



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



The Piedmont Agency is recruiting people to be Foster Grandparents. Here is Don Goforth of the agency putting up a recruitment poster outside The Press and Banner. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Agency recruiting ‘foster grandparents’

By Henry E. Green

The Piedmont Agency on Aging is recruiting people to serve as “foster grandparents,” according to Don Goforth, director of the agency’s Foster Grandparent Program.

The foster grandparent program is an exercise in inter-generational bonding.

According to information provided by the Piedmont Agency on Agency, which administers the program locally, the Foster Grandparents project enables men and women over the age of 55 to be mentors, tutors, and storytellers to children.

Established in 1965 by the

Federal Government, the program is part of AmeriCorps. Volunteers who meet certain criteria may be able to receive a stipend and assistance with the cost of transportation.

Piedmont Agency on Aging has sponsored the program in Laurens County. The agency has received a grant from AmeriCorps to have the program be implemented in the rest of the counties the agency serves, including Abbeville, Greenwood and Saluda.

According to the agency, schools in the Abbeville County School District that have expressed an interest in the program have includ-

ed Long Cane Primary, Diamond Hill Elementary, and Westwood Elementary. The GLEAMNS Head Start Center is also seeking Foster Grandparent volunteers.

Every candidate for the program must submit an application with references and undergo an interview process, and each has to pass a background check.

For more information on the Foster Grandparent Program for Abbeville, Greenwood, and Saluda counties, one may contact Don Goforth, at 864-223-0164, or email him at dgo-forth@piedmontaoa.com

May referendum set

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District is slated to have a referendum on Tuesday, May 17, on funding improvements at AHS and Dixie and the Career Center, according to action taken by the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees, when the school board met Tuesday night.

The board approved 5-4 a bond resolution paving the way for the referendum.

Voting against were trustees David Brooks, Keith Dunn, Adam Rich and Tim Rhodes. Voting in favor were trustees Joe Bryson, Brad Evans, Glynda Bryson, James Tisdale and Marvin Peoples.

The scope of work discussed thus far has included new academic wings and cafeteria expansions at AHS and Dixie, a new media center at AHS, and work at the Abbeville County Career Center, including a main office, and improved space for the pre-engineering program Project Lead the Way.

These proposed academic improvements will form the content of the first referendum question.

A second question is slated to give permission to build

tracks and new gyms and locker rooms at the high schools.

The price?

Past figures had come to approximately \$58,000,000, but the District has since come out with revised figures, which Brooks said came from a reduction in planned square footage for the projects.

The price for the academic projects is slated to be approximately \$43,800,000, and that for the athletic projects \$12 million.

The vote came near the end of a meeting which lasted more than two hours.

Attorney Francenia Heizer, with whom the District has been working in planning the referendum, was present, and Ginny Kirk of Thompson Turner construction and Scott May of the LS3P architectural firm attended electronically.

The trustees asked questions of Heizer, Kirk and May on, for example, how specific the wording should be.

Heizer advised the trustees on the wording for the referendum. “I strongly recommend that you do not put in square footage.”

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. with the trustees

going into an executive session to discuss personnel, and then at 6 p.m. they came back into open session.

The Gold Star Highlights segment of the meeting will include recognition of Junior Scholars, middle school students who have shown academic promise through their performances on standardized tests.

A number of students from Dixie and Wright Middle were recognized as Junior Scholars.

The board also took action on a proposed school calendar for the coming school year.

There were two versions which the trustees debated. One had the start of the school year at the beginning of August, and the other in the middle of August.

The board Tuesday night voted in favor of Calendar B, which provides for the school year to start about the first of August.

There were also reports on maintenance, finance, curriculum and technology, and the board approved the administration’s recommendations with regard to personnel.

Making the move

Moving Police Department would be cost savings for City, Clary says

By Henry E. Green

Call it the story behind the story.

The City of Abbeville is in the process of purchasing a building on West Pickens with the hope of turning it into a new home of the City Police Department.

The Police Department currently shares the Police/Fire Complex on South Main with the City of Abbeville Fire Department.

However, the City is hoping to relocate the Police Department to a building on West Pickens that used to house offices of AAMC’s Health-Related Home Care.

Abbeville City Council recently passed first reading on an ordinance to purchase the property in which the City plans to relocate the Police department.

Mike Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer with the City, recently explained the rationale behind the City’s effort to find a new location for the Police.

“The current Public Safety Building on S. Main was not built with today’s operational

needs in mind and is not truly large enough to serve as a Fire Department, Police Department, and Municipal Courtroom,” he said.

“The City began the process of moving one of those three Departments to a new location over a decade ago when much thought was put by prior administrations into the possibility of building a new fire station; this was a bit before I was with the City but I know at least a few different locations were put forward,” he continued. “That project never ended up being realized.

“For more than five years the City has gone back to the drawing board, attempting to find a more economical solution that would allow the operational needs of Fire, Police, and Court to be better served, so they can more effectively provide services to the citizens of Abbeville, Clary continued.

The City found that it would be more cost effective to move the Police Department out of the current Public Safety Building and

into an existing structure instead of building a new Fire Station or Police Station.

Estimates for a new fire station ranged from \$3 million to \$5 million before the inflation and supply chain issues caused by COVID, while the City hopes to buy and renovate the building on W. Pickens for under \$650,000.

This would be “a major cost savings for City Taxpayers as opposed to a new completely new structure,” he said.

The renovations to the W. Pickens building would be mostly cosmetic, as the building is structurally sound and includes creating office spaces for the detective level positions and up, creating a training and meeting space, locker rooms, secure storage, and lobby, said Clary.

The expectation is that the work would be completed in 18-24 months from the time the City closes on the building, he said.

Shandal Boggs, a lifelong resident of Due West, is the first African-American to serve as Abbeville County Clerk of Court. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Shandal Boggs is County Clerk of Court

By Henry E. Green

(February is Black History Month.)

Shandal Boggs, a lifelong resident of Due West, is the first African-American woman to serve as Abbeville County Clerk of Court.

Boggs has been with the Clerk of Court’s office for 20 years, and has served under two Clerks of Court—the late Nancy S. King, and Emily Y. McMahan.

She began her career by serving as Common Pleas Clerk, before being promoted to the post of Deputy Clerk of Court/General Sessions Clerk, and she eventually ran for

Clerk of Court unopposed in the general election on Nov. 3, 2020.

A graduate of Dixie High School, she has an associates degree in business with an emphasis in accounting. She is also a member of Mount Lebanon African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she serves on the trustee board, and where she is also Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School, and a member of the Mass Choir.

She is the mother of Justin and JaMaya Boggs, and she says her passion is helping others, and spending time with her family and the

elderly.

Boggs says that as Clerk of Court her “primary goal is to provide the public with quality customer service, and to serve the citizens of Abbeville County with dignity, respect, professionalism,” and to be an accountable and effective leader.

“The Clerk of Court is responsible for all aspects of general sessions, common pleas, family court and juvenile court, and we also accept all the filings and all records pertaining to each of those courts, and our office also handles all of the ROD (register of deeds) recordings,” she continued.

Marker ceremony held at cemetery

By Henry E. Green

A historical marker placement ceremony for Harbison Cemetery on the outskirts of Abbeville was held Friday afternoon.

A small crowd gathered to hear speakers talk about the burial ground and its history, a burial ground whose roots go back to the 19th century.

The program was organized and the marker installed through the Essie Strother Patterson Legacy Foundation, Inc., named for a beloved teacher who has now passed on, but not before displaying her love of education and history upon a generation.

Her son, Dr. Lemuel Patterson, helped establish the Foundation, and he served as master of ceremonies for Friday's program.

Bill Rogers of the Abbeville County Historical Society provided some remarks, noting that he worked three years ago with the Foundation on the placement of a historical marker at the Mulberry AME Church in rural Abbeville County.

The Society has worked with the Foundation on the Harbison marker project as well.

"Your County Historical Society aided in this marker with about 12% cost funding," Rogers indicated.

He went on to say that two long time friends of his family, Howlie Anderson and her daughter Bell Anderson Belcher, are buried there.

Richard London provided the benediction for the program.

London has led efforts to clean up the cemetery, clearing it of overgrown vegetation.

Brenda Patterson Frinks led the crowd in a libation ceremony, and the opening prayer was provided by Pastor Chester Miller, Jr.

Richie family representative Edwina George and Mims family representative Greg Mims helped with the unveiling of the marker.

The statement of purpose was provided by Marianna Glascoe-Kirkland Smith.

The marker inscription, meanwhile, describes the history of this cemetery of approximately three acres, which dates to at least the 1890s, and was created to serve African American residents of the Abbeville area.

It eventually became known as Harbison Cemetery after historically black Harbison College, which was named for benefactor Samuel Pollock Harbison.

"The earliest-known burials here include members of the Logan, Richie and White families. Several of the graves show the influence of Abbeville burial customs."

The back of the marker continues the description of the burial ground's history.

Among those buried at Harbison Cemetery are alumni of Harbison College and its predecessor, Ferguson Academy, and at least

one Harbison professor.

Those buried in the cemetery also include farmers, laborers, teachers, ministers, and businesspeople.

Harbison College moved to Irmo in the early 20th century. Meanwhile, burials continue to take place in the cemetery, the marker inscription continues.

Established in 2016, the Foundation aims to "preserve, restore and empower families and communities through economic development, education contributions, cultural unity, and healthy living," according to information provided at Friday's program.

