



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

Abbeville City Council

City sees increase in construction activity

By Henry E. Green

The City of Abbeville has experienced a considerable increase in construction activity, City Manager Blake Stone told City Council Wednesday night, From Nov. 1, 2011 to Oct. 31, 2019, there was \$16,908,874.22 of permitted construction activity within the City of Abbeville for an average of \$2,113,609.28 each year.

That includes both residential and commercial construction.

From Nov. 1, 2019, to Oct. 31, 2021, there was \$19,812,365 of permitted construction activity within the City of Abbeville for an average of \$9,906,182.50 each year. This included both residential and commercial construction.

"This large increase in construction activity helps to demonstrate the impact of the City's economic development efforts thus far," said Stone. "It is important to note that this increase in construction activity also directly or indirectly benefits many additional sectors within the local economy including restaurants, lodging and certain retail establishments as well."

In other matters, Council passed second reading

on Ordinance 9-2021, repealing and replacing Chapter 9, Article II, business licenses generally of the City of Abbeville Code of Ordinances to encompass updated language as provided by the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

"The main focus of this is a standardization (of business licenses) throughout the state," Stone told Council.

Council passed second reading on Ordinance 10-2021, an ordinance of the City of Abbeville amending Chapter 2 of the City Code of Ordinance to create an economic development article and reimbursement program for new property developments.

"It 'incentivizes' residential development," Stone told Council.

Council passed second reading on Ordinance No. 11-2021, an ordinance of the City of Abbeville to amend Article VII of Chapter 2 of the City Code to create a reimbursement incentive for water and sewer construction costs for subdivision developments.

Council passed first reading on Ordinance 12-2021, an amendment ordinance of the City authorizing the

rezoning of two parcels of land located at 829 East Greenwood Street from R-10 to Highway Commercial.

Stone said that, to his understanding, the intention of the rezoning was to increase the chances of selling the property, and that no plans of building anything on it had been announced.

The land surrounding the property is already zoned commercial, said City Council member Matt Gambrell. The City Planning Commission has recommended the rezoning.

Mayor Trey Edwards read aloud a proclamation recognizing the late Thales Mims for his life long accomplishments, dedication and impact. Mims was a beloved educator.

Council went into executive session to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee, or an appointment to a public body, but took no resulting action upon returning to open session.

Council members John Sutherland and Benji Greeson were absent from the meeting.



Gingerbread houses seemed to be the theme of this float from the Abbeville Christmas parade of Saturday, Dec. 11. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

City Council OKs ARPA funding

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council voted Monday night in a special meeting to give ARPA premium pay to eligible City employees.

The City has prepared a distribution plan for premium pay for employees

through the ARPA funding, Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone told Council.

All eligible employees will receive up to \$3,500 in premium pay, he told Council.

Council members Jason Edwards, Faye Thomas and John Sutherland were

absent from the meeting, which lasted approximately four minutes.

The money is part of a \$350 billion package allocated by Congress in COVID relief funds to local governments throughout the country.



Little hands making a big difference! Busy Bees Preschool sponsored a toy drive for the local Angel Tree. The preschool's students donated 230 items. Ms. Angie's 3K class (pictured) won a Christmas cookie party for bringing the most items. The 3K class of 16 students brought 89 items collectively. (Photo contributed)

'A brighter Christmas' Christmas Angel Tree aims to help children in our community

By Henry E. Green

For more than three decades, the Christmas Angel Tree project has been spreading joy to young people in the Abbeville County area.

Go to the Greene Center of Main Street United Methodist Church in Abbeville, and you'll swear that Santa's workshop has been relocated from the North Pole to Abbeville.

Instead of elves, there are numerous volunteers wrapping, and wrapping, and wrapping some more.

These volunteers come from far and wide. Everybody pitches in, as Angel Tree transcends generational and denominational

lines.

Yes, Angel Tree has come a long way since its beginning 33 years ago at Main Street United Methodist Church in Abbeville, through the Agnes Rogers and Ann Moore circles, according to Lori Glace, the Christmas Angel Tree coordinator.

Angel Tree takes referrals for children in the community. Those referrals come from a variety of sources, such as UCMAC, people in the community, and through the school system.

At the same time, there are numerous donors, and a child will be matched with a donor.

Angel Tree buys things throughout the year from

donations from the community, Glace said.

And then?

"We wrap and prepare gifts in December for the children," she said.

The presents range from clothing items to toys to school supplies.

This year Angel Tree has had about 200 volunteers, and the presents are expected to reach about 600 children.

"People are very supportive, and it makes such a difference for others," she said.

The aim?

"To provide a brighter Christmas for children in our community," Glace replied.



Walk through Bethlehem, held Dec. 8 through Dec. 12, was a big hit, drawing hundreds of people to its outdoor retelling of the Christmas story. Here the Angel speaks to Joseph while he sleeps. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Claus and effect

The Jolly Old Elf puts in an appearance here in Abbeville County

By Henry E. Green
Kris Kringle was very much in evidence this past weekend in Abbeville County, with parades in Abbeville and Lowndesville, a 5K event, and a Christmas gathering at Abbeville's Livery Stable.

The Yuletide festivities started Saturday morning with Breakfast with Santa at the Belmont Inn, where you could get breakfast and hobnob with the Big Guy in the Red Suit.

Presented by the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce, it was a sell out event, and "we are so grateful for the Belmont's sponsoring the event," said Anna LaGrone, the Chamber executive director, Monday.

Then there was the Reindeer Run, a 5K event presented by the Abbeville Rotary Club. (See related story.)

Then, of course, there was the Abbeville Christmas parade, with, according to the City of Abbeville, had approximately 37 entries. There had been predictions of rain for Saturday, but the precipitation held off until late Saturday afternoon, and the parade proceeded Saturday morning under sunny skies.

Following the Christmas parade in Abbeville, Christ-

mas at the Stables was held at the Livery Stable on Trinity Street in Abbeville.

A collaboration between Bow and Arrow Center of Hope and local law enforcement, the event, which was in its first year, sought to help bring the community together, according to City of Abbeville Police Chief Ron Bosler.

It did so through a variety of kid-friendly activities. You could have your picture taken with Santa, or the Grinch, or you could make a package of reindeer food, or enjoy a bean bag toss, or make your own ornaments, according to Dwane Balchin of the Police Department—Balchin was one of the organizers of the event. The idea was to get to know law enforcement better, building bonds between law enforcement and the community.

Krissi Raines, the director of Bow and Arrow Center of Hope, was also one of the organizers of Christmas at the Stables.

Because of donations, organizers were able to present the event free of charge, said Raines.

Bow and Arrow is an organization promoting mental health in the community.

On Saturday evening, the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce hosted a re-

ception to conclude its silent auction, which LaGrone described as a "successful fund-raiser with part of the proceeds going to the Bow and Arrow Center of Hope. Among the items featured were a year's subscription to The Press and Banner and a stay at the Belmont Inn. Other seasonal activities of the Chamber have been similarly successful.

Handmade for the Holidays and a Cookie Walk, both held the first weekend in December, were "completely sold out," she said.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Kringle continued to make his rounds. As in the Calhoun Falls parade, his manner of conveyance was a wagon, instead of a sleigh.

And the Grinch had changed his ride. In the Calhoun Falls Christmas festivities of Dec. 4, the Grinch could be found driving a golf cart—he graced the front page of last week's P and B—but in the Lowndesville parade, he went for something just a little more daring—a motorcycle.

Mary Elizabeth Land, the Abbeville County Library System director, was the grand marshal for the Lowndesville parade, which was presented by the Town of Lowndesville and the Lowndesville Community Club.



The Abbeville Christmas parade of Saturday, Dec. 11, was replete with floats like this one. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Christmas at the Stables was held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Livery Stable on Trinity Street in Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

County Council

County to fund memorial to officers

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville County is launching an effort to construct a memorial to fallen law enforcement officers Danny Wilson and Donnie Ouzts at the site of the infamous Bixby standoff of Dec. 8, 2003, according to action taken by County Council Monday night.

County Council chairman Billy Norris proposed, and Council agreed, for the County to spend up to \$20,000 on a memorial at the site, which belongs to Abbeville County and which is located on the western outskirts of Abbeville.

The property was at one time the location of the Bixby house, where members of the Bixby family engaged in a standoff with law enforcement arising from a land dispute over highway widening.

It was during that standoff that law enforcement officers Danny Wilson and Donnie Ouzts were killed, and Monday night Council member Charles Goodwin said that members of the families of the fallen officers wanted to see a memorial built.

The property was donated to the County several years ago. Plans for the memorial are still being finalized.

The County does have some "rough sketches" of what the memorial could look like, and those sketches will serve as a starting point.

Council took the action Monday night after a report from Council's public safety committee, composed of committee members James McCord, Jason Bonds and Billy Norris.

In other matters Monday night, County Council

passed third reading on Ordinance 2021-11 to amend the Abbeville County official zoning map for an approximate two acre parcel of land located at 20 Wooden Bridge Road, from Forest Agricultural to General Residential.

Council passed third reading of Ordinance 2021-12 to amend the County zoning map for an approximate nine acre parcel of land located at 741 East Greenwood Street from Restricted Residential to General Commercial.

Also passed was Resolution 2021-03 authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with TS Rescue of Monroe, Georgia, for the purchase of 17 sets of Fire Bunker pants and Fire jackets for personnel PPE not to exceed \$30,281.

Council appointed Ernest Ray Gunnells to the GLEAMNS Board, Patricia Diane Culbreth to the Accommodations Committee, and reappointed Brenda Lomax to the Accommodations Tax Committee, and Doris Starks to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Council went into executive session, and upon returning to open session, Council voted on several issues.

