clark's Hill). Thirteen teams (a total of 30 people

including men, women, and children) left out early each morning with the goal of catching the largest weight amongst a select number of fish.

Weigh-in was held promptly each day at the boat ramp inside Hester's Bottoms. Although the goal was to win, this tournament was different than most in the area. The purpose of this weekend was to honor a friend by raising money for the Shriner's Hospital. Everyone gladly donated an entrance fee knowing that bragging rights were all they'd take home. At the end of weigh-in on Saturday afternoon, the tournament was complete with live music from The Carter Lybrand Band out of Columbia and memorabilia for purchase from the first tournament. The celebration went well into the evening with many from the community coming to show their support and to make generous donations and joining in for a fish fry afterwards.

This year's winning team went to husband and wife, Josh and Noel Martin who led both days. Second place was Keith Stewart and Knocker Horne. A large

trophy was on display that proudly reads

The Tuck Cup Helping children in need in memory of our great friend

Each year the trophy will be engraved with the winners and will remain on display in the General Store of the park. On the back of the trophy there is also a place for an Honorary Winner. The teams vote on the recipient of this award and this year it will read Tuck and Cheeseburger, "no man fishes alone".

Stewart plans to continue this tournament annually and has already discussed new rules and plans for the coming years. He says that he hopes to always keep it an invitational so that the focus never changes, but that he would love to see it grow amongst people that share the same desire to help. Although growth is always a great goal, the first year is something to proud of with over \$10,000 being raised in the two days.

To continue with Tucker's memory, the raised monies will be delivered to the Shriner's Hospital on March 16th.

Pet of the Month

Kennedy really needs a forever home. She is a mixed Breed who has a beautiful blue brindle and white coat. Kennedy is 2 yrs. old and is about 56 pounds of love. She can be shy at first but she is very sweet. Food is her biggest motivator. She is very laid back and gets along well with other dogs. You can't go wrong if you choose Kennedy.

Adoption Fees are reduced to \$25 for Kennedy, sponsored by Abbeville Humane Society. That includes spay/neuter, vaccines, rabies voucher, dewormer, flea treatment and microchip. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.

Pet of the Month

Meet **Marvel** a 2 yr. old Retriever/mix who is very energetic and loves people. Marvel weighs in at 45 pounds and can be a handful with his energy and size. He loves to run and play in the yard but will need to be an only dog. Visit Marvel at the shelter and let her show you all that love she has to offer.

Adoption Fees are reduced to \$25 for Marvel, sponsored by Abbeville Humane Society. That includes spay/neuter, vaccines, rabies voucher, dewormer, flea treatment and microchip. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.

Pet of the Month

Oreo and Charlie are siblings who are 7 months old. Oreo is black and very playful and loves human attention. Charlie is black and white and enjoys some human affection but is a bit more independent and curious. Visit the shelter today and take one or both of these beautiful babies home and experience the love they have to offer.

Adoption Fees are reduced to \$15 for Oreo and \$15 for Charlie, sponsored by Abbeville Humane Society. That includes spay/neuter, vaccines, rabies voucher, dewormer, flea treatment and microchip. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.

Classifieds & Legals

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

Estate: Steven Ray Charring
Date of Death: 02/10/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100051
Personal Representative: Candice M. Charring
Address: 64 Whip O Will Road Abbeville, SC 29620 3/2;3tc

Estate: Melvin Scott Lane
Date of Death: 01/15/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100052
Personal Representative: Sandra Terese Lee
Address: 1307 Oak Drive Pendleton, SC 29670 3/2;3tc

Estate: Sara Johnson Cartledge
Date of Death: 05/03/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100158
Personal Representative: Sara Jo Sherard
Address: 126 Woodland Way Abbeville, SC 29620 3/9;3tc

Estate: Vester Gene Gable
Date of Death: 02/23/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100059
Personal Representative: Douglas Aaron Gable
Address: 29 Troy Road, Abbeville, SC 29620 3/9;3tc

Estate: James Bruce Wilson
Date of Death: 1/26/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100061
Personal Representative: Gloria Jean Wilson
Address: 80 Red Bird Lane, Abbeville, SC 29620 3/16;3tc

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Saxon's Holdings LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on premises consumption of Beer/Wine at 381 Hwy 72 W Abbeville, SC 29620. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than April 5, 2022. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:
(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
(2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
(3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
(4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
(5) The name of the applicant and the address of the business to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907; or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov 3/16;3tc

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that DJK Wings LLC aka Brittany Bice intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on premises consumption of Beer, Wine & Liquor at 101 S. Main St. Abbeville, SC 29620. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than April 8, 2022. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:
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(2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
(3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
(4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
(5) The name of the applicant and the address of the business to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907; or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov 3/16;3tc

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