Essie Patterson educated thousands of students in the course of 40 years of service as an educator in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

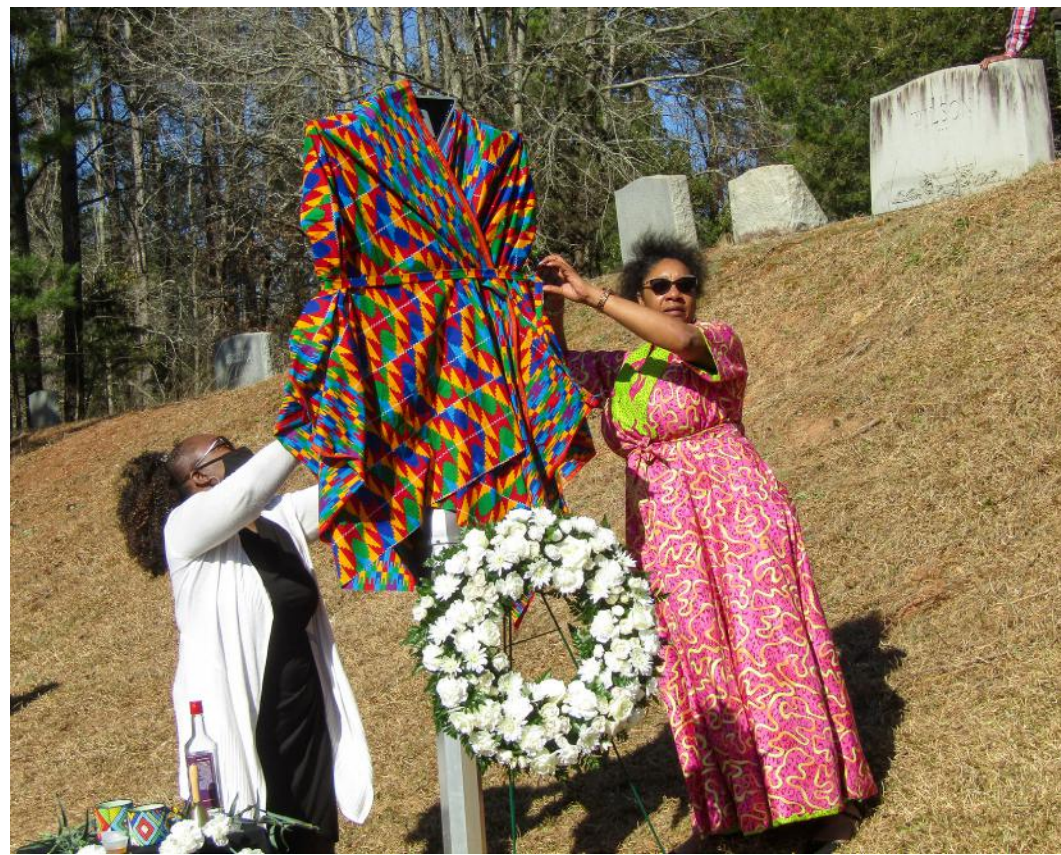
After her retirement, she continued to teach through adult education courses and tutoring the children and grandchildren of former students.

She established the Essie Strother Patterson/Georgia Mae Strother Scholarship for Abbeville students at her alma mater, Benedict College.

"Mrs. Patterson believed that every child is capable of learning, and that we must all (especially adults) be lifelong learners if we are to excel in life," according to the Foundation.



Brenda Patterson Frinks led the crowd in a libation ceremony during the Harbison Cemetery Historical Placement ceremony on Friday, Feb. 18 on the outskirts of Abbeville. The program was presented by the Essie Strother Patterson Legacy Foundation. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



A historical marker placement ceremony for Harbison Cemetery on the outskirts of Abbeville was held Friday afternoon. The marker, with an inscription describing the history of the cemetery, was unveiled. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Dr. Lemuel Patterson (far right) was the master of ceremonies for the Harbison Cemetery Historical Marker Placement Ceremony, held on Friday, Feb. 18. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

The Abbeville Community Performing Arts announces two upcoming events

Submitted by Jodi Miller

The Abbeville Community Performing Arts would like to announce two upcoming events. The first is the auditions for their next stage production, "Catfish Moon". The auditions will be March 1 and 2 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Abbeville Opera House. The play is a comedy and calls for 3 men and 1 woman whose lives are all intertwined and complicated. The setting is an old creaky dock somewhere deep in the south. The men have been coming to the old

dock to fish and fix the troubles of the world. The dates for the production are April 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16 at the Opera House. The show will be directed by Bess Park and produced by Brad Christie.

The other event is the Open House/Silent Auction fund raiser to benefit the newly formed Abbeville Community Performing Arts and to support further renovations of the Opera House. The new seating in the auditorium will be showcased, and attendees will learn about the future plans for other areas of the theater. The Open House

is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, from 6-8 pm. The board members of the ACPA have put together some wonderful baskets with support from the community and area businesses. These will be on display at the Abbeville Chamber of Commerce from March 7-11. The silent auction will take place at the Open House. The ACPA board will be introduced, and the entire theater season will be announced. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn how to become a member, or be more involved with live theater at the Opera House.



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Not forgotten

Recent program marks 262nd anniversary of Long Canes massacre

By Henry E. Green

The 262nd anniversary of the Long Canes massacre was marked recently at a church in McCormick County.

About 60 people are estimated to have been in attendance at the Lower Long Cane Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Feb. 6.

It was all to commemorate something that happened on the South Carolina frontier back when South Carolina was still just a colony of Great Britain.

A number of Cherokee warriors attacked a group of settlers trying to make their way to a fort near what is now Augusta, GA.

Twenty-three settlers were killed in the attack, including the grandmother of John C.

Calhoun.

Eric Williams, who several months ago donated to the Abbeville County Museum a painting depicting the chaos of the massacre, was among the speakers at the program.

The program was held in a setting replete with history. Located near the intersection of Abbeville, Greenwood and McCormick counties, the church was established in 1771, and the current building was built in 1856 by contractor/architect William Henry Jones of Atlanta, according to Wayne Sears of Abbeville.

It was all to the anniversary of a day of bloodshed. There had been disagreements over land between the Native Americans and the settlers, tensions mounted,

and the massacre occurred on Feb. 1, 1760. The settlers were on their way to Ft. Moore, a fort located in the area, and the Native Americans attacked when a wagon belonging to the settlers bogged down in a creek, Sears said.

The children were told to go and hide in the woods, and several days after the attack, other settlers came to bury the dead, he continued.

Hearing noises in the woods, they discovered the children, one of whom was Rebecca Calhoun, who was Wayne's fifth great-grandmother, and she married Gen. Andrew Pickens, who was a founder of Abbeville.

"He owned a lot of land that Abbeville was built on," Sears said.



Rick Morris of Abbeville was one of those in attendance at the recent program held at Lower Long Cane Associate Reformed Presbyterian in McCormick County to mark the 262nd anniversary of the Long Canes massacre in Upstate South Carolina. Morris was dressed in period costume for the occasion, representing a local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

High spirits

Paranormal Society of Savannah team pays visit to Abbeville

By Henry E. Green

Members of the Paranormal Society of Savannah visited Abbeville recently, presenting a conference on paranormal investigations and visiting some local landmarks.

Jim Petty, who with his wife Susan owns the Belmont Inn, praised them as "very professional."

"They did a really, really, really good job," he said. "They made quite an impact."

Members of the Society came in Friday, Feb. 11, and presented a conference at the Belmont Inn on paranormal investigations the following day.

About 70 people were in attendance, including people from seven or eight counties in South Carolina, as well as North Carolina and Georgia, according to Patrick Welsh, founder of the Society.

Welsh and nine other members of the Society made the trip to Abbeville, and he helped serve as a moderator for the conference.

It was their first trip to Abbeville, and in addition to the Belmont they visited the Long Cane massacre site, and the Abbeville Opera House, and the "Rock House," and a cemetery in Lowndesville,, as well as the Belmont Inn.

"We did a paranormal investigation", based on the stories we were told, at each location.

Using special equipment, the team caught some images and sounds which may belong to spirits.

"We used a Rempod, a K 2 Meter, and an EBP Recorder," he said.

"They're disembodied voices," he said. "We had the most success at the Massacre site-so much that we went back twice. We went back each night.

"We visited some during the day and some at night."

"We've investigated over 100 sites" in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Why Abbeville?

Welsh explained that a member of his team is from

Greenwood, and helped inspire the visit on the weekend of Feb. 11.

And yes, they found paranormal activity at the Belmont Inn.

"I stayed in Room Number Eight," Welsh recalled. The door would shut for no reason.

One thing is certain--Welsh and his team want to return to Abbeville.

"We hope to come back in the fall if not sooner," he said.

Welsh was impressed by the beauty of the city, as well as the generosity of people like Jim Petty and his wife Susan.

He also gave a "shout out" to author Margie Blalock, who spoke during the conference. Blalock has written about ghosts in this area.

Welsh, who also was a guest on WZLA's "Southern Fried Morning Show", described the visit in extremely positive terms.

"It was awesome," he said.

UCMAC planning volunteer banquet

By Henry E. Green

The United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County will hold its annual volunteer appreciation banquet on Monday, March 7 at the Lowndesville Community Center in Lowndesville.

A UCMAC delegate meeting will be at 6:15 p.m., and this will be followed by a dinner at 7 p.m., in which volunteer service will be recognized, according to UCMAC finance director Jane Agan.

"We'll be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the free medical clinic," said Agan.

During the delegate meeting, new board members will be elected.

Board members are limited to two three-year terms. Retiring from the board are Louise Aiken and Betty White, Agan continued.

"Delegates represent member churches of UCMAC," she said.

The dinner will be catered by Elaine Nixon of Abbeville, and she will be assisted by Bells United Methodist Church, Agan continued.

UCMAC was established upon a collaboration of

churches in Abbeville County.

"We opened the doors in January 2008," Agan said. In 2011, "we opened the free clinic."

UCMAC is an all-volunteer organization which has approximately 100 volunteers.

The free clinic serves people 18 and over who have no medical insurance, and they

must be Abbeville County residents, Agan said.

In addition to the free clinic, UCMAC has three food pantries--in Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, and Lowndesville--and an emergency assistance ministry to help with concerns such as those of rent, utilities and other miscellaneous needs.

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Breathing room

Current public safety building not big enough for three agencies

By Henry E. Green

(See related story.)

Moving the Abbeville Police Department to a new home on West Pickens Street would help with space issues at the Police Department's current home--City of Abbeville Police/Fire Complex on South Main, Mike Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer with the City of Abbeville.

The current Public Safety Building is simply not large enough to function as the base for the Police Department, Fire Department, and Municipal Court any longer. Moving the Police Department out of the current building and into the building on W. Pickens is an economical solution which will allow all three Departments to operate in a more effective manner, better serving the Citizens of Abbeville, said Clary.

"Specifically, the purchase of the building and renovations would help to remedy several problems currently experienced by the Police Department due to limited Space in the current facility," he said.

The issues include a lack of offices in the current building.

"The Chief, Assistant Chief, and Detectives must all share offices," he said. "This creates working conditions which are extremely cramped and can hinder the ability of personnel to effectively do their jobs."