McCord made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-36, with an amendment to fund the waste handler from the infrastructure fund, and the Starr Iva Water project from ARP funds, Abbeville County Clerk to Council Lynn Sopolosky said Tuesday. Resolution 2021-36 authorizes the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Blanchard Machinery Company in the amount of

\$354,898.67 which includes tax and delivery for one new Caterpillar D5 Waste Handler.

This was seconded by Goodwin, and Council approved 6-0, because Councilman Bonds had left the meeting, Sopolosky said.

Councilman Campbell made a motion to authorize the County Director to execute any settlement documents on behalf of the County and to take any steps to effectuate any authorization of settlement with three pharmaceutical distributors (McKesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen) and one opioid manufacture Jansen Pharmaceuticals. This was seconded by Simpson and approved 6-0, Sopolosky continued.

Then, Simpson made a motion to authorize the County Director to enter into a contract with Rock Communications to provide communication radios to law enforcement, EMS, fire, Coroner, code enforcement, and animal control, and to provide continuous digital air time throughout the County.

This was seconded by McCord, and approved 6-0, and then the meeting was adjourned, Sopolosky continued.

The County could spend up to about \$975,000 on the radio project over the course of multiple budget cycles. This is all being funded from prior year fund balances to accomplish the project, County Director David Garner said Tuesday.

The action on the pharmaceuticals is in relation to a potential settlement with several pharmaceutical companies, he said.

CORRECTION NOTICE: LAST WEEK, THE PRESS & BANNER STATED THAT THE PRICE OF PROTEIN TUBS WAS \$90 FOR 225 LBS. THE PRICE IS ACTUALLY \$100. THE PRESS & BANNER REGRETS THE ERROR.

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City proclamation recalls life of Mims

By Henry E. Green

A beloved educator who passed away several months ago was remembered Wednesday night at the Abbeville City Council meeting.

Thales Mims passed away at the age of 94 in October of this year.

Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards read aloud a "Proclamation Recognizing Mr. Thales Mims for His Life Long Accomplishments, Dedication, Service, and Impact."

Accepting a copy of the proclamation were Moya Mims and Lesa Mims, relatives of Thales Mims, and a former student, City

Council member Louise Aikens.

Thales Mims "lived a life devoted to bettering his community, country, and the world, according to the proclamation.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served on several different aircraft carriers, the proclamation stated.

Mims "had a true passion for both education and music, graduating from Allen University and Vanderbilt University, obtaining status as a Fulbright Scholar, and teaching in locations across the globe."

He demonstrated his love for music by dedicating his time to play the organ

for many years at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Mims inspired countless students throughout his decades as an educator and made a lasting impact upon Abbeville and the world, the proclamation concluded.

Aikens studied under Mims at J.S. Wright High School in Abbeville.

"I was in his typing class," recalled Aikens Friday.

She described Mims, who also taught Spanish as a very thorough teacher.

"You learned, plus you enjoyed his class."



During the Dec. 8 Abbeville City Council meeting, Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards (far left) read aloud a proclamation honoring the life of Thales Mims, a beloved teacher who died in October at the age of 94. He presented a copy of the proclamation to (from left) Moya Mims and Lesa Mims, relatives of Thales Mims, and Louise Aikens, a former student. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Mary Elizabeth Land, director of the Abbeville County Library System, was the grand marshal for the recent Lowndesville Christmas parade. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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In a program on the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 8, Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson and Abbeville County Magistrate Susan Gladden placed wreaths at the foot of a monument in front of the law enforcement center, a monument recalling the lives of law enforcement officers Danny Wilson and Donnie Ouzts, who died in the Bixby standoff of Dec. 8, 2003. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Two heroes

Lives of fallen law enforcement officers recalled with memorial event

By Henry E. Green
Two fallen heroes were remembered Wednesday morning at the Abbeville County law enforcement center in Abbeville.

Law enforcement officers Danny Wilson and Donnie Ouzts lost their lives on Dec. 8, 2003, in the course of the infamous Bixby standoff.

Eighteen years later, on a cold, rainy Wednesday morning, Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson and Abbeville County Magistrate Susan Gladden placed wreaths at the foot of a monument in front of the law enforcement center, a monument recalling the lives of the two officers.

Watson spoke to the crowd assembled in the parking lot, touching on the dangers which law enforcement officers face today.

"It's a cruel world that they live in," the Sheriff reflected. Sheriff's Office chaplain Josh Chiles provided a prayer, before which he reflected on loved ones who have passed on and whom we miss at Christmas.

"All I Want For Christmas Is You," by Mariah Carey, is a song you hear often this time of year, and it touches on a commonly felt emotion, regarding how we miss those who are no longer with us. Chiles indicated how much would we give for one more conversation, one more hug, on a loved one who is no longer with us.

Former Abbeville County Sheriff Charles Goodwin and Eighth Judicial Circuit Solicitor David Stumbo also offered remarks, reaching out to family members of the fallen officers, and

praising Watson for holding the memorial service every year on the anniversary of the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Steven Bixby, who was convicted in the deaths of the two law enforcement officers, is on Death Row, and all of his appeals have been exhausted, Stumbo indicated after the program ended.

Bixby, who has been on Death Row 18 years, continues to wait for an execution date.

The standoff between law enforcement and members of the Bixby family, who were originally from New Hampshire, grew out of a land dispute in connection with a planned highway widening, as published reports indicate.

General Assembly tackling redistricting

By Henry E. Green
State House District 11, which takes up most of Abbeville County, is changing little in terms of redistricting as a result of the 2020 Census, according to State Rep. Craig Gagnon.

Gagnon, a Republican who represents District 11, indicated that the General Assembly has been reviewing plans for House and Senate redistricting, which is coming in the aftermath of the 2020 Census.

There have been some changes to District 11 outside Abbeville County's borders, according to Gagnon.

Two precincts in Anderson County near Lake Hartwell had been split, with Gagnon getting a portion of them.

Meanwhile, under the new plan, the precincts have been "unsplit" and given in their entirety to District 11, he said.

In addition, "they gave me two precincts in Laurens," he said.

Those precincts are Princeton and Poplar Springs, he said.

Thus, Gagnon will be a member of the Laurens County Delegation, as well as those in Anderson and Abbeville counties.

The plan is "good to go," pending any possible litigation against the plan, said Gagnon.

Meanwhile, the State Senate map has undergone major changes. Under changes that will go into effect in 2024, all of Abbeville County will be placed in State Sen. District 4, represented by Mike Gambrell, and District 10, which had taken up almost all of Abbeville County and half of McCormick, is being moved east, to Greenwood and Saluda and Lexington counties, Gagnon continued.

Honea Path man faces drug charges

A Honea Path man has been arrested on drug charges, according to an Abbeville County Sheriff's Office incident report.

Kenneth Dwayne McGaha, 52, of 365 Corbin Road, Honea Path, faces the following charges: trafficking methamphetamines, more than 400 grams; possession with intent to distribute methamphetamines near a school; possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and possession with intent to distribute marijuana near a school, according to the report.

The Abbeville County

Sheriff's Office investigations unit executed a search warrant on the premises and residence at 365 Corbin Road, Honea Pat.

The search warrant pertained to illegal drugs/narcotics.

"Upon the execution of said search warrant, a large quantity of a clear crystal, rock-like substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine was located within the residence," according to the report. "Also located within the residence was a large quantity of a green leafy odorous substance that

resembled marijuana, and was identified as marijuana, by the offender in this case. Items of paraphernalia were too located inside the residence as well, according to the report.

As a result of the search warrant executed by the Sheriff's Office, McGaha was arrested and charged, the report continued.

Authorities seized 784 grams, equivalent to one pound and seven ounces, of marijuana, and 488 grams, or one pound and one ounce, of methamphetamines, according to the report.

A helping hand

Abbeville Health and Fitness offers First Steps temporary space

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville Health and Fitness is allowing Abbeville County First Steps to use space at its facility in Abbeville, while First Steps prepares to move into a portable on the grounds of the Abbeville County School District office.

Abbeville County First Steps is in the process of moving from its current location in Greenwood, and the plan is for First Steps to maintain office space at Abbeville Health and Fitness during the month of December, before moving into the School District fa-

cility in January. Abbeville County First Steps executive director Angela Pruitt thanked Corrina Gambrell for her generosity in allowing First Steps to use the Health and Fitness space.

Corrina is the pastor at Rocky River Presbyterian Church, and her husband Marcus Gambrell is the owner of Abbeville Health and Fitness.

Health and Fitness is providing space, chairs, and use of their copier—all at no charge—said Pruitt.

Corrina is also a member of the board of directors of Ab-

beville County First Steps. Pruitt said that Abbeville County First Steps expects to be at Health and Fitness until January 1, when they will begin moving into the School District portable.

Abbeville County First Steps is part of a statewide initiative to help prepare children for school.

"I was so glad that we could help," said Corrina. "It's just for such a good cause. It's a blessing all around."

Approximately 50 families are enrolled in Abbeville County First Steps programs, Pruitt said.



There was a ribbon cutting recently for Savannah River Feed and Bait on Savannah Street in Calhoun Falls recently. Owner Seth Jacks was joined by family and friends. (Contributed photo)

Green Curtains latest show, Play On!