In addition, there is currently no private interview room where detectives can interview persons of interest during investigations. "This again is an operational effectiveness issue which can hinder the ability of investigators to effectively perform their duties," Clary said.

Furthermore, Court and Police are legally required to remain separate, and this is difficult to do in one building with extremely limited space, he said.

Parking provides another concern. "Having multiple departments with extremely limited parking space and means of egress has at times impeded the ability of both Police and Fire to respond to calls," he said.

Regarding the Abbeville Fire Department, at the

current building, work has been underway the past few years on projects such as increasing the size of the bay doors.

This has allowed the larger modern fire trucks to get in and out of the building.

As before, the ladder truck could not exit through the front of the building due to its height. The renovations of the past few years to the fire side of the current building have largely set the Fire Department up to be able to operate out of the existing structure moving forward with some modest renovations.

If the Police Department moves to West Pickens, the Municipal Court would also remain in the existing building, according to Clary.

"Judges and court staff moving forward would have office space and could operate in a more safe manner. Future plans could include enlarging the Court room at the existing structure and reworking the office space, but that is not something the City plans to undertake in the immediate future."



Valentine's Roses 2022: Jackie Dorn and Susan Harris, Director of Volunteers (Photo contributed)

Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont Celebrates Valentine's Day

Submitted by Andrea Scott

Volunteer Jackie Dorn and Susan Harris, Director of Volunteers, arranged beautiful rose bud vases celebrate Valentine's Day at Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont. Hospice nurses and

staff will deliver the roses to patients in their homes and the Hospice House.

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.

For more information, visit our website at www.hospicepiedmont.org or call our office at 864.227.9393.

Pet of the Month

Where are my big dog lovers at?! Ever pictured having a mini-Giraffe as a pet? Search no further! Scooby is the one for you! With his Giraffe legs, Scooby stands taller than most of the staff here at the shelter! He is so sweet and loves people so much that you will get to experience what it feels like to have a 65lb mini-giraffe crawling into your lap! He may be taller than most staff here while standing, but to Scooby, he is a 10lb Chihuahua who just wants all the cuddles. Scooby is an altered 18-month-old Hound/Shepard mix who still needs a good bit of "meat" on his bones. He loves to eat, drink, play, walk on his leash, cuddle and be loved. Come out to the Abbeville County Animal Shelter to visit Scooby in person. You will have no regrets if you choose Scooby-doo-by-doo.



Adoption Fees are reduced to \$25 for Scooby, 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

Munchkin is an altered 6-month-old grey/white tabby domestic short-haired kitty cat. Munchkin came to us with her brother, Smokie. Smokie is an altered 6-month-old black/white tuxedo domestic short-haired kitty cat. They may look nothing like, but they have a strong bond as together is all they have ever known. They were found roaming the streets and taken in by a family who fostered them together as baby kittens. Due to some medical issues, the foster family had to return these sweet babies. While in the foster home, Munchkin and Smokie had 6 other feline foster brothers and sisters. They loved their big family. We here at the shelter are hoping these two can leave together, but at the end of the day, a loving home is more important to us. Come out to the Abbeville County Animal Shelter and visit this loving brother and sister combo. You can never have too many kitties!



Adoption Fees are reduced to \$15 for Munchkin and \$15 for Smokie, 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

Stella is definitely a people kind of dog. Her main focus in her life is to always be where people are. If she isn't near people, she isn't her fun, sweet and loving self. Instead, you will find her patiently waiting for the next person to come into her view. I have yet to meet a dog more chill than Stella. Stella came in with her brother, Scooby who is also featured this month. She isn't quite as big as her brother, but she isn't small either. Although she could afford to gain a few more pounds, Stella is an altered 18-month-old Hound/Shepard mix female. Come out to the Abbeville County Animal Shelter to meet Stella in person and get ready for all the sweet loving you could ask for!



Adoption Fees are reduced to \$25 for Stella, 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.



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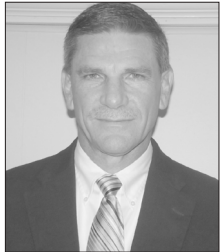
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H.O. Mullinax Conservation Scholarship available

The Abbeville Conservation District will fund a minimum of one scholarship (\$500.00). Preference will be given to a high school senior or college student from Abbeville County enrolled or planning to enroll in a two-year or 4-year agricultural or natural resource related program. According to a recent news release from the Abbeville Conservation District.

Applications will be considered with emphasis on the following areas: Agricultural background and related activities, Scholastic achievement, Financial need, Extra-curricular activities.

Scholarship Schedule

March: Scholarship announced in local paper and application distributed to local teachers and high school guidance counselor

April: Complete application due and selection made and winner notified.

May: Scholarship recipient recognized at local District Board Meeting.

For applications and return of completed applications.

Please contact: Abbeville Conservation District, Melody Coursey, 394 Highway 28 Bypass, Abbeville, SC 29620; 864-459-5419 ext. 3 or melody.coursey@usda.gov.



Amos Cunningham, Marvin Peoples and William Cunningham (L to R) display the cabbages grown in the family's High Tunnel. The high tunnel allows vegetables to grow throughout all seasons. (Photo contributed)

Tunnel vision Amos Cunningham proud of his super-structure for growing things

By Henry E. Green

What's nine feet tall and 120 feet long?

Ask Amos Cunningham, and he'll be glad to tell you that it's his high tunnel, similar to a greenhouse.

Amos, who lives in the Level Land community of rural Abbeville County, raises cabbages, collards, tomatoes, and green beans in his high tunnel.

A family project, the high tunnel is something he and his family had built. "It's been in operation since a little bit before Christmas. It's capable of raising things all year round," he said.

Amos and his family funded part of the construction,

and the federal government funded the remainder.

"It took about three or four days" to build, "and it took six people to build it," he said.

Amos and his family were assisted by a company based in Orangeburg that constructs high tunnels.

He and his family are immensely happy with the structure, which features a plastic cover and aluminum rods.

"It keeps it nice and warm all the time," he said. There are also roll-up doors on the sides, and bees take the opportunity to come in and pollinate the plants."

It did not appear overnight. Amos had to fill out various

forms.

"It takes a little while," he said of the process.

The finished product has plenty of room. "You can drive a tractor through it," he said.

One good thing about the high tunnel is that what you grow is protected. "You don't have to worry about deer getting in," he said.

Amos and his family plan to take items grown in the high tunnel to the Donalds farmers market that is slated to open this spring.

Overall, he is immensely satisfied with the structure.

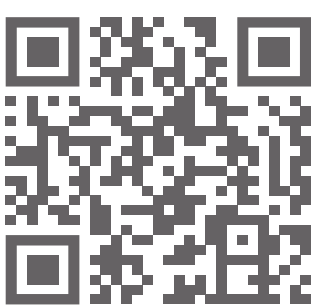
"It's pretty cool," he said.

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Commentary

Russia/Ukraine: WHY?

By Lamar T. West, Sr.

I am sure most of us realize Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union at one point in history. It wasn't until the mid to late 1980s, under pressure from what was to become NATO, that the Soviet Union decided to divide into countries which had existed as separate countries before both World Wars. NATO believed the Soviet Union to be too large physically and too powerful as a communist nation.

The Russian government, headquartered in Moscow, seemed to have too much power in the scope and spread of its communist ideology that NATO did not want those ideas to spread to other areas of the Soviet Union.

The split was somewhat like a civil disagreement: the people believed they would be better served with smaller government. Some of the countries did not wish to remain under communist rule, so NATO helped with the split.

This resulted in the creation of several smaller countries, some no larger than states in our own United States.

Today, with different heads of state in Russia and Ukraine, disagreements have been and are inevitable.

The question of the hour is this: is the current situation a Putin problem, a Ukraine problem, or a NATO problem? Has NATO pushed Putin into war?

What has happened from the time Trump was voted out and Biden was "voted" in as POTUS? It's just been a little over a year since Biden was installed.

We know from Hunter Biden's laptop that he and his father Joe Biden had some shady business dealings with an oil and energy company in the Ukraine

called Burisma Holdings Limited. Are the Biden boys now doing something else in Ukraine we are unaware of that Putin may be unhappy about?

We continue to tell Russia that they cannot invade Ukraine. What would we do or say if Ukraine decided to have an "open and free" election and a majority of the people now living at the Russia-Ukraine border vote to rejoin Russia and move the border 50 or so miles? Would that be cause for civil war? Two groups of people in one country deciding what they believe is best for them? East and West Ukraine with open borders, perhaps?

Let's talk about how our own country has been turned upside down in just twelve short months.

Over twelve months ago we had no supply chain problems, no oil problems, and no gas problems. The United States armed forces were scheduled to withdraw and return home from Afghanistan, and the United States was not involved in any other major world problems. We had border problems with Mexico, but not necessarily with Mexican people. We had trade problems with China, but not necessarily Chinese people.

If the American people can drive in German and Japanese cars, we can learn to get along with anybody (those countries were our major opponents in World War II, that's not a dig at the unreliability of their cars -- Volkswagens are great when they are working!)

We would like to give Uncle Sam a pass because of the COVID pandemic, but since learning more, we find out the pandemic was not really the problem: it was the way Uncle Sam and others handled the problem. Stupid people or bribed

people (you decide) are currently running (ruining) the United States of America.

We need to think and know it is not the people in the United States that are causing the problems. It is the people we elect. We elect them to serve, but what we are doing is giving them the power to do what is right in their own eyes, and it seems once you are given such power, one will do whatever is necessary to keep said power.

There is no way 535 people (Congress) can tell or even know what is best for 350 million people (the residents that comprise the US).

The 535 people of Congress who are responsible for hiring and overseeing over 100,000 employees for different bureaucracies (people who can't seem to be fired) are totally out of control.

We can replace Congressmen, but the bureaucrats remain the same.

This nation needs to turn to the real power that was bestowed to us: the power of God, the Father of Jesus Christ who graciously gave us ten commandments to live by which would allow us to commune with Him.

We the people could not abide by the ten commandments, so God did the unthinkable: he sent his Son to die for us as a blood atonement! Thank God it did not end there. Christ, raised from the dead, now intercedes on our behalf as Christians to his Father, so that we may be found guiltless in his sight.

If we continue to let politicians who have no fear or understanding of the Lord hold power over us, we are abdicating our duties as Christians as well as our commitment to the truth, justice, and fairness that reflect God's nature.



SC Statehouse Reports 2022-The House of Representatives

House Week in Review

Rep. Craig A. Gagnon, District 11--SC House of Representatives
February 15-17, 2022

Spending ARPA money, giving tax breaks to military retirees and SC taxpayers, discussing voting reforms and teaching controversial concepts in our schools were the big topics at the State House this past week.

H. 4408 is a joint resolution authorizing expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It provides for the initial allocation of federal funds available to South Carolina under the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021."

Here are some of the ways the House has devised to allocate these funds:

Approximately \$453.5 million is allocated to the South Carolina Department of Transportation to be placed in a separate Transportation Infrastructure Acceleration Account and used to accelerate completion of projects included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) is allocated \$800 million to be placed in a separate ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Account which must be used to administer and operate three grant programs designed to provide for improvements in water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure throughout the state. The amounts of required local matching funds are based upon the size of the population served by the system.

The Office of Regulatory Staff is allocated \$400 million to be placed in a separate ARPA Broadband Account which must be used to expand broadband infrastructure to places in the state that are unserved or underserved by the broadband services which allow for high-speed Internet connections.

The Office of Resilience is allocated \$100 million to lessen the impacts of future flood events.

The APRA fund bill was passed earlier and went to the Senate where it was amended and returned to the House. The House amended it and sent it back to the Senate.

Exercising good fiscal responsibility, the House

approved and sent the Senate H. 3346, a bill increasing state financial reserve funds. The legislation provides for the state's General Reserve Fund, currently set at five percent of General Fund will be increased to seven percent. The legislation increases the Capital Reserve Fund from two percent of General Fund to three percent. These statutory provisions are to take effect upon ratification of pertinent amendments to the South Carolina Constitution.

The House passed (and I supported) H. 3247, the "Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act". The bill eliminates current limits to allow all military retirement income to be deducted from an individual's South Carolina income taxes.

This past week, the Governor and certain legislators met for a press conference to announce an important tax reduction measure for our taxpayers. South Carolina already has a lower effective income tax rate than surrounding states. This bill (H.4880) will make it even lower.

This plan simplifies and modifies 2 income brackets: it collapses the 4%, 5%, and 6% brackets into 3% and reduces the top rate to 6.5% this year, and incrementally lowers it over the next 5 years until it hits 6%. Once fully implemented, this plan will decrease the average effective rate taxpayers pay from 3.1% to 2.54%. It will put \$600 million back in the pockets of South Carolinians in the first year. However, the Senate Finance Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler said that he has a plan that would cut it even more.

I am cautiously optimistic that whatever the final bill is that it will not lead to unintended consequences when the economy experiences its usual cycle of ups and downs.

H. 4919 is an election reform bill is progressing through committee, and is currently in House Judiciary. Here are some of the protections that the bill includes:

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

-Requires the witness of

every absentee ballot to provide a printed name, signature, and address for identity verification and accountability.

-Modifies the reasons that an absentee ballot can be cast, adding "absent from the country for the duration of early voting and election day" to the list.

-Requires a form of valid government issued photo identification to cast an absentee ballot, as needed when casting a ballot on Election Day.

-Allows absentee ballots to be opened and counted beginning at 7am on the Sunday before Election Day, in order for quicker election results when polls close.

-Ensures that only one ballot can be cast, where any voter who has cast an absentee ballot can cast ONLY a provisional ballot on Election Day. This ballot will ONLY count if the absentee ballot is never received. In its current form, I will support this bill.

Finally, Critical Race Theory, also known as CRT, promotes the idea that groups of people, based on sex, race, religion, or other defining characteristics, should take responsibility for historical human rights violations--a topic reserved for consideration in "think tanks" and post-secondary education. Our children do not need to be introduced to this incendiary, counterproductive and nonsensical rhetoric in K-12 schools. The House Education and Public Works Committee heard hours of testimony this week on a series of bills that prohibits CRT and similar theories from being taught in South Carolina public schools. I look forward to supporting legislation that prohibits the teaching of this theory or any others like to our children.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you in Columbia. If you need help navigating state government, 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@schouse.gov.



Scott Statement on Russia's Escalated Aggression in Ukraine

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) released the following statement after Vladimir Putin ordered troops to Ukraine:

"Putin's invasion should be met with unified opposition by the United States

and our allies -- ensuring the consequences are equal in measure to the offense. Russia's heightened aggression against the territorial integrity of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law. Unfortunately, for the second time in less

than a year, the Biden administration's weakness on the world stage has emboldened our adversaries. America and its international allies must stand up to Putin and make clear we're committed to protecting sovereignty and democracy."

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

Legislative summary

Senator Mike Gambrell
Legislative Summary
February 18, 2022

When the South Carolina Senate met this week, a priority was to approve the allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as well as the settlement funds from the United States government for storing plutonium at the Savannah River Site. As you know, I serve on the Senate Finance Committee, and we had much discussion and debate in the weeks prior to this legislation being passed by the

Senate. These bills, S. 952 and S. 956 have now gone to the House of Representatives for their consideration.

The General Assembly was hosted Wednesday morning by the S. C. EMS Association. As a vital arm of our first responders, it was good to be able to meet with so many of the fine individuals representing and supporting this group. I had a chance to talk with Steve McDade of Piedmont Tech as well as Henry Lewis, the first Executive Director of the S. C. EMS Association. Mr. Lewis has held

this position for almost a year, and his stated goal is to bring on 3,000 new employees in the first two years to prevent our State from having a critical shortage of EMS 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@sensenate.gov.

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To ensure the success of the Greater Abbeville Humane Society's spay/neuter program, Loraine Fields and her husband Lou Paradis made a generous donation to the Greater Abbeville Humane Society, and the Society was able to purchase a number of kennels. (Contributed photo)

Society focuses on spay/neuter effort

Submitted by
Ann Davis
President of the Greater
Abbeville Humane
Society

During the Covid-19 pandemic the Abbeville County Animal Shelter lost its resources for spaying and neutering the animals in their care. They were forced to send animals home with potential adopters without being spayed or neutered. Under normal circumstances, the animals would have been required to have been spayed or neutered before leaving the shelter into the adoptive home. Thus, these animals were categorized as being Foster to Adopt and more than 50 were placed in this situation.

The Greater Abbeville Humane Society learned of this situation late last year and felt that something had to be done about it. We sent a

letter to a number of veterinarians in the surrounding area requesting they donate their services for a reduced rate to assist with spaying and neutering these Foster-to-Adopt shelter animals so the adoptions can be finalized. Three veterinarians of the 10 we contacted have responded. We began the spay/neuter program in late December and as of the middle of February we have been able to spay and neuter 29 dogs and cats.

The veterinarians who are volunteering their time and their facilities are Dr. Caitlin Cochran with Chinquapin Animal Hospital, Dr. Tiffany Freese and Dr. Walden with Greenwood Veterinary Hospital, and Dr. Joy Culbertson with Holmes Veterinary Hospital. We are so thankful for these wonderful veterinarians being so generous with their time to improve the lives of the animals in

Abbeville County.

To ensure the success of this spay/neuter program Loraine Fields and her husband Lou Paradis made a generous donation to the Greater Abbeville Humane Society. With some of that money we were able to purchase three large, heavy duty kennels to be used as recovery kennels for the dogs that have been spayed and neutered. These kennels allow for the surgical recovery in a quieter, isolated area away from all the barking and excitement.

The Greater Abbeville Humane Society could not do all we do for the animals without all of you animal lovers like Loraine and Lou, who support us with your generous donations. You may visit www.Abbeville-HumaneSociety.org to learn more about us and to make a donation.

Humane Society plans adoption event

By Henry E. Green

The Greater Abbeville Humane Society will have an adoption event in the spring, said Humane Society president Ann Davis recently.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 9, from noon to 3 pm at the Abbeville County Shelter, Davis said last week.

"People can come out and play with the dogs and cats and hopefully find a pet they would like to adopt," she said.

"We will be selling donated baked goods to raise money for the shelter. If people bring donations for the shelter on that day, GAHS will give them a free T-shirt. Quantities and sizes are

limited."

The Shelter is located on Old Calhoun Falls Road on the western outskirts of Abbeville, across from the Abbeville County Career Center.

Davis recently addressed Abbeville County Council on the needs of the Animal Shelter.

Davis speaks for local humane society

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Animal Shelter has inadequate staffing, Greater Abbeville Humane Society Ann Davis told Abbeville County Council last week.

Davis spoke to Council during the public comment section of the Feb. 14 County Council meeting.

"One of the major problems we see with the Animal Shelter is inadequate staffing," Davis told Council.

"I want to be clear that this is by no means a fault of the staff," she continued. "The few staff that are there, two full-time and three part-time with very limited hours, do the best they can under the circumstances. They are overwhelmed and overworked. If someone is out sick, there may be no one to cover. With only two full-time people, when one is out on a call or transporting animals to the veterinarian and the other person is out sick there is no one to cover the shelter."

"The staff and the animals are being put at risk because of this. The situation at the shelter is critical and

dangerous and needs to be addressed immediately."

During the pandemic the animal shelter lost its sources for spaying and neutering the animals in their care, and more than 50 animals were sent to homes without being spayed or neutered in a "foster to adopt" situation.

The adoptions cannot be finalized until the animals are spayed or neutered, she continued.

"Our goal is to finalize the adoption of these dogs so they can be removed from the active rolls of the Abbeville County Animal Shelter."

The Humane Society, she said, has implemented a program in which the Society has asked local veterinarians to provide services for these foster to adopt animals.

"We currently have three veterinarians who have volunteered their time and facility to this project," she said.

The project began in late December, and at press time 26 shelter dogs and cats had been spayed and neutered.

"The inadequate staffing

(at the Animal Shelter) puts the recovery of the animals that are having surgery at even greater risk "because they are not receiving the aftercare for proper healing, and several have had to be placed on antibiotics because of this."

Davis and Jim Stamey of the Society met with County Director David Garner recently.

She noted that the Society is planning an Adoption Event is planned for April 9, with details to be announced.

She indicated that the Society would also like to see an exhaust fan installed to help with the odor in the shelter, and informed Garner of this.

Davis indicated that the County's Department of Public Works is expected to be contacted to see "if they might have a bush hog that could take care of the field behind the Shelter so the dog walkers will have a safer place for both the dogs and the volunteers walking them instead of walking down the road."