Submitted by Kathy Godby
October 2021 was an extremely busy month for Savannah Lakes Village's community theater, Green Curtains. Don Tummons has directed countless times, but this was his debut as director and producer for Green Curtains of the full-length show, Play On!, by Rick Abbot. This is the hilarious story of a theater group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from a haughty authoress who keeps revising the script. Act I is a rehearsal of the dreadful show, Act II is the near disastrous dress rehearsal, and the final act is the actual performance in which anything that can go wrong, does.

Cast members included Ilene Ciperson, Ceci Dittmar, Carol McKloskey, David McKloskey, Kathy Godby, Cindi Smith, David Flom, Ernie Rogge, Sylvia Hunger-Miller, and Sue Ellen Wojciechowski. And

no show is possible without numerous supporting staff: Artistic Assistant Director Dan Tutt, Assistant Producer Lynn Flom, Stage Manager Carol Tummons, and Assistant Stage Manager JoBeth Brown.

Stage construction and crew members were Bill O'Neill, Paul Doyle, Lincoln Wilkes, Sean Boyce. Costumers and crew were Ginger Doyle, Jean Wilkes and Patty Wakefield with Makeup and hair by Jennifer Posillico of The Hair Genie. The technical crew: Forest Gilmore, Betty Rogge and York Rushin, Sound; Russ Griffith, Lighting; Video by Vicki Aleck. Table decorations by Lynn Flom, JoBeth Brown, and Jeanne Thayer.

All actors and crew members are volunteers, donating time, talents and even some household items to make the shows successful entertainment and a fundraiser for local charities. If you would like to learn more about Green Curtains, watch for information soon

on the annual meeting early in 2022.

Due to the success of Play On!, Green Curtains was able to donate to three local charities: New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in memory of Jane Coolidge, one of our founding members, The Humane Society of McCormick, and Abbeville Area Medical Center Foundation. Check presentations were made on November 19 by David Flom, Green Curtains' Treasurer.

Green Curtains ended the year with participation in the McCormick Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3, performing "Twas the Night Before Christmas" skit.

David McKloskey, Chairman of Green Curtains, shared that the group is planning three or more shows in 2022.

He also added, "Green Curtains would like to thank all those who have attended our shows making us so successful."

Rabid Skunk Confirmed in Abbeville County; One Pet Exposed

Submitted by SC DHEC

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) confirmed that a skunk found near S.C. Highway 252 and Erwin Mill Road in Donalds, S.C., has tested positive for rabies. No people are known to have been exposed at this time. One unvaccinated dog was exposed. Out of an abundance of caution and due to the risk associated with a known exposure to a pet that has never been vaccinated, the owners have chosen to have the dog euthanized.

The skunk was submitted to DHEC's laboratory for testing on December 9, 2021, and was confirmed to have rabies on December 10, 2021.

"Rabies is usually transmitted through a bite or scratch which allows saliva from an infected animal to be introduced into the body of a person or

another animal. However, infected saliva or neural tissue contact with open wounds or areas such as the eyes, nose, or mouth could also potentially transmit rabies," said Terri McCollister, Rabies Program Team Leader. "To reduce the risk of getting rabies, always give wild and stray animals their space. If you see an animal in need, avoid touching it and contact someone trained in handling animals, such as your local animal control officer, wildlife control operator, or a wildlife rehabilitator. Please report all animal bites, scratches, and exposures to potentially rabid animals to DHEC."

If you believe that you, someone you know, or your pets have come in contact with this skunk or another animal that potentially has rabies, please call DHEC's Environmental Affairs Greenwood office at (864) 227-5915 during normal business hours

(8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday) or after hours and on holidays at (888) 847-0902 (Select Option 2).

It is important to keep pets up to date on their rabies vaccination, as this is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect against the disease. This skunk is the third animal in Abbeville County to test positive for rabies in 2021. There have been 96 cases of rabid animals statewide this year. Since 2002, South Carolina has averaged approximately 148 positive cases a year. In 2020, four of the 168 confirmed rabies cases in South Carolina were in Abbeville County.

Contact information for local Environmental Affairs offices is available at www.scdhec.gov/EAoffices. For more information on rabies, visit www.scdhec.gov/rabies or www.cdc.gov/rabies.

O little town!

'Walk through Bethlehem' brings fresh look at familiar Christmas story

By Henry E. Green

Who knew that Bethlehem would be so replete with photo opportunities?

Cameras were doing their thing in large numbers Thursday night as Cold Spring Mennonite Church held its "Walk through Bethlehem," an outdoor extension of the Christmas story--all free of charge.

This is the third year that the church, in conjunction with Cold Spring Mennonite School, has presented "Walk."

This year it was scheduled to run Dec. 8 through Dec. 12, weather permitting.

This reporter hitched a ride with the senior adults from First Baptist Church of Abbeville Thursday night to the church, and outside they joined others waiting around a small fire.

They were given pennies to pay their "taxes" when they

entered "Bethlehem" later.

People sat on bales of hay and chatted as the sun set, and a few minutes later a guide, dressed in Middle Eastern costume, appeared and led a group behind the church. On the way they passed Curtis the Camel--yes, a live dromedary--and cameras came alive.

The story blossomed as the outdoor play opened, with angels appearing to Mary and Joseph.

The group passed Roman soldiers on horseback, and deposited their pennies as they entered the church's rendering of Bethlehem, complete with a marketplace featuring everything from a blacksmith's shop to a first century version of a bakery--with townspeople all dressed in costume.

The tour progressed with familiar figures coming to life--Mary and Joseph

looking for a place to stay, shepherds watching their flocks, the host of angels bursting upon the scene, the visit of the Wise Men.

One of the sheep added his bass voice as the "angelic choir" all dressed in white sang.

The spoken dialogue among the actors was interspersed with songs--all sung a cappella.

At the close, those in attendance were treated to cookies and hot chocolate and a short video inside the church.

A Cold Spring Mennonite Church source indicated that 1,320 people took the "Walk" Thursday night, and on the first night--Wednesday, Dec. 8--there were 1,197.

The source said that organizers were "very pleased" with the turnout.



Curtis the Camel was a big hit at Walk through Bethlehem at Cold Spring Mennonite Church in Abbeville recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Cold Spring Mennonite Church recently presented "Walk through Bethlehem," an expansion of the Christmas story. Here are the angels appearing to the shepherds. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The "Walk through Bethlehem," presented by Cold Spring Mennonite Church Dec. 8 through Dec. 12, provided an outdoor retelling of the Christmas story. Here are Mary and Joseph in the stable. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

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Firefighters hold Christmas dinner

By Henry E. Green
Awards for outstanding service were presented at the Abbeville County Fire Chiefs and Commissioners Banquet, held at the Lown-desville Community Center recently.

John Jackson of Monterey Fire Department received Firefighter of the Year honors, and Wayne Gary of Bethia Fire Department was Commissioner of the Year.

Andrew Holley of Lown-desville Fire Department was Fire Chief of the Year, while Assistant Chief of the Year honors went to Chad Karls of Antreville Fire Department, and Bryan Mullet of Cold Spring Fire Department won the Lifesaver Award.

Mullet was recognized for having given CPR to a patient, and helping resuscitate him, in the course of responding to a medical call, County Fire Marshal

Tim Williams said Tuesday. Abbeville County Rural Fire is made up of 275 volunteers, serving 12 stations and two substations.

In addition, the County headquarters has three full time staff members.

About 60 people were in attendance at the banquet, which included a meal followed by a speech by Williams, and the presentation of awards.

“Abbeville County Rural Fire thanks Abbeville County Council and the Abbeville County Director for their efforts in obtaining a one million dollar bond for the purchase of new air packs for the entire County fire service,” said Williams.

“Our firemen go above and beyond to answer the calls of our citizens,” according to Williams. “We would also like to thank our community for their support throughout the year.”

The County Rural Fire system is funded by Abbeville County tax millage, said Williams Thursday.

The 12-member Abbeville County Rural Fire Commission makes policies for the County rural fire system. There is one Commission member for each station, and each station chooses a Commission member for representation.

“They’re the government body,” he said. The Commission meets monthly.

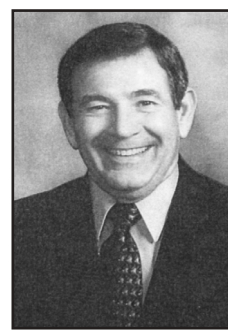
The County’s rural fire system serves County residents in rural areas of the county.

The award recipients were chosen by the Fire Commission and by the Abbeville County Fire Chiefs Association.

Hopes for 2022?

“We’re just hoping the pandemic stays away,” Williams said.

a Word from “THE WORD”



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Rev. Dr. John Keith

Reward

Proverbs 11:18 “...But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.”

A Sunday School teacher had been telling a class of little boys about crowns of glory and heavenly rewards for good people. “Now tell me,” the teacher said at the close of the lesson, “In heaven, who will get the biggest crown?” There was silence for a while, then Johnny replied, “Him, what’s got the biggest head!”

That may sound logical to some folks, but our text here mentions that those who sow in righteousness will have a sure reward. It doesn’t matter what size head a person has who sows the seeds of righteousness—he will have a sure reward. The word sure has the connotation of certainty or assurance. In other words, a person who sows righteousness will most assuredly have a reward. Four thoughts come to me from this verse.

Number one: this is a positive promise. It is assured that one who sows righteousness will have a reward. If one sows seeds of righteousness, there will be a harvest. Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart.” This is a promise that we can rely upon, God’s law of sowing and

reaping apply. If we sow seeds of righteousness we will reap a harvest of righteousness. That is certainly an impetus for us to sow righteous seeds—they will produce fruit in due season. We should be continually sowing seeds of righteousness because eventually we will reap the results of what we sow—that is something that we can count on.

Number two: this is a personal promise. It applies to anyone. No one is excluded. Every single person can sow seeds of righteousness. One does not have to be well educated to sow seeds of righteousness. One does not have to be wealthy or have social position in order to sow seeds of righteousness. The invitation is open to any and all who would like to sow these seeds. Also, no one can stop you from sowing the seeds of righteousness—the only one who can stop you is you. If you desire to sow seeds of righteousness you can do it.

Number three: this is a provisional promise. In order to reap one has to sow. If you do not sow you will not reap, it is as simple as that. Just as it would be useless to go out and expect to find a crop of corn

when you haven’t sown any corn seed—it is just as useless to expect a crop of righteousness when you haven’t sown any seeds of righteousness. Our problem in today’s society is that we are expecting a crop of righteousness when we haven’t sown the seeds of righteousness. Where does the vitriol and hatred come from in our society today? It comes from a generation that has not had the seeds of righteousness sown among them. We are seeing several generations of folks who have not been taught the moral standards of God’s Word—it is no wonder that they don’t have a moral compass.

If we want to change our world, we must start with sowing the seeds of righteousness among our children.

Number four: this promise provides motivation for sowing. If we sow, we will reap a reward. It is as simple as that. This promise from the word of God should motivate us to get out and sow the seeds of righteousness among our neighbors, our families, our friends and even our enemies.

What a difference it would make in our world if we would just do this.

Luminaries light up Christmastime

By Henry E. Green
It is not unusual for churches at this time of year to be decorated for Christmas.

From wreaths to nativity scenes, churches celebrate the Birth of Jesus through displays of various kinds.

Main Street United Methodist Church in Abbeville is a prime example.

The walkway in front of the church is lined with luminaries.

During the day, they can remind you of bags of popcorn that you get at the movies—minus the popcorn.

But at night—ah, at night—it is a different story.

While they present a striking image during the day, they come into their own

during the evening, blossoming into beauty, like very special beacons.

Indeed, in the days of the early Christian church, it was thought that lights would guide the spirit of the Christ child to people’s homes, according to luminaries.com

Luminaries have long played a prominent part in Hispanic traditions of Christmas as well.

Light itself plays a prominent role in Christian theology. “Ye are the light of the world,” Jesus tells his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew.

At Main Street United Methodist Church, luminaries have been a part of

the Christmas scene for a number of years.

A look at the Main Street UMC Website tells us that the founder of Methodism in Abbeville was a woman named Ann Fisher Moore, whose husband became the church’s first “local” preacher.

The church’s presents sanctuary was dedicated by the bishop in 1888.

Also prominent in the church’s history was a new and restored pipe organ, installed and dedicated during the Feb. 17, 2019 service.

The Abbeville branch of the United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County food pantry is housed at Main Street UMC.

A Story of Community, Where A Business Finds a Home

Submitted by Austin Walker
Abbeville, SC Monday, December 6, 2021

“I haven’t had a home in a long time.”

Those were the words of Melissa Cowart, Broker-In-Charge at Red Gate Realty during her presentation at The Brew in Abbeville last week. For Melissa, a home isn’t the place you lay your head, but rather it’s the community you find yourself in. Happenstance brought Melissa to Abbeville, but its community will keep her here.

In 2017, Melissa opened Red Gate Realty in the offices of The Greenwood Building. As the youngest broker in Greenwood, she was vying for a share of the market against other well-known names and brands that were longstanding and well trusted. Through a series of events, she learned about a potential new workspace offered by the City of Abbeville known as the Incubator. The rent was below market rate, she could put signage on the building, and she could begin to build her brand. So, Melissa took a leap of faith and asked, “What do I have to lose?” As it turned out, she had everything to gain. Red Gate Realty became the City’s first incubator

tenant early in 2019 right before COVID hit. While foot traffic came to a halt, Melissa realized she wasn’t just building her brand—she was finding a place to call home. Being on the square was still a chance to stand out and the community was something like no other. “People embraced us being here,” Melissa said. Her partner, David Bliss, echoed this sentiment, saying that although he had lived in places like New York, L.A., and Nashville, there is something special about Abbeville.

Since then, Melissa has invested everything in Abbeville. Earlier this year, she purchased a multi-purpose building right on the square. The plan wasn’t to buy coming straight out of the incubator space, but Melissa couldn’t help falling in love with the space and its possibilities. With two storefronts and four apartment spaces, there was potential. Red Gate Realty currently occupies one storefront, while the other is being rented to a new salon called Sage & Co. In their residential space upstairs, one apartment has been transformed into an in-demand Air B&B, and the rest are occupied by renters, in addition to Melissa and her family themselves. As Melissa said, “There is a correlation between where you build your core com-

munity and your success. It will come back to you... Your success reflects my success.”

Promoting Abbeville and encouraging its growth is part of what Melissa sees as giving back. “People loved, supported, and gave to me when they didn’t have to, and while receiving is wonderful, giving is so much better. I love being on the other side where I can support those around me.”

Addressing the crowd, Melissa compared herself and her business to “a mouthpiece” for Abbeville. “How can we get the word out? Is there something that we can be doing to help you, your business, or the community?” Topics like leading a social media class, being a positive voice for businesses, and helping craft a visitors’ guide were just a few of the ideas thrown around by those in attendance.

Melissa challenged everyone to have ownership and be invested in Abbeville, acting as one collective voice which she likened to the classic “Horton Hears a Who” tale. “We are those little specks on one small flower, but when we use our voices to lift Abbeville up everyone will start to hear, ‘Come Experience Abbeville.’”

Pet of the Month



Meet **Gizmo!** Gizmo gets so excited when people approach him that he pounces just like an arctic fox into the snow! He is a mixed breed and is about 1.5-years-old. He plays great with female dogs but doesn’t care for male dogs. All he wants for Christmas is a family with a big bed to pounce into!

Adoption Fees are reduced to \$25 for Gizmo, 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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Obituaries

Bernard

Karen Sayer Bernard, 73, of the Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, SC, wife of Myron Bernard, died Monday, November 29, 2021, at Emerald Gardens of Greenwood, SC. She was born in Abbeville to the late Charles Heyward Sayer and Martha Mundy Sayer.

A 1966 graduate of Abbeville High School, Karen attended Spartanburg Methodist college. She passionately served on the Abbeville Area Medical Center Foundation Board for many years. With her diverse talents, Karen was involved on various committees of the Foundation Board, always first to volunteer and willing to serve in any capacity needed. She enjoyed dancing, music, golf and entertaining. An enthusiastic NASCAR fan, her favorite driver was Rusty Wallace. Karen was a member of Warrenton Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, My-



Karen Sayer Bernard

ron, of the home; son, Myron Bernard, Jr. (Kathy) of Abbeville, SC; daughter, Maggie Gross (Daryl) of Colchester, Connecticut; two brothers, Charles Sayer (Cathy) of Greenwood, SC and Chris Sayer (Lori) of Abbeville, SC; two sisters, Marilyn Moore (Wayne) of Braselton, GA and Julie Young of Acworth, GA; two grandchildren, Ayden Bernard and Reid Gross; a special aunt, Nancy Sayer and numerous cousins and friends.

A service to celebrate Karen's life will be 1:00PM,

Monday, December 20, 2021, in the Harris Funeral Home, Abbeville Chapel with Rev. Jason Wilson officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:45AM and again following the service. A private inurnment will be in Warrenton Presbyterian Church cemetery.

The family expresses sincere gratitude to the staff of Emerald Gardens Memory and Senior Care in Greenwood, SC.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions, in memory of Karen, be sent to Agape Care of SC, 326 Montague Ave., Greenwood, SC 29649.

The family is at the home in Savannah Lakes.

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 Bernard family.

Obituaries

Utsey

Grace Arant Bowen Utsey, 104, resident of Abbeville Nursing Home widow of Earl Utsey, Jr. passed away Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021.

Grace was twice married first to the late Paul K. Bowen, Sr.

Born in Greenwood, SC she was a daughter of the late Shedrick and Allye Bullock Arant.

Grace attended the City schools of Asheville, NC where she lived with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Williams. During her years in Asheville she was a member of a youth orchestra and was First Chair in the Violin Section. She attended Lander College and Draughton Business College, majoring in Business.

She held positions with the Auto Finance Company in Greenwood and Charlotte, NC; was a private secretary to the Chief Engineer of Sanderson and Porter Construction Company of NY; was private secretary to the President of Erskine College, Dr. R.C. Grier, and to the Business Manager, Mr. Robert Brownlee. She left the business world to enter the music field, studying at Lander College and Erskine College. For over 50 years, until the age of 92, she taught piano, voice, art and violin to hundreds of children, teens and adults.

She was more than a teacher to many, caring for their lives as individuals. She was known as MaMa Grace to many. In addition to her music career, she was an outstanding artist, specializing in hand painted lamps, a very delicate field of art. She was one of the first to do this type of art in the South and at one time had 27 dealers over the South with whom she worked.

Mrs. Utsey was active in her church at Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church as Choir Director and Sunday School Teacher.

She was honored to receive the title of Abbeville Woman of the Year. She was also instrumental in organizing the Abbeville Farm Bureau Talent Show and was the 1994 Vice-President of the AARP Chapter.

By staying active with her music and art, she stayed "young at heart." She saw life as a gift. She loved unconditionally and saw only the good in people, no matter their race, financial status or position in life. Her motto in life was "Never Give Up. You CAN do it!"