US House of Representatives

Rep. Duncan Participates in Hearing on Restoring Brownfield Sites into Economic Engines

Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan

Congressman Jeff Duncan participated in a Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change hearing on "Back from the Brink: Restoring Brownfield Sites to Economic Engines" to discuss the future of the Brownfields Program.

"The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program is a great example of leveraging public-private partnerships and shows there is a way to foster both economic development and environmental stewardship," said

Congressman Jeff Duncan. "The Brownfields Program is important to South Carolinians, as there are multiple sites with economic potential in the Third District and across South Carolina."

"As we look ahead to the reauthorization of the program in 2023, I asked witnesses about the necessary criteria the EPA uses to assess grant allocation and emphasized that the program is so successful due to providing local communities with flexibility in planned redevelopment of cleanup properties," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "Providing liability protections to the developers of

these sites is also important, and I look forward to working with relevant stakeholders to reauthorize this program to bring economic development, private capital, job growth, and environmental cleanup to sites in the Third District and South Carolina." Background: A "Brownfield site" is an abandoned or underutilized property that has known or suspected contamination, the presence of which deters development and investment at these sites. The EPA's Brownfield Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities and states for the redevelopment of these sites.



US House of Representatives

Rep. Duncan Releases Statement on Russia's Invasion into Ukraine

Submitted by
Congressman
Jeff Duncan

Laurens, S.C.— Today, Congressman Jeff Duncan issued the following statement on Russia's invasion into Ukraine:

"With Vladimir Putin sending troops into Ukraine to expand his presence in Europe, it is long overdue to impose sanctions on Russia, cancel the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and stop enabling Russia's hostility.

Since his first day in office, President Biden's foreign policy mismanagement and self-sabotaging energy policy have emboldened Putin and essentially funded Russian aggression. Now, Russia is preparing to violate Ukraine's sovereignty under the guise of 'peacekeeping.' It is past time for American 'peace through strength' and the 'swift and firm response' from the United States and its allies that Secretary Blinken committed to," said

Congressman Jeff Duncan. "History repeats itself, and it seems to be the trend for weak Democrats in power to concede to Russia and allow Putin to redraw European borders, as we saw with Russia invading Crimea in 2014 under President Obama.

We will hold this Administration accountable to stop cowering to Putin and respond effectively against Russia as our friends in Ukraine are being invaded."



Calvin Wharton visit the Community Outreach Center After School Program for Black History! Mr. Wharton spoke to the children about the people that made history in Abbeville, SC. He talked about Harry Wharton, Kim Beauty Shop, James J.J. Jackson, James (Smitty) Thomas, and Charles Goodwin. They also learned about Mr. Crawford and where his statue is located in Abbeville. He also told them about Ms. Josephine Spearman Wright. Wright Middle School is named after her. She was an educator and a principal. He told them they could be whatever they want to be. If they believe it, they can achieve it, because they are special! (Photo contributed)



Abbeville County School District's School Resource Officers were recognized at a recent school board meeting -- (L to R): Capt. P. Thompson, Lt. J. Pratt (Wright), Dep. Levi Bell (Westwood), Sgt. W. Poteat (Long Cane), Cpl. Aaron Aldridge (John C.), Dep. Abby Green (Cherokee Trail), Sgt. S. Scott (AHS), Cpl. C. Parker (Career Center), not pictured Dep. M. Bannister (Diamond Hill). Staff photo by Henry E. Green



During the month of February, the work of artist Eric New will be on display at the Welcome Center on Court Square in Abbeville. Here's one piece that is currently being exhibited. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Free Pancake Supper

by Trinity Episcopal Church

On Shrove Tuesday, March 1st, Trinity members, like Anglicans all over the world, will be eating pancakes and would like to invite all interested persons to join them. There will be no charge for the supper, but donations will be accepted. Many Abbeville folks have been eating pancakes at Trinity for many years on Shrove Tuesday and according to Trinity Senior Warden, Cynthia Jefferies, they will have

the best pancakes in town, served with sausage, fresh fruit salad and the beverage of your choice. The supper will be served from 5:00 pm through 7:30 pm at the parish house of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday marked the last day before beginning of Lent when the faithful of the church were supposed to fast and not consume meat, eggs, butter or milk. Persons having these foods on hand were afraid they would spoil during the forty days of

Lent. With a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in pancakes. In France and New Orleans, Shrove Tuesday is also known as "Fat Tuesday" and is the last day to indulge one's appetite before the next day which is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Trinity requests the pleasure of your company. You are also invited to join the congregation for the Ash Wednesday Mass and Imposition of the Ashes, 6:00 pm, March 2nd at Trinity Church.



The Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce presented the 10th annual Daddy Daughter Dance at the Abbeville Civic Center on Feb. 11. Among those enjoying the event and greeting guests were Keisha Parker (left) and Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce executive director Anna LaGrone (right). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Safe schools

SROs provide important service in Abbeville County School District

By Henry E. Green

School Resource Officers help to provide for safe schools in the Abbeville County School District, according to Abbeville County School District Director of Student Services Skip Hopkins.

The SROs include Charles Parker of the Abbeville County Career Center, Seth Scott of Abbeville High School, Abby Green of Cherokee Trail Elementary, Mike Bannister of Diamond Hill Elementary, Tommy Clamp of Dixie High, Aaron Aldridge of John C. Calhoun Elementary, Will Poteat of Long Cane Primary, Levi Bell of Westwood, and Jonathan Pratt of Wright Middle School.

They were recognized at a school board meeting in January.

SROs, as they are typically known, have a number of responsibilities.

A school resource officer's

primary responsibility is the physical security of the facility and handling any law enforcement needs that arise at the school, according to Hopkins.

Daily activities include patrolling the facility, being present for any "mass gatherings", such as lunch and ball games, and conducting investigations into criminal activity.

"A second and just as important responsibility is working with the school staff and student to build a lasting relationship with the community," said Hopkins.

Currently, six of the nine SRO's are funded through a South Carolina Department of Public Safety grant. The funding includes the salaries, and equipment for the positions. The three other positions are funded by the Abbeville County School District, he continued.

The Abbeville County Sheriff's Office supports all

of the schools in the district except Dixie High School, whose SRO is provided by Town of Due West Police Department, said the Director of Student Services.

"SROs are chosen on a voluntary basis," said Hopkins. "Being an SRO requires a law enforcement officer with the right personality to effectively work in a school environment."

All SROs are required to be certified through the Criminal Justice Academy as School Resource Officers which is a two-week course that gives specialized training for dealing with juveniles, and duties associated, the Director of Student Services Director said.

"We are so thankful for our SROs and the services they provide to our students, staff, and community," said Hopkins.



Abbeville Presbyterian Church will present a music and meditation series during Lent. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Happy place

Abbeville Presbyterian planning its music and meditation series for Lent

By Henry E. Green

Never underestimate the power of music.

Abbeville Presbyterian is once again planning to have its music and meditation series during Lent, and the community is welcome to come in and listen as Abbeville Presbyterian organist Joe Greer plays an assortment of musical selections at lunch time every Wednesday during

Lent, said Betty Grantham of Abbeville Presbyterian.

The series will begin on Wednesday, March 2, and will continue every Wednesday through April 13.

It is all free to the public. People in the community are all welcome to come in for the mini-concerts--which last from noon to 12:20 p.m.--and listen as Abbeville Presbyterian organist Joe Greer plays a musical ka-

leidoscope of pieces which seemingly are designed to have a calming effect on the listener.

Grantham did offer a bit of advice for those who want to come and listen.

"We do encourage masks," she said.

The church is located at the corner of North Main and West Pinckney, near the Court Square.

THE GREATER ABBEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business of the Month



A big thank you to the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce along with the Abbeville community for the support and the contributions made to Captivating Montessori School. As an educator, it brings me great joy to continue to offer support to the homeschooling communities that surround this area. We are still seeking donations to meet our goal financially, but reaching 20% of it just in February is a great accomplishment. If you have a building or empty, unused space that would be suitable for a homeschooling community to meet, email us today.



Email us: captivatingms@gmail.com
Visit us: www.captivatingmontessori.com



Abbye Light crowned Miss Abbeville High

By Henry E. Green

Abbye Light was crowned Miss Abbeville High School at the recent Miss AHS pageant held at Lander University in Greenwood.

Light is already slated to represent Abbeville in the Miss South Carolina pageant planned for later this year.

The AHS senior was recently honored with a proclamation from Abbeville County Council, a proclamation presented to her at a recent Council meeting by Council chairman Billy Norris.

AHS athletic director Maggie Jameson supplied a list of the winners, which included contestants from Wright Middle School:

Sixth grade
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
7th Grade
2nd Runner Up: Shreese Crawford
Miss 7th grade, 7th grade People's Choice, and Photogenic: Laylan Yates
1st Runner up and Miss WMS People's Choice: Mary Ashley Williams
8th Grade
2nd runner up: Kaylee Bundrick
Miss 8th Grade: Dallas McCurry
Miss WMS, 8th Grade Miss Congeniality, Photogenic Award, 8th Grade People's Choice Award: Lillie Stone
1st Runner Up: Kamryn Tiller
9th Grade:
Miss Congeniality: Kaylee Shaw
Miss Freshman: Ziya Watt
2nd Runner up, 9th Grade People's Choice, 9th Grade Scholar Award: Emma Horne
10th Grade:
Miss Congeniality: Langley Light
2nd Runner Up, 10th Grade Scholar: Emma

Harper
Miss Sophomore, 10th grade photogenic & 10th Grade People's Choice: Tyla Johnson
1st Runner Up: Josie Evans
11th Grade:
1st Runner Up: Audrey McCurry
Miss Junior, 11th Grade Scholar, 11th Grade People's Choice, Miss. Congeniality, 11th Grade Photogenic: Riley Jones
2nd Runner Up: Giana Mentis
Overall Miss AHS People's Choice: Michaela Harrison
12th Grade:
Miss Senior and 12th Grade Congeniality: Gabriella White
Miss AHS, Interview Winner: Abbye Light
1st Runner Up, Senior Scholar, 12th grade People's choice, Senior Photogenic: Drew Beauford

Note: Additional photographs of the pageant winners will be provided in The Press and Banner in coming weeks.

Abbye Light was recently crowned Miss Abbeville High School at the Miss AHS Pageant, held at Lander University in early February. (Contributed photo)



Chocolate Walk sweet success

By Henry E. Green

Who doesn't like chocolate?