Survivors include: a son Paul K. Bowen, Jr. of Abbeville, SC; a daughter Judy Bowen Cannon of Abbeville, SC; three grandchildren Adam Smith, Brooke Smith and Clint Smith; eight great-grandchildren Kay-

leigh, Landon, Maddison, Walter, L.C. and Maci Smith, Randy and Michael Gray; three great-great-grandchildren; And a special "grandson", Duane Adams.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Lynda Bowen Gray, a granddaughter Paula Kay Smith, a grandson Paul Monroe (Skip) Gray, a brother Jake C. Arant, sisters Lucy Arant Webb and Vivian Arant Montgomery.

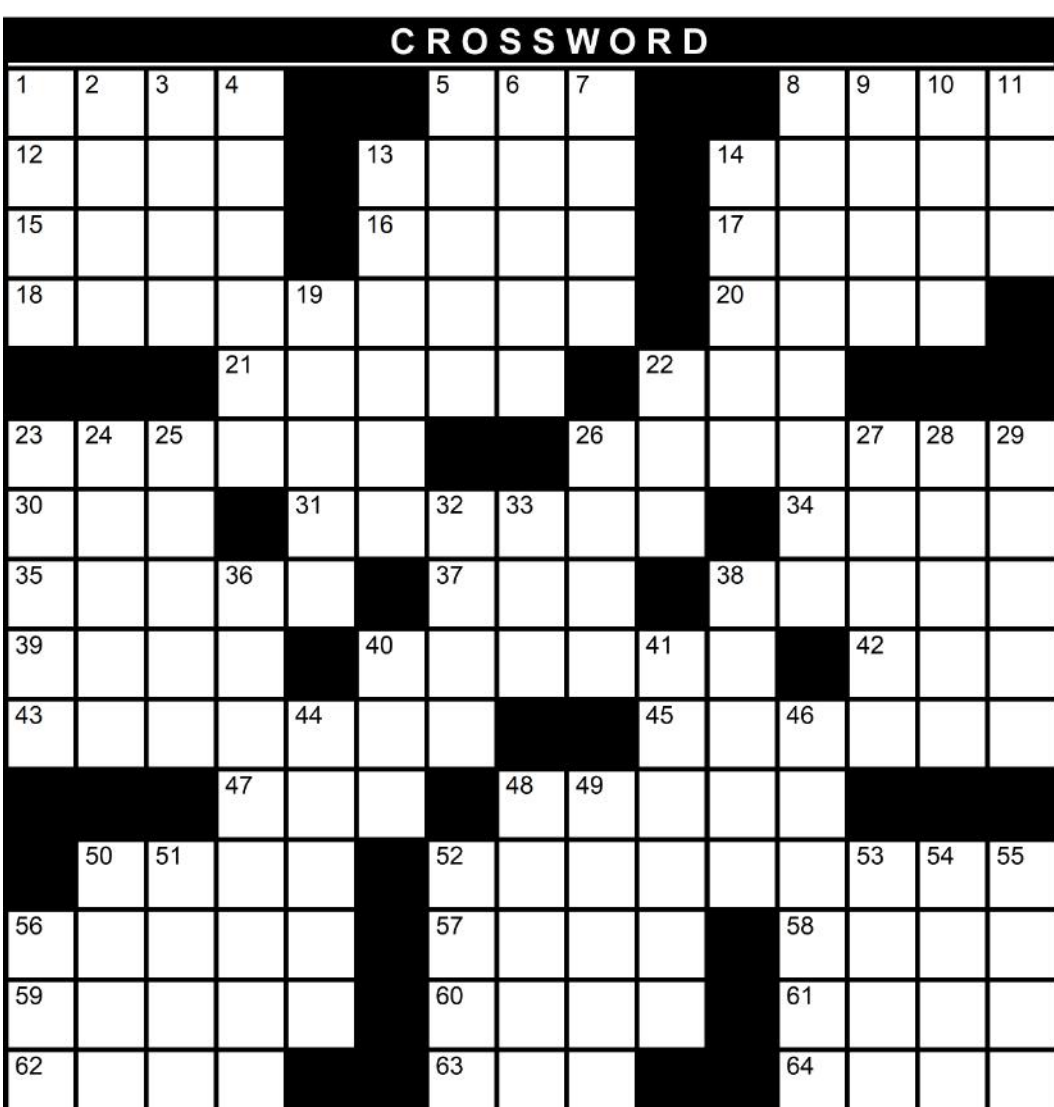
Funeral services were conducted Sunday Dec. 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM in the Chandler Chapel at Chandler-Jackson Funeral Home with the Rev. Wayne Wicker officiating. The burial followed in Long Cane Cemetery. The family is at the home of her daughter Mrs. Judy Cannon, 1505 Greenville St. Abbeville, SC.

The family received friends Sunday afternoon from 2:00 until 3:00 PM at the funeral home prior to services.

Memorials in memory of Grace may be made to Agape Hospice, 326 Montague Ave. Greenwood, SC 29646.

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

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



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Waldrop

John Alan Waldrop, 67, resident of 430 Noble Drive husband of Gail Botts Waldrop passed away Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021 at NHC Assisted Living in Greenwood, SC.

Born in Laurens, SC he was a son of the late Arthur Lee Waldrop and Amanda Mae Saxon Waldrop.

John was a graduate of Abbeville High School Class of 1972. John was formerly the Manager of Sharpe's Formal Wear in Greenwood, SC. He was self employed and was the Owner and Operator of The Veranda Cafe for many years best known for his homemade Chicken Corn Chowder. John was a member of the South Carolina Barbecue Association and was a certified Show Judge. He was probably best known as the lead singer of the famous group Brass Town Ball as

they played for Formals and other events all over the Southeastern United States. He was also an avid fan of the Clemson Tigers. John was best known for his big smile and warm caring nature for those around him. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. The family would like to send a special THANK YOU to John's caregiver Peggy Jones for her loving care during his sickness.

Survivors include: His beloved wife Gail Botts Waldrop of the home; a daughter Erin W. Freeman (Will) of Abbeville, SC; four grandchildren Mackenzie, Caleb, Camden and Cooper; a cousin he loved like a sister Dianne Scott of Greenwood, SC.

He was preceded in death by a brother Thomas Lee Waldrop.

A Celebration of John's life was conducted Saturday Dec. 11, 2021 at 2:00 in Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Wayne Wicker officiating.

The family received friends Saturday afternoon from 12:30 until 1:30 in the Social Hall at Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church prior to services.

Memorials in memory of John may be made to Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church, 194 Hwy. 20 Abbeville, SC 29620 or to Abbeville Grenadiers Band Booster Club, 202 Arthur Ave. Abbeville, SC 29620.

Online condolences may be made to the Waldrop family by visiting www.chandlerjacksonfh.com

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

Lewis

Jean Addison Hudson Lewis, 84 of Calhoun Falls, SC, wife of the late Donald E. Lewis and the late Mack J. Hudson, died Sunday, December 12, 2021, at the Abbeville Area Medical Center. She was born in Anderson, SC to the late William H. and Dolly Shaw Addison.

Jean was a member of Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church. Employed with Burlington Mills, she retired from Mohawk, formerly Bigelow Sanford. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, sister, Nanny, aunt and friend.

In addition to her husbands and parents, Jean was preceded in death by two sons, Mark Lewis and Matt "Fuji" Lewis; grandsons, Robby McCurry; great-grandson, Andrew Dove; stepsons, Al and Mack Hudson Jr.; and siblings, Forrest Addison, Connie Addison, Retha Brown, Willie Grace Lawton and Joyce Powell.

She is survived by her daughters, Donna Lewis McCurry (Benny), Valerie



Jean Addison Hudson Lewis

Lewis McCurry (Bubba) all of Abbeville; twin brother, Jerry Addison (Lib) of Calhoun Falls, step-daughter of Milledgeville, GA; eight grandchildren, Evan McCurry (Jessica), Nicole Lewis, Rose Capell, Justin Lewis (Dallas), Elizabeth Lewis, Samantha Dove (Sam), Savannah Robison (Andrew) and William Lewis; six step-grandchildren, Mackie Hudson, III (Amber), Brittany Mize (Josh), Kelsey Speight (Jeff), Chad Hudson (Jane), Scott Hudson (Heather) and Brooke Balkcom (Richard); and twenty-nine great-grandchildren.

A service to celebrate Jean's life will be at 2:00PM, Wednesday, December 15, 2021, in the Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church, 351 Jackson Street, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628 with Rev. Dr. Frank McCoy officiating. The family will visit with friends following the service.

The family expresses sincere gratitude to the nurses, doctors and staff of the Abbeville Nursing Home and Abbeville Area Medical Center for their loving care of Jean.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions, be made to Calhoun Falls United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 603, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628.

The family will be at their respective homes.

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

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Calhoun Falls Chapel is assisting the Lewis/Hudson family.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: WINTER FUN

ACROSS

- Rope fiber
- Mai _____
- Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
- "What _____ Happened to Baby Jane?"
- Tattled
- Actress Reed
- Internet share-able
- Inwardly
- Black tropical hardwood
- *Winged impression in winter
- Home of the Hawkeyes
- Investigative report
- Chicken or this?
- Not dense
- Early-day supercontinent
- Afternoon shut-eye
- Even though
- Picture on a coat
- Anti-seniors sentiment
- Jean of Dadaism
- Crewneck alternative
- Half-man, half-goat
- Arm cover
- Victoria Beckham _____ Adams
- Lacking sense of moral standards
- Flying high
- Often part of disguise
- Queen-like
- Wood file
- * _____ Plunge
- Secret stash
- Damien's prediction
- Not at work
- Opposite of cation
- Abbreviated seconds
- Precedes stated rank
- Moon pull
- *Like toddy or cocoa
- Trans-Siberian Railroad city

DOWN

- Shortens pants
- Like fair share
- Short for memorandum
- Antebellum
- Polynesian kingdom
- Ten-pin establishment
- Bucolic poem
- *Ride on runners
- *Winter building material
- Tolstoy's Karenina
- R&B Charles
- *Glittery decor
- Condescend
- Indian black tea
- Nibble
- Big mess
- Like a Druid, e.g.
- Celery, technically
- *Snowman's corn cob accessory
- Are not
- Wedding singer, e.g.
- Questioned
- *Snow _____, ammunition
- **But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight...
- *Winter walking aid
- Type of consonant
- Actors' grp.
- a.k.a. strict vegetarians
- Mature, as in fruit
- Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"
- Young Montague
- Decide at the polls
- Jasmine of "Aladdin"
- Turns blue litmus red
- #42 Across, once
- Chese from Netherlands
- Contributions to the poor
- Stink to high heaven
- *Arctic _____, snowmobile brand



Dixie High School Students of the Quarter. These students were chosen by their teachers to be recognized for their hard work during the 2nd nine weeks of school. (Photo contributed)

Playground named in Carmichael's memory

By Henry E. Green
A playground for Abbeville Presbyterian's Busy Bees preschool has been named in memory of the late Eleanor Carmichael.

"Her devotion to ministering to children is living on through her wonderful family," according to a statement from Busy Bees.

"They played a major role in the start of Busy Bees and have remained supportive

for the past five years. It is an honor to offer this small gift for the blessings their generosity has given so many."

Eleanor Carmichael's daughter, Lucia Bishop of Abbeville, was pleased that her mother is being remembered in such a way.

"It was such a surprise," said Bishop. "It caught me off guard."

"My family goes way back

in that church," she continued, noting that her mother was very much a part of Abbeville Presbyterian.

"It meant a lot to her," said Bishop, who went to an Abbeville Presbyterian kindergarten as a child.

Lucia recalled that her mother and her aunt, Doris Land, operated Ladies Shoppe, a ladies clothing store, in downtown Abbeville, a number of years ago.

Joe Cunningham visits Calhoun Falls

By Henry E. Green
A Democratic candidate for Governor visited Calhoun Falls Saturday.

Introduced by Calhoun Falls Mayor-elect Terrico Holland, Joe Cunningham was at the Community House in the Savannah Valley community on a rainy Saturday evening, visiting as part of a tour of the Upstate.

Cunningham wants to unseat Republican incumbent Henry McMaster in 2022, and before a small crowd he set out his plans for the Governor's Office should he be elected.

Cunningham said that on his first day in office he would expand Medicaid, an expansion that he said will create 40,000 jobs, and his agenda also includes strengthening education and legalizing marijuana—including both use for medical purposes and recreational use for adults.

Cunningham indicated that there is a disparity in drug charges in terms of skin color. Black people are far more likely to be arrested on

marijuana charges, he said.

Many people are behind bars simply because of a "bag of weed," said Cunningham.

There are other reasons to legalize marijuana, according to Cunningham, who noted that he knew of veterans who had trouble sleeping because combat experiences haunted their dreams. Marijuana seems to be the only thing that helps them sleep well, Cunningham said.

Cunningham grew up in western Kentucky, in a small town of approximately 500 people, located in a "dry" county.

"My dad was a public defender," he said, noting that his father saw instances of black people getting arrested for bootlegging while white people were getting off scot-free.

South Carolina has the worst education system, and the worst infrastructure in the nation, and we have to think about what kind of legacy we are passing on to our children, he said.

"We've got to pay our

teachers more," he said.

Education and health care are his top priorities.

So why does Cunningham believe he can win in a state that is so deeply Republican?

For one thing, Governor's races tend to be much less partisan, and much more "local" in terms of issues.

Maryland, for example, is a deeply "blue" state, but it has a Republican governor.

Answering questions from the audience, he touched on the need for equality in terms of law enforcement and criminal justice. "It's embarrassing we don't have a hate crime bill."

South Carolina also needs wi-fi throughout the state, he said.

Mayor-elect Holland noted the need for the collar around Lake Russell to be lifted to provide opportunities for development.

Cunningham is a former U.S. Representative who represented South Carolina's First Congressional District.



Democrat Joe Cunningham (second from left) is running for Governor, and he visited Calhoun Falls recently, speaking to a group at the Community House. He posed for a photo with Michael Johnson (far left) and Rickey Holland (second from right) and Calhoun Falls Mayor-elect Terrico Holland (far right). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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The Abbeville Rotary Club held their annual Reindeer Run Saturday, Dec. 11, and club president Matthew Johnson (left) presented to Diamond Hill Elementary guidance counselor Amy Smith an award for the school with the most participants in the event -- Diamond Hill has a running club in which many students participate. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Abbeville Rotarians have Reindeer Run

By Henry E. Green

A Dixie High School alumnus and a Dixie High School cross country team member were recognized as the top finishers in the 12th annual Abbeville Rotary Club Reindeer Run, a 5K event held Saturday morning in Abbeville.

Jeremiah Boyd, 20, graduated from Dixie in 2019, and now goes to Winthrop, where he is a junior studying mathematics.

Boyd, who has participated in the Reindeer Run before, was on a state championship cross country team at Dixie during his days at the high school in Due West.

As the top male finisher Saturday, he finished with a time of 17:58, according to the Rotary Club.

Twelve-year-old Ashten Stoll, a seventh grader at Cherokee Trail Elementary, was recognized as the top female finisher.

Ashten is on the Dixie High School girls cross country team, which this year won the state championship. It was her first time participating in the Reindeer Run. Her mother, Melanie Stoll, also ran in the Reindeer Run Saturday.

The Diamond Hill Elementary School running club won the award for the school with the most participants in the Reindeer Run, which overall had about 50 participants.

Proceeds from the Reindeer Run go toward a Christmas Angel Tree bicycle fund, in connection with the Christmas Angel Tree project, which, in the

words of Angel Tree organizer Lori Glace, provides a brighter Christmas for hundreds of boys and girls in the area.

The Abbeville Rotary Club has weekly meetings at the Belmont Inn in Abbeville. The club has a scholarship program, to benefit graduates of Abbeville, Dixie and Calhoun Falls Charter.

The club presents every year the Rotary Bowl, a day of recreation-league football, in which Abbeville teams typically face off against teams from surrounding communities.

The Abbeville Rotarians are part of a world-wide Rotary network whose activities including everything from working to eradicate polio to providing clean drinking water for communities in need.



The Abbeville Rotary Club held their annual Reindeer Run Saturday, Dec. 11, and club president Matthew Johnson (right) presented a prize to top finisher Jeremiah Boyd (left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The Abbeville Rotary Club held their annual Reindeer Run Saturday, Dec. 11, and club president Matthew Johnson (right) presented a prize to one of the top finishers -- Ashten Stoll, who is on the Dixie High School cross country team. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Members of the running club from Diamond Hill Elementary participated in the Reindeer Run, a 5K event presented by the Abbeville Rotary Club on Saturday, Dec. 11. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy: A CIA Operation

By Geoff Hult

First off, this writing has nothing to do with party politics. I believe the vast majority of both Democrats and Republicans alike in Washington DC are criminals and frauds whose allegiance lies with the deep state cabal that runs this world.

Robert F. Kennedy happened to be a Democrat, but also happened to be a man who couldn't be compromised and who was fiercely and fearlessly opposing the criminal power structure. Namely, the mafia (who was



Robert F. Kennedy: 1968 presidential campaign
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy campaigning for the Democratic U.S. presidential nomination, Philadelphia, April 1968.
Image: © AP/Shutterstock.com

working with the FBI and CIA) and the military industrial complex by his opposition to the Vietnam war. By 1968, US Senator Kennedy was running for president and would have most likely won that election. He was loved by people because he was real, a rarity in DC politics. Had he won and become president, he would be withdrawing from Vietnam and going for the jugular of the cabal, just as his brother John F. Kennedy did which is why he was assassinated in 1963. Robert F. Kennedy was deemed incorruptible and that is not the kind of person who is welcome in Washington.

The official version of history tells us that a 24 year old Palestinian man named Sirhan Sirhan shot Kennedy in the kitchen pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after midnight on June 5th, 1968. Sirhan shot Kennedy because of Kennedy's support for Israel. Sirhan was there, and did pull a gun and fire, and did so in front of many people. Sirhan was approximately 4-6 feet in front of Kennedy when this happened. Hotel maitre'd Karl Uecker and former NFL player turned Kennedy bodyguard Rosey Grier wrestled Sirhan to the ground and pried the gun from his hand. Sirhan emptied the 8 round chamber of his .22 caliber gun. Kennedy died 26 hours later at the Good Samaritan hospital.

None of Sirhan's bullets actually hit Kennedy though. Kennedy was hit three times, but all of his bullet wounds were from behind. Los Angeles county coroner Thomas Noguchi confirmed by way of autopsy that Kennedy had been shot at point blank range from behind and the fatal shot was fired from 1-3 inches behind his right ear. Attempts were made to persuade Noguchi to change his findings but he refused. Noguchi's findings scientifically proved Sirhan was not the person who actually shot Kennedy but this evidence was never allowed to be presented at Sirhan's trial. Sirhan's bullets did hit several bystanders but Kennedy was shot by someone else. Two journalists on the scene, Scott Enyart and Dan Shulman, witnessed and identified Ace security guard Thane Eugene Cesar as having fired 4 shots, 3 of which hit Kennedy. Shulman was later told by the FBI and his news organization

that he was mistaken.