We don't know of anybody who doesn't, but those who for some strange reason do not probably should have avoided the 2022 Chocolate Walk in downtown Abbeville on Feb. 12.

There was more than enough sweet stuff to go around, more than enough of the substance that some people think should be one of the Five Basic Food Groups.

A fundraiser for the Downtown Abbeville Merchants Association, the Chocolate Walk featured 17 stops, where people could not only get their chocolate fixes but get acquainted with local businesses as well.

The merchants we spoke to were pleased by it.

"It was great," said Phyllis Davis of Abbeville Vintage Market on Court Square. "The turnout was really good. We had cupcakes, bags of M&Ms, and bags of chocolate-covered pretzels.

We just had a big response."

"We offered a baked in house chocolate chip cookie," said Jim Petty, who with his wife Susan owns the Belmont Inn.

The Chocolate Walk was a sell out, with as many as 200 tickets sold, according to reports.

The Merchants Association is now looking forward to presenting a Saint Patrick's Day event in March, with more details to be announced later.



Abbeville County Council recently passed a proclamation honoring Ms. Abbye Light for having been selected to participate in the Miss South Carolina Pageant to be held in Columbia on June 25, 2022. Here is County Council chairman Billy Norris reading aloud the proclamation to Light during Monday night's Council meeting. Light was also recently crowned Miss Abbeville High School. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Singing Valentines benefit Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries

Submitted by Merry Beth Moore

The Huguenotes Barbershop Quartet of Savannah Lakes Village in McCormick, recently delivered 'Singing Valentines' in the Greenwood and McCormick county communities to raise money for Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. Besides having a lot of fun and spreading Valentine's

Day cheer, serenading people with beautiful love songs and presenting every recipient with a gorgeous rose bouquet (guys received chocolate roses), the Quartet raised \$2,300.00 in donations from generous donors.

A special thanks goes out to several generous individuals, stores and businesses that helped make this event such a success. Food Lion

of McCormick, Deason's Florists of Abbeville, and Cathy Osterman of Savannah Lakes for creating the lovely bouquets that were distributed. For all of the publications made towards this special day, a sincere appreciation of thanks goes out to the Press and Banner of Abbeville, The Greenwood Index Journal, the McCormick Messenger and the Shorelines Magazine.



The Huguenotes Barbershop Quartet are pictured above presenting a check to the Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. From left to right: Gary Knight-Bass, Roy Phillips (baritone), and Bob Osterman (lead) with Merry Beth Moore and Whitney Newby of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries receiving the donation. (Not present: Huguenotes Bill Updegraff (tenor). (Submitted by Huguenotes Barbershop Quartet)

Award mirrors City's economic impact

(See related article.)

The Bundy Award recently received by the City of Abbeville from the state of South Carolina "is the highest honor a rural destination/attraction can receive from the state," said City community development director Austin Walker.

"This puts the Opera House in a distinguished category of rural tourism destinations like Brookgreen Gardens "Night of a Thousand Candles," Visit York County's YoCo Brew Trail, and Sumter CVB's Passport to Adventure, all of whom are past winners," she said.

"This was the first time the City had applied for any such award," she said. "Applying for accolades are a

litmus test for how our community is doing compared to similar communities around the state and ultimately can validate that we are making significant impacts on South Carolina."

The award was given in large part because of the vitality of the Opera House.

"In 2021, while many theaters were still closed, the Opera House was able to reopen in a limited capacity due to the theatre's size and its distance from COVID hot spots. All told, 42 performances graced the stage attracting almost 7,000 attendees, a 16% increase from 2017, the last full year of performances at the theater.

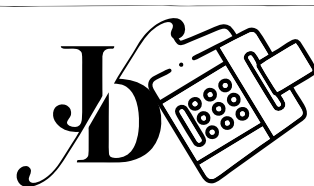
"The estimated spending impact of attendees neared

\$300,000. This coupled with funds spent on operations and historic preservation created an estimated \$1 million in economic impact. This is a 240% increase from 2017."

Walker went on to say that, compared with 2017, there has been at least a 31% increase in accommodation taxes collected from Abbeville, with October-December numbers not yet reported.

"This is the highest reported accommodations tax ever for the area. While correlation is not causation, it is reasonable to assume a part of this increase is due to an increase in tourists spending the night because of an Opera House show."

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Obituaries

Turman

Edith Lois Turman, 78 of Abbeville, wife of the late, Robert 'Gary' Turman, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on February 22, 2022, at home with her family by her side. She was the daughter of the late Ruby C Farr.

Edith held family and friends close to her heart and enjoyed crocheting gifts for them. Some of her creations were even sent to Africa. Edith cultivated friends from around the world and spent happy hours talking with them.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Betty Westbrook and Shirley Nichols.

Edith is survived by her daughter, Amanda Stone (Ronnie); son, Joey Ayers (Susan); four grandchildren,



Edith Lois Turman

Dale Dansby (Amanda), Amanda Clark (Russell), Dustin Ayers and Jeremy Ayers; three great grandchildren, Mackenzie, Rylee and Addyson Dansby; and brother, Terry Chapman (Jackie).

The family will receive

friends 11:00AM–12:00PM, Friday, February 25, 2022, in Harris Funeral Home. Funeral services will begin at 12:00PM in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Jeremy Beauford officiating. Burial will follow in Long Cane Cemetery.

The family is at her home in Abbeville, SC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the South Carolina Autism Society, 806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 26169, in honor of her great grandson, Rylee Dansby.

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 Turman family.

Obituaries

Duncan

Darian Leighton Duncan, 47, of Anderson, S.C., formerly of Gatlinburg, TN, died Sunday, February 20, 2022, at his residence.

Born in Anderson, on January 27, 1975, he was the son of Pastor Eddie Duncan and Elaine Gilmer Duncan.

Darian was a graduate of Emanuel College in Franklin Springs, GA, and was employed by U.S. Bank as a Security Analyst. He loved the mountains of East Tennessee and was a resident of Gatlinburg, TN until recently.

He is survived by his parents, Pastor Eddie Duncan and Elaine Gilmer Duncan, and his sister, Djuana Duncan Dial (Charlie), along with his nieces and nephews, Zach,



Darian L. Duncan

Caleb, and Aryn Dial.

The family will host a memorial service at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Trinity Springs Church of

God, 2110 E. River St., Anderson, S.C. 29621. Pastor Eddie Duncan and Pastor Charlie Dial will officiate.

The family will receive friends, at the church, prior to the service, from 12:30 – 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of The Upstate, 1835 Rogers Rd., Anderson, S.C. 29621.

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

The Standard Cremation & Funeral Center, Anderson, S.C. is assisting the Duncan family.

Obituaries

Broome

Fay Suber Broome, 93, of Abbeville, wife of the late William R. 'Bill' Broome, Jr., died Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Brookdale Assisted Living in Greenwood, SC. She was born in Lowndesville, SC to the late W. Russell and Willie Mayze Below Suber.

Mrs. Broome, a 1945 graduate of Lowndesville High School, was valedictorian of her class. Formerly employed at Abbeville Mills, she also worked at Belk Department Store. Her vibrant personality was evident to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She enjoyed associations with children, especially being involved as a Brownie Scout leader. As a member of Abbeville First Baptist Church, she was the former financial secretary, enjoyed taking trips with the senior group, member of the Tweenagers and the Loyal Workers Sunday School Class.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded



Fay Suber Broome

in death by five sisters, Vollie Wright, Doris Hanes, Christine Rhodes, Marion Griner and Sarah Beaty; and four brothers, Alroy, Gillis, Nick and Max Suber.

Mrs. Broome is survived by her three children, Sheryl Ouzts (James) of Greenwood, SC, Debbie Wilson (Mike) and Stanley Broome (Angie) all of Abbeville, SC; grandchildren, Natalie, Taylor, Casi, Mari Shannon, Michael, Anna

Michelle, Jordan and Sydney; and great-grandchildren, Elisabeth, Emily, Tucker, Sterling, Nash, Caden, Lane, and Charlie.

The family received friends from 5:30PM to 7:00PM, Friday, February 18, 2022, in the Abbeville First Baptist Church Christian Life Center. Funeral services were 2:00PM, Saturday, February 19, 2022, in the Abbeville First Baptist Church CLC with Rev. David Little officiating. Burial followed in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Broome, may be sent to Abbeville First Baptist Church, PO Box 825, Abbeville, SC 29620.

The family is at their respective homes.

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 Broome family.

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17. H+, e.g.
18. Bashful or Happy
19. **"1984" author George
21. *Best-selling pop artist Bing
23. Writer ____ Monk Kidd
24. Genghis or Kubla
25. Cranberry habitat
28. Not nice
30. Saddle holders
35. *Boris Karloff's movie "The ____," pl.
37. Actress Barrymore
39. Asian goat antelope
40. Supernatural life force
41. Seethes
43. South African antelope
44. Cook from above
46. Rotisserie part
47. Not odd
48. Italy in Italian
50. What snob puts on
52. .0000001 joule
53. Sound of a dropped tome
55. Beer acronym
57. * ____ Doctrine, U.S. foreign policy
60. **"How Green Was My ____"
63. Another word for nutria
64. Ciao in the U.S.
66. Trip guide
68. Surveyor's maps
69. Afflict
70. Will alternative
71. Additionally
72. Nucleic acid
73. Term of endearment

DOWN

1. Emergency acronym
2. *1949 international org.
3. Copycat
4. Chicken feet
5. Christian hymn (2 words)
6. Graveside sound
7. Gone by
8. TV's Yellowstone, e.g.
9. Uses a Singer
10. Underwater hermit
11. Ethereal
12. Gridiron official, for short
15. Apollo Creed's son
20. City in northern England
22. Old towel, e.g.
24. Rollerskater's protector (2 words)
25. *Disney's 1942 orphan
26. Abstractionism using optical illusion
27. Kind of salami
29. Crafts' companion
31. Network of nerves
32. Treasure collection
33. Dreamer?
34. *Popular music style
36. Ship canvas
38. *1939-1945
42. Parallel grooves
45. Acid turns it red
49. "Bingo!"
51. Daryl Hannah's 1984 movie
54. Open up
56. In spite of the fact, arch.
57. Church sound
58. Swedish shag rugs
59. Plotting
60. Velum, pl.
61. Zeal
62. New Haven University
63. IRS employee?
65. Yang's opposite
67. Canny

Gordon

Carolyn Bowman Gordon, 75, of Abbeville, wife of Sonny Gordon, died Monday, February 21, 2022, at AnMed Health Medical Center. She was born in Abbeville to the late Warren Bowman and Mary Buffington Bowman.