The first police officer on the scene was Sgt. Paul Sharaga of the LAPD. The initial reports Sharaga got and shared with his superiors contradicted the open and shut case of Sirhan

mal waking state, Sirhan never knew why he wrote these things and always maintained he had nothing against Robert Kennedy. Dr. William Bryan was one of the foremost researchers for the government in the area of brainwashing and mind control and was likely Sirhan's handler/programmer. Dr. Bryan often boasted about how he was able to "depattern" Albert Desalvo, the infamous "Boston Strangler." Sirhan would repeat what was spoken to him while

hypnotized and then write it in notebooks, to be used against him later. In his notebooks were also writings about Albert Desalvo, of which he would have no inkling to write about unless perhaps Bryan was speaking about Desalvo during one or more of Sirhan's sessions.

The LAPD set up a special unit for the investigation of the assassination which was called Special Unit Senator (SUS). Manny Pena and Hank Hernandez ran and directed SUS, and also happened to be CIA in addition to being LAPD. I listened to Hank Hernandez "interview" witness Sandy Serrano, who claimed she saw Sirhan with another man and woman before the assassination and later the same man and woman minus Sirhan, but the woman loudly rejoicing that "we shot Kennedy." This did not jibe with the official story however, and had to be edited out of history. Hernandez bullied Serrano until she finally gave in and said she witnessed none of what she did. This is how the CIA ran the investigation straight out of the police department. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. stated: "The LAPD unit (SUS) that investigated my dad's assassination was run by active CIA operatives. They destroyed thousands of pieces of evidence." See the documentary series "Evidence of Revision," parts 4 and 5, on the RFK assassination containing this interview between Serrano and Hernandez.

This historical event is an illustration of how the masses have been manipulated to believe in a false reality. This event is only a glimpse into the dark forces in operation that comprise the power structure of this world. For more information on understanding the big picture, read online the pdf version of the book "The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations: Shaping the Moral, Spiritual, Cultural, Political, and Economic Decline of the United States of America" by John Coleman, former MI6 British Intelligence. This is a spiritual war as Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:12, and there are no political solutions. The only solution is to seek the Father, and His Son Yahshua (Jesus) because Judgment is on the horizon.

"He who hath an ear, let him hear." (Matthew 11:15)

Geoff Hult
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ALG Praises Sen. Scott for Being a 'Real deal champion of liberty'

By voting to reject the continuing resolution, he told his constituents that liberty matters.

Fairfax, Va. — Americans for Limited Government (ALG) President Richard Manning issued the following statement praising Sen. Tim Scott, one of 28 U.S. senators, all Republican, who last Thursday rejected the Continuing Resolution, H.R. 6119 that funds enforcement for President Joe Biden's unconstitutional COVID vaccine mandates:

"These Republicans stood for freedom when they voted for an amendment (which was ultimately rejected by Democrats) to strip out funding to enforce Biden's vaccine mandate in a federal spending bill. But these senators put their money where their mouth was when they voted against the bill itself, which still included the mandate funding.

"Sen. Scott is a real deal champion of liberty. By vot-



Senator Tim Scott

ing to reject the continuing resolution, he told his constituents that liberty matters.

"The fight to defund Biden's unconstitutional federal government overreach is the fight Republicans were elected to fight. It is a classic battle between those who believe in limited government powers versus those who believe there is no end to what the federal government can do."

The complete list of senators who rejected Continuing Resolution, H.R. 6119:

Barrasso (R-WY)

Blackburn (R-TN)

Boozman (R-AR)

Braun (R-IN)

Cotton (R-AR)

Cramer (R-ND)

Crapo (R-ID)

Cruz (R-TX)

Daines (R-MT)

Ernst (R-IA)

Fischer (R-NE)

Grassley (R-IA)

Hawley (R-MO)

Hoeven (R-ND)

Johnson (R-WI)

Lankford (R-OK)

Lee (R-UT)

Lummis (R-WY)

Marshall (R-KS)

Paul (R-KY)

Risch (R-ID)

Romney (R-UT)

Sasse (R-NE)

Scott (R-FL)

Scott (R-SC)

Sullivan (R-AK)

Toomey (R-PA)

Tuberville (R-AL)

For media availability contact Catherine Mortensen at cmortensen@getliberty.org or 703.478.4643.



US House of Representatives

Rep. Duncan tells Disney to tell China: "Eat My Shorts"

Submitted by Congressman Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Jeff Duncan led a letter to Bob Chapek, CEO of The Walt Disney Company, to address the report that Disney cowered to communist China by censoring an episode of the "The Simpsons" when Disney+ was launched in Hong Kong this November. Out of the 32 seasons released in Hong Kong, Disney+ allegedly deleted an episode in season 16 where the Simpsons visit Tiananmen Square in Beijing and allude to the 1989 Tiananmen Square student demonstrations calling for democracy, free speech, and free press in China. "Censoring content and scrubbing history to paint

communist China in a better light is disturbing. It's sad that the Disney Company has chosen to go the route of undermining American principles while doing the bidding of the Chinese Communist Party," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "Walt Disney animatedly fought against the rising tides of Communism and fascism, and this action is a betrayal of the founding principles of Disney."

"The fact that Disney would delete a satirical cartoon episode that has the potential to expose the evils of the Chinese Communist Party is disgusting and worthy of condemnation. I am very disturbed by Disney's weak-kneed response in seemingly cowering down to China's narrative," said Congressman Jeff Duncan.

"It is no secret the Chinese Communist Party is committing genocide against Uyghur Muslims and is known for human rights violations and crimes against humanity. If they are also influencing the decisions of any American company, especially Disney, this should be exposed and reversed."

"China wishes to wipe the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre of 1989 out of history, and it seems Disney is attempting to help achieve this goal.

I strongly encourage Disney to reverse its course if it is complicit in any way with the Chinese government, and tell the Chinese Communist Party to 'Eat My Shorts,'" said Congressman Jeff Duncan.



US House of Representatives

Rep. Duncan Introduces the TELL Act to Protect American Data from China

Submitted by Congressman Jeff Duncan

Washington, D.C.— The Energy and Commerce Committee held a bipartisan legislative hearing on H.R. 3991, Congressman Jeff Duncan's Telling Everyone the Location of data Leaving the US Act, or the TELL Act, to protect American data from the Chinese Communist Party. This legislation introduced by Congressman Duncan earlier this year will allow the Federal Trade Commission to enforce rules to ensure that Americans know if their data has been compromised to the Chinese by storing it in China, transferring the data to China, or exposing it to companies owned by the Chinese Communist Party. Failing to disclose, or pre-

sending false information, will result in civil fines from the FTC.

"Time and time again, China has proven itself untrustworthy. From decades of cheating on currency and trade, to the hacking of OPM data, to the use of state-owned entities to spy on Americans, to the coronavirus coverup, the Chinese Communist Party has thoroughly proven itself an enemy of the American people, which is why this legislation is necessary," said Congressman Jeff Duncan. "Through the TELL Act, we will ensure Americans are no longer blindsided if their data is compromised by the Chinese Communist Party."

"In doing this, we are holding China accountable and telling them they can no longer harvest our data," said Congressman Jeff

Duncan. "Our intention in this is to push back against China's use of Huawei, and other entities, to exploit personal data from American citizens. I am confident this legislation will ultimately safeguard American data privacy and hinder the Chinese. I am excited to see Energy and Commerce Committee leadership understands the importance of this issue and gave it a bipartisan hearing. I am optimistic we will see the TELL Act cross the finish line during the 117th Congress with bipartisan support."

Co-sponsors: Reps. Scott Perry (PA-10), Lance Gooden (TX-5), Brian Babin (TX-36), Marjorie Taylor Greene (GA-14), Lisa McClain (MI-10), Ashley Hinson (IA-1), Madison Cawthorn (NC-11), and Lauren Boebert (CO-3)

Living the dream CF High School graduate finds coaching success in North Carolina

By Henry E. Green

A 1986 graduate of Calhoun Falls High School has found success as a football coach in North Carolina, and indeed recently won his fifth state championship in high school football in the Tar Heel State.

Steve Davis is the coach of the Dudley High School Panthers in Greensboro, N.C., and the Panthers just recently defeated J. H. Rose High School from Greenville, N.C., by a score of 69-40--the most points scored in a state championship football game in North Carolina history.

"I've been the head coach (at Dudley) since 2004," he said Monday.

Davis grew up in Calhoun Falls, and he played football under the late, great Dennis Botts, before Botts moved to Abbeville.

"I played quarterback and

free safety in high school," he recalled. "We had some good football teams."

"When I graduated from high school my last name was Mickerson," he said, noting that he changed his name in college.

Davis went on to college at Chowan Junior College, and for the final two years he played at North Carolina A & T, before starting his coaching career.

He coached at Page High School in Greensboro from 1994 to 2000 before moving on to Dudley in 2001.

A3-Aschool, Dudley fluctuates in attendance between 1,200 to 1,400 students, Davis continued.

Of the five state championships won by the Panthers, two were as a 4-A school, and three as a 3-A institution, he said.

One major ingredient of his success has been that

of having a good coaching staff.

Do the Panthers like to run or pass? Both, answered Davis.

"We're pretty balanced," he said.

Davis has a wife Deneane, a daughter Darah, and a son Steven, II, known affectionately as "Deuce."

Deuce, by the way, plays free safety for the Panthers, which made the most recent state championship all the more special.