A 1965 graduate of Calhoun Falls High School, Carolyn was actively involved in athletics, excelling in basketball and softball. She enjoyed being involved in youth activities as a den mother for cub scouts and coaching girls' basketball at Westside Christian School. Known as 'Pete' during her softball years, Carolyn participated in a number of softball leagues, including the Merchanets, Industrial league and Church league ball.

In 1975, she and her husband established their business, Sonny's Auto Parts Store. With her appealing personality, Carolyn became the face of the business. She served customers, managed the business and was knowl-



Carolyn Gordon

edgeable of auto parts. In her capacity, Carolyn was known as 'Gopher', always ready to fill any need that occurred.

A member of South Side Baptist Church, she taught the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class and was active in the Sonlighter senior group.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Sonny; three sons, Robert Gordon, II (Cathi), Clyde Gordon (Jennifer) and Reed Gordon (Jennette) all of Abbeville; sister, Stacey Fleming (Mike) of Calhoun Falls; six

grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Ashlyn, Michael, Caleb, Brittany and Lucas; niece, Erica Rutledge (Ryan); nephew, Zack Fleming; her bird, Buzz and fur baby, Two Bo.

The family will receive friends 1:00PM – 2:30PM, Thursday, February 24, 2022, in Harris Funeral Home. Funeral services will begin at 3:00PM in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Earl Hartley and Rev. Zack Little officiating. Burial will follow in Latimer Cemetery, Calhoun Falls.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Carolyn, may be sent to South Side Baptist Church, 505 West Greenwood Street, Abbeville, SC 29620.

The family is at the home of Clyde and Jennifer Gordon in Abbeville, SC.

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 Gordon family.

Community calendar

Online workshop

There will be an online workshop on March 2 called Growers 102 beginning at 1 p.m., and coordinated by Clemson educator Wilder Ferreira.

For more information, one may call 864-642-8758.

Budget workshop slated

Abbeville County Council will have a budget workshop on Monday, Feb. 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council chambers at the Abbeville County Administrative Complex.

Hospital board to meet

The Abbeville Area Medi-

cal Center Board of Trustees meeting is slated for Monday, Feb. 28, at noon and the meeting will be held at Abbeville Area Medical Center and virtually.

One may call in at +1 843 427 0547 7731211733#, and the phone conference ID is 773121733#

Parkinson's disease can be managed

By Henry E. Green

Parkinson's is a disease for which there is no cure, but it can be managed, a Rotary speaker noted recently.

More than 60,000 new cases of Parkinson's are diagnosed each year, Jenna Combs, a physical therapist who works for Abbeville Area Medical Center's Health Related Home Care division, told Rotarians Thursday.

The primary risk factor is that of advancing age, and the illness is most common in white and Hispanic males. Parkinson's is more common in the Midwest and Northeast, although it is occurring more and more frequently in the South.

The causes of Parkinson's may be rooted in a combination of genetic and environmental exposure to various harsh chemicals, according to Combs.

Parkinson's is connected to the body's loss of dopamine.

The substantia nigra is a region in the brain that produces dopamine, a chemical neurotransmitter that allows communication with nerves throughout the body.

The production of dopamine slows with normal aging, but Parkinson's

"advances the destructive process of the substantia nigra.

"Parkinson's decreases the dopamine that's made," she said.

There are five stages of Parkinson's. Stage 1 includes mild symptoms which do not interfere with daily activities--mild problems with posture and balance, slight tripping or shorter steps when walking, for example, and mild changes in facial expressions, Combs said.

With Stage II, symptoms become worse, but the person can still take care of himself or herself. There may be difficulty walking, and difficulty with balance.

With Stage III, symptoms are much more severe, but the person can often still take care of himself or herself in familiar environments.

In Stage IV, independent living is almost impossible, due to an inability on the part of the patient to feed, bathe, or dress himself.

Sleep patterns may be erratic, with the person getting up at varying hours.

The person may be able to stand on their own but may need assistance for moving around, and a walker, cane is often used for balance.

With Stage IV, "it's getting kind of serious," she said.

Stage V produces symptoms that are so severe that standing on one's own may be impossible. The patient becomes bedridden, and needs a wheelchair to move around.

Symptoms may include delusions, hallucinations, loss of smell, constipation, poor reasoning, and sleep disturbances.

There are various medications and various treatments for Parkinson's disease. These medications that are designed to replace dopamine, and there are also therapies which slow the progression of the symptoms.

Boxing, for example, provides one kind of therapy to combat Parkinson's, said Combs.

Combs showed Rotarians exercises designed to strengthen various parts of the body.

One of those exercises was to take a deep breath and then name all the days of the week. Another featured stretching out your arms.

There is a Parkinson's support group which meets monthly at St. Mark's United Methodist in Greenwood, Combs continued.



Jenna Combs, a physical therapist with Abbeville Area Medical Center Health Related Home Care, spoke to Abbeville Rotarians recently about Parkinson's disease. She led Rotarians in some exercises which people with Parkinson's do to maintain independence and mobility. Joining Combs in one exercise were Rotarians Jimmy Wilson and Jennifer Erwin. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Dixie High opts not to have pageant

By Henry E. Green

Dixie High School will not be having a beauty pageant this year, due to insufficient participation, according to Kim Ware, the Dixie media specialist who has also been serving as the pageant coordinator.

"We just didn't have enough people to sign up," she said Wednesday.

You have to have at least 15 to sign up to make it worthwhile, to make it where you can afford to have the pageant, Ware continued.

Putting on a pageant is not cheap, she said.

The building where the pageant is held has to be rented. The gathering is typically held at Lesesne

Auditorium on the Erskine College campus.

Other expenses include having to pay a security officer, paying for someone to handle the music, giving a monetary gift to the emcee, paying for crowns and flowers, and paying the judges, Ware said.

"It just adds up," she said. A fundraiser for the Dixie yearbook, the Miss Emerald Pageant has not been held for several years.

"We didn't have one last year," Ware said. The last pageant, in fact, was held before the pandemic.

"It's been a little while," she said.

Not many people signed up this year to participate

in the pageant.

As for the number of contestants in the pageant, Dixie has five grades--8-12--and the goal is to have at least three contestants per class.

Pageant organizers want to make sure there are enough contestants to represent each class.

Revenue is derived from the pageant largely through the sale of tickets, she said.

On the other side, parents can find the cost of having their daughters participate as contestants a bit steep.

The cost of a dress can vary, but some garments can cost as much as \$1,000, Ware said.

Budget workshop set

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County Council will have on Monday, Feb. 28, a budget workshop in preparation for FY23, which will begin on July 1, said Abbeville County Director David Garner Tuesday.

Garner will make a presentation, in which he will talk about the County's finances and projections for the coming fiscal year.

The workshop will be at the Abbeville County Administrative Complex in the Council chambers beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This will be the first of two workshops that are scheduled, but there could ultimately be others, and individual Council committees could be working on individual portions of the budget.

Most of the County departments have sent in their budget requests for the coming fiscal year.

The budget, by state law, must be balanced.

First reading on the budget is slated for April, and second reading in May. There will also be a public hearing, probably in May, and third reading in June.

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Ephesians 2: 8-10 NIV

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Abbeville (in white) crushed Chesnee 77-60 in the first round of the state varsity boys basketball playoffs Thursday night. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Boys basketball

Dixie boys close out their season

By Henry E. Green

The Dixie High School varsity boys basketball team lost to Calhoun County 107-59 Thursday night at Calhoun County, in the first round of the playoffs, according to Dixie boys basketball coach Josh Harbert.

With the loss, the Hornets exited the playoffs and ended their season.

Jared Ledbetter led the way in scoring for the Hornets, who trailed 59-24 at the half.

"We actually didn't play too bad," said Harbert.

However, Dixie could not overcome the massive press applied by Calhoun County.

"The difference was their pressure," said Harbert.

With that pressure, Calhoun County forced a number of turnovers, which they converted into easy lay-ups, which in turn translated into points.

The pressure was unrelenting. "They pressed the whole game," he said.

The Saints, according to Harbert, are Number One in the 1-A classification.

"Their coach has won, like, 10 state championships," he said.

Despite the loss in the playoffs, Harbert said that the Hornets had been playing good basketball lately, getting off to a slow start but

finishing Region play with a 4-1 streak to end up 5-7 in Region play overall.

And Harbert sees good things for the future, as the Hornets, he says, are a young team.

"Most of our players will be coming back (next year)," he said.

The Hornets started two freshmen this season. "We had three sophomores start at some point this season," he said.

There are other factors promising a bright future.

"Our JV team lost only one game," said Harbert, who is in his second year as head coach.

Girls basketball

Lady Flashes close out fine season

By Henry E. Green

Calhoun Falls Charter girls defeated McCormick 46-41, Wednesday night in Calhoun Falls in the first round of the state playoffs in basketball, but fell to McBee 62-55 on the road Friday to close out its season, said Calhoun Falls Charter girls basketball coach Joseph Cade.

The Lady Flashes led by four at halftime, 29-25, but McBee outscored Calhoun Falls Charter in the third and fourth quarters to pick

up the win.

The Lady Flashes were playing without two starters--center Alexis Sanders and forward Cornazhia Sanders.

Autumn Thomas led the way for the Lady Flashes against McBee with 21 points, Cade continued.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Flashes hosted McCormick in the first round of the playoffs and emerged victorious over the Lady Chiefs to the tune of 46-41, with Anastasia Gillam

leading the way for the Lady Flashes with 18 points.

Despite the loss, Cade was pleased with his team's performance this season, with the Lady Flashes finishing 14-3 overall.

"I was very pleased with the season," he said. "We played well."

The best news may be that the Lady Flashes have only one senior--Jasmine Cade.

He expects the rest of the team to be returning for the coming year.

AHS baseball

Panthers work hard to prepare for season

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville High School varsity baseball team will host Dixie to open up its regular season, according to AHS baseball coach Daniel Little.

The Panthers have played two varsity scrimmages so far, hosting Greenwood recently, and visiting Emerald Wednesday night, Little said Thursday.

The coach provided a brief profile of the 2022 edition of Panther varsity baseball.

Top pitchers include Ty Price, Hunter Overholt, Thomas Booth, Chase

Fisher, Trent Delgado, and Rusty Chappell.

Jackson Uldrick and Thomas Booth have been catching for the Panthers.

Others expected to see action include outfielders Bryson Hershberger and Adam Beiler, and infielder Jackson Clemmons.

Assessing the team's strengths, he described the 2022 Panthers as "very athletic," who can definitely hit the ball well, and they can run well, too.

His troops are also solid on defense, Little added. Challenges?

"We don't have the dominant pitching," he said.

Still, the pitchers that he has he describes as "solid."

The Panthers will participate in a preseason tournament at Emerald Saturday, Feb. 26, when they will play Sumter at 4 p.m.

The first AHS game of the regular season will be on Monday, March 7, when the Panthers host Dixie at 7 p.m.

"We're excited about the season," Little said, noting that his troops have been working hard, and he invites the community to come out and support the Panthers.

Boys basketball

AHS boys advance to third round

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville crushed Chesnee 77-60 in the first round of the state varsity boys basketball playoffs Thursday night, before defeating Saluda in the second round, and the Panthers will move on to a third round game against Gray Collegiate.

The Panthers, fresh from their Region championship, jumped out to a 14-0 lead, doing what they seem to do best--using a sticky, harassing defense to force turnovers which in turn produced points for the home teams.

AHS was fueled by countless steals, and fine rebounding, with the Panthers basically playing handball off the boards in the early going.

Chesnee did not get on the score board until 1:58 in the first quarter, when the Eagles drilled a three-pointer to shave the lead to 14-3.

Chesnee trailed 14-11 at the end of the first quarter,

but the Panthers went on in a scoring spree in the second quarter, and led 39-20.

Things only got worse for Chesnee in the third quarter, and Abbeville led 62-32 at the end of the third period.

The Eagles mounted something of a comeback in the fourth quarter, and lost 77-60.

The Panthers were led by Patrick Singletary with 20 points.

AHS then moved on to host Saluda Saturday evening in the second round of the playoffs, and cruised to a 77-52 victory over the Tigers.

The game was tight in the early going, before AHS blew the game open in the second half. The Panthers led Saluda 17-13 at the end of the first quarter, but extended their lead in the second quarter, thanks in part to a flurry of three pointers--and Abbeville led 38-26 at halftime.

As was typical with the Panthers, AHS converted a

number of steals into points as well.

Abbeville led 58-38 at the end of the third quarter, and in the fourth quarter, the Panthers did well from the free throw line, providing an extra cushion for their lead.

Abbeville's Javario Tinch, who led the Panthers with 20 points, electrified the home crowd with a number of dunks. Meanwhile, Saluda was largely cold from the field in terms of outside shooting, and the Tigers missed a number of lay-up attempts as well, while the Panthers seemed to snag just about every loose ball.

Belcher praised the win as a total team effort. "We've been working on our jump shot," he said following the game.

Abbeville will now move on to play Gray Collegiate Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Allen University in the third round of the playoffs, Belcher said.



Abbeville (in white) crushed Chesnee 77-60 in the first round of the state varsity boys basketball playoffs Thursday night. Abbeville advanced to the second round and defeated Saluda over the weekend. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Dixie girls close out basketball season

By Henry E. Green

The Dixie varsity girls made the playoff field, and lost to Denmark-Olar in the first round, said Dixie coach T. Carter.

The Lady Hornets lost 70-14 at Denmark-Olar Wednesday, and with the loss they were eliminated from the playoffs.

"They pressed us the entire game," said Carter. Denmark Olar, which forced

turnovers, and scored many of their baskets from those turnovers, led 33-10 at the half.

Savannah Wojtkowski and Ashton Crocker led the Lady Hornets in scoring.

Despite the loss, the Dixie girls finished out a season with which Carter was not unhappy.

"We were fifth in our Region," he said. "We were 6-11 overall, and 5-7 in the

Region. I was very pleased with the way we finished the season."

The Lady Hornets improved throughout the year, and the coach was pleased with their improvement.

"We did have three seniors--Wes Bensel, Savannah Wojtkowski, and Lexi Slentz," he said. "We do have the majority of our team coming back."



Abbeville Youth Athletics director has been in full swing at places such as the Abbeville Civic Center in Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Erskine Baseball: Fleet wrap up sweep of Jefferson with a pair of convincing victories

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics
Department

DUE WEST, S.C. – The Erskine College baseball team (5-2) won two more games to finish off a four-game weekend sweep over Thomas Jefferson University (0-4) on Saturday afternoon at Grier Field. Erskine cruised to a 9-1 win in early game and capped off the weekend with an 11-4 win in a shortened seven inning later in the afternoon.

This weekend marks the first ever meeting between the Fleet and the Rams.

GAME 1: Erskine 9-1 Jefferson

J.J. Gonzalez opened the scoring for the Fleet with a run-scoring single in the second inning and Erskine starter Caleb Dix held on to that 1-0 lead as he navigated his way through four scoreless innings, scattering a pair of hits and three walks. Michael Kay relieved Dix in the fifth inning and stranded the would-be tying run in scoring position before punching out two batters for

a scoreless sixth inning of work. In the bottom half of the inning, the Erskine bats came to life. Dalton Boyd drew a walk to lead off the inning and scored moments later on a Cal Bocchino double before Kane Fisher worked a bases loaded walk to make it a 3-0 lead for the Fleet. Jefferson loaded the bases with nobody out in the seventh inning, but Zach Overholt came in for Erskine and limited the damage to just one run. The Fleet added three more runs in their half of the seventh before Armando Becerra and Joseph Quintana tallied run-scoring hits to push the Fleet's lead to 9-1 and Connor Harrison slammed the door shut in the ninth to seal an Erskine victory in Game 3 of the series.

GAME 2: Erskine 11-4 Jefferson

The Erskine offense got off to a quick start in the fourth and final game of the weekend as Gregory Sanders hit an RBI single before Christian Rivera launched a two-run blast for first Erskine home run to give the Fleet a 3-0 lead after just one inning. Jefferson struck back in the second inning with a two-run single to trim Erskine's lead to one run, but Cal Bocchino

answered right back in the bottom half with a two-RBI single of his own to make it a 5-2 game. The Rams scored again in the top of the third, but Kyle Marti and Cal Kryska went the other way for RBI singles to extend Erskine's lead to 7-3 after three innings. Jefferson launched a solo home run in the fourth, but Sanders' three-run home run in the following inning put the Rams away for good. Erskine added another run in the sixth inning as they took the fourth and final game of the series, 11-4.

Christian Rivera had a monster performance at the plate in Game 2 of the doubleheader, going 3-for-4 with a first-inning home run that was the Fleet's first big fly of the 2022 season. Rivera also added an RBI double in the sixth inning of Game 1.

Erskine will stay at home as they prepare for a mid-week bout with Mars Hill University (2-5) on Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at Grier Field.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

MARCH 14, 2022

ABBEVILLE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX
903 W. GREENWOOD ST.

6:30 PM

There will be a public hearing March 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Abbeville County Administrative Complex at 903 W. Greenwood St. to discuss the following:

1) Ordinance (2022-02) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map for the parcel of land identified by tax map number 123-00-00-003, from a zoning district of Restricted Residential (R8) and Forest Agricultural (FA) to one of General Residential (GR).

2) Ordinance (2022-03) to authorize the County Director to enter into a lease with First Steps ("Lessee") for 1041 square feet of space located in the old Abbeville County Administration Building at 394 Highway 28 Bypass, Abbeville, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

2/23:tc

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As any friend could say;
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Bell Toll Ceremony February 2022

Honoring Deceased Veterans

Micheal M. Bongertz	79	
Paul Kingsley Hayes	71	U S Marine Corps Vietnam
Loyd Jackson Cain	85	U S Army
Allen Cann	87	U S Army
Dr. E. Reynolds Young Jr.	95	U S Army Air Corps WWII
Chief G. Mason Speers	79	U S Army National Guard
Clifford Grady Loftis	86	U S Army

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

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: Zenobia Pearl Bowie
Date of Death: 12/3/2021
Case Number: 2022ES0100029
Personal Representative: Thomsa Nicole Carson
Address: 22383 Charthouse Lane Carrollton, VA 22314 2/9:3tc

Estate: Michael Marvin Bongertz
Date of Death: 1/18/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100031
Personal Representative: Joseph Robert Kiskis, Jr.
Address: 3307 Bellingham Drive, Orlando, FL 32825 2/9:3tc

Estate: Charles Robert Campbell
Date of Death: 01/02/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100033
Personal Representative: Betty Campbell
Address: 466 Suttles Landing Road Iva, SC 29655 2/9:3tc

Estate: Linda L. Bradberry
Date of Death: 01/09/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100034
Personal Representative: James S. Bradberry
Address: 2084 Flat Rock Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 2/9:3tc

Estate: Rendell Anthony Ford
Date of Death: 12/16/2021
Case Number: 2022ES0100038
Personal Representative: James Daniel Smith
Address: 549 Turkey Creek Dr. Ware Shoals, SC 29692 2/16:3tc

Estate: Sara Shirley Couch
Date of Death: 1/25/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100041
Personal Representative: Jane Couch Osmeloski & Shirley C. Crawford
Address: 128 Blue Church Ct. Columbia, SC 29212 & 1072 Old Douglas Mill Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 2/16:3tc

Estate: Tolly Harrison Price, Jr.
Date of Death: 01/20/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100042
Personal Representative: Sara P. Boyd
Address: 60 Magnolia Dr. Abbeville, SC 29620 2/16:3tc

Estate: Samuel E. Holder, Jr.
Date of Death: 02/01/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100043
Personal Representative: Vickie Ricketts
Address: 775 Old Douglas Mill Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 2/16:3tc

Estate: Jackie Reuben Lowe
Date of Death: 10/29/2021
Case Number: 2022ES0100045
Personal Representative: Jarrid Lowe
Address: c/o The Shaw Legal Group, LLC P.O. Box 1394 Simpsonville, SC 29681 2/23:3tc

Estate: Jean Lewis Hudson aka Jean A. Hudson aka Doris Jean Lewis Hudson
Date of Death: 12/12/2021
Case Number: 2022ES0100046
Personal Representative: Valerie McCurry
Address: 210 Airport Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 2/23:3tc

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