Yes, Davis loves his job, but he still finds time to come home to Calhoun Falls to enjoy some fried fish, and visit friends and family.

"I love home," he said.

One relative who is particularly proud is his uncle, Earl Wright of Calhoun Falls.

"I'm still flying high," Wright said.



Steve Davis, a Calhoun Falls High School graduate, has found success as a high school football coach in North Carolina, where his team recently won the state championship. Davis (left) is shown here with his son "Deuce." (Contributed photo)

AHS boys defeat Strom Thurmond

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville defeated Strom Thurmond in varsity boys basketball action on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Strom Thurmond 55-39 in a non-Region game, according to AHS varsity boys basketball coach Doug Belcher.

The Panthers, who start Region play in January, were led against Strom

Thurmond by J. Tinch.

"The guys played well the first half," he said. The Panthers played without Jeremiah Lomax, who was playing in a North-South all star football game.

AHS jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. "We led the whole game," said Belcher.

AHS, which improved to

1-0 with the victory, was scheduled to host Strom Thurmond last night, and Friday night will host Lincoln County and then travel to McCormick on Saturday night.

Game time for Lincoln County is as follows: JV boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 6:30 p.m., and varsity boys at 8 p.m.

CF Charter girls triumph over Dixie

By Henry E. Green

The Calhoun Falls Charter basketball teams had a good visit to Due West Friday night, with both the boys and the girls hoopsters triumphing over their Dixie High School counterparts.

The Calhoun Falls girls prevailed 48-42, and were led by Jasmine Cade, with 19 points, followed by Autumn Thomas, with 16, according to Calhoun Falls Charter varsity girls coach Joseph Cade.

Anastasia Gillam had 10

points for the Lady Flashes, Cade said.

The Lady Flashes jumped out to a lead that reached 12 points, before the Lady Hornets mounted a comeback in the fourth quarter, and actually went up by one point, the coach continued.

"We came back and beat them by six," he said. "We forced a few turnovers."

The Lady Flashes did this by returning to a man to man defense.

"We did a great job on free throws late in the game,"

he said.

With that victory, Calhoun Falls Charter moved to 3-0 and 1-0 in the Region.

The Lady Flashes were slated to host McCormick in Calhoun Falls last night, Cade continued.

"We go to High Point Academy (a Region foe) on Thursday night," he said. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Calhoun Falls Charter boys defeated Dixie 65-43 Friday night.

Erskine Baseball, Fleet announce 2022 schedule as focus shifts to upcoming season

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics
Department

DUE WEST, S.C. – The Erskine College Baseball Team is coming off another solid season in the Conference Carolinas. The Fleet finished 19-13 in the league and placed third in the conference regular season standings. Erskine saw another player sign a professional contract in C/RHP Dayan Reinoso going to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim organization. The Flying Fleet are positioned to follow up in 2022 with another strong campaign with goals in sight for a Conference Carolinas Championship.

Erskine will return a key group of contributors from 2021 on the offensive side. Leading the way for the Fleet is senior infielder Cal Bocchino (.345 AVG/3 HR/7 2B/20 RBI/.397 OBP%). Bocchino was a Coastal Plains League First-Team selection this summer and has emerged as one of the top middle infielders in the region. Junior outfielder Tariq Bacon (.330 AVG/6 HR/33 RBI/.670 SLG%/.404 OBP%) will lead the way as a returning starter in the outfield and has the ability to be a multi-threat presence on the base paths and has displayed a lot of power in the bat as well. Senior first baseman/DH Kane Fisher (.368 AVG/4 HR/.763 SLG%/.455 OBP%) will return as a leading power bat for the Fleet. Fisher can change the game with one swing and has committed himself to being a strong leader on and off the field for Erskine. Junior catcher Dalton Boyd (.300 AVG/3 HR/.500 SLG%/.404 OBP%) returns as one of the toughest outs in the lineup for the Fleet. The switch hitting catcher from Polk State CC will be a strong backstop and 1B/DH option to solidify the lineup as an experienced collegiate hitter. Armando Becerra, Jaisen Randolph, and Gregory Sanders will all be major contributors in the outfield who can steal bases and drive the baseball at a high level. Senior utility guy Chase Crouch and junior outfielder Dontae Wade will bring a lot of experience and leadership to round out a veteran crew for the Flying Fleet in 2022.

Erskine will return almost the entire pitching staff from 2021. This past season, the Fleet had to deal with numerous injuries from key contributors from the 2020 season. A majority of which will be back healthy for 2022. There is a lot of excitement around Grier Field and the Flying Fleet ball club with a healthy staff and a great group of newcomers in addition. Senior right-hander Allan Saathoff (3.88 ERA/60.1 IP/76 K's/211 OPP BA) has had a very strong fall for the Fleet and is expected to be the number one starter again for the Fleet in 2022. "Allan has proven that he is one of the top arms in the Conference. 'Satty' has the respect of our entire coaching staff and his teammates due to his work ethic and humble spirit that he displays on a daily basis. I expect him to be a potential [Conference Carolinas] Pitcher of the Year candidate this year," said Head Coach Mark Crocco. Redshirt sophomore right-hander Johnny Hummel (1.40 ERA/19.1 IP/27 K's/118 OPP BA) will return as Erskine's closer and has shown some promise as a two way player this fall behind the plate. The Fleet staff return Junior right-handers Landon Dennis and Ira Clifton who have both been starters for the Fleet

on the weekend and will play a significant role this spring.

Erskine Baseball has had numerous key additions on the field and on the mound this fall. "I have been extremely encouraged with the competitiveness and cohesiveness of our 2021 class. They have really fit into our culture that we are trying to build. They joined our returners and built a family this fall. Collectively they have showed significant buy-in on and off the field and we are very excited to see them compete this spring. I want to thank my assistant coaches for all their work in putting this class together. In particular, our Recruiting Coordinator/Associate Head Coach Will Kaufman for being diligent in the process of getting these young men on campus," Crocco said.

The key newcomers in the infield are junior college transfers J.J. Gonzalez (St. Johns River CC), Cal Kryska (Muskegon CC), Joe Quintana (Northeastern JC), and true freshman Kyle Marti, from Columbus High School in Miami. "Our main goal of the 2021 class was to recruit some high level defenders that could sure up our infield play. All of these guys are very high energy players that have a dynamic skill set. They have meshed very well together, and all have exceeded expectations. They will make an immediate impact on our program this year and many years to come," Crocco said.

Christian Rivera is a transfer from Pensacola State CC that has added some power to the lineup and has proven he can play first base and be a high-level catcher this fall. "Rivera really came into his own the second half of the fall and proved he is a real offensive threat for our club. I love his make-up and work ethic that he comes to the field with every single day. He will be a great compliment to returner Dalton Boyd behind the dish and he makes our team better with the servant leadership he shows his teammates day in and day out," Crocco said.

In addition to the middle infield, the Fleet needed to sure up a corner infield/utility player to replace four-year starter Drew Yniesta. The Fleet found a great fit with a transfer from Georgia State in Ashby Smith. "Ashby is a true utility player who can play corner infield or corner outfield. He is a proven hitter at the college level and will be a great addition to the middle of our lineup," Crocco said. True freshmen outfielder Rafael Flores (Christopher Columbus HS) and catcher Logan Piedra (St. Thomas Aquinas HS) are very good baseball players and will bring some solid depth to a very tight knit roster.

The Flying Fleet have acquired new leadership on the pitching side of the baseball in Danny Perez. "Coach Perez has been electric for our team culture. Our players have bought into his pitching system from day 1 and we have seen significant growth on the mound," Crocco said.

There are numerous key newcomers on the pitching staff that will add a wealth of depth and competitiveness in 2022. Junior College transfers Caleb Dix (St. Johns River CC), Daniel Vos (Florida Southwestern State CC) and Division I transfer Josh Collett (University of Pittsburgh) will all compete for starting opportunities to compliment returners Allan Saathoff and Landon Dennis who have both had very strong fall campaigns. "There are

many qualities that each of these young men bring to the table but the one that stands out for all of them is their daily self-discipline and the ability to be professional and work at their craft," Crocco said. Erskine's head coach added he is very excited to watch them grow as they get into the spring campaign.

The coaching staff has been very pleased with the performance of all the true freshman pitchers this fall. Standouts include Blake Timmore (American Heritage HS), Logan Spivey (Upton-Lee HS) and Joe Alegre (Arlington HS) who have all proven that they have starter-type stuff and the competitive spirit to log significant innings for the Fleet in 2022. Freshman Bryce Dees (Harlem HS) and Dustin Scoggins (Belton-Honea Path) have joined Junior College additions Colbe Crim (Pasco Hernando CC) and Matt Grizzle (South Ga. State CC) that will compete with a veteran staff to get some innings in the bullpen. "The future of our pitching staff is extremely bright. We have been very fortunate to bring in some quality young men who are sold on our program's mission statement and they are flourishing on the mound. I see this group of freshmen being a staple for our program for many years to come," Crocco said.

2022 Schedule Notables

The Erskine College Baseball team will have one of the toughest schedules in Division II baseball this spring. The Fleet will take on four of the six teams that were selected in the Southeast Regional in 2021, including the defending national champions, Wingate University, twice in the first six weeks of the season. Erskine will host the Bulldogs on February 22 before making the trip to southern North Carolina on March 15. Opening weekend will showcase the cross-town rivalry between Lander and Erskine. Friday will be a single game at Lander and Saturday will be a doubleheader at Grier Field. Erskine will open Conference Carolinas play at home against the defending Conference Carolinas tournament champions North Greenville University on the weekend of February 18-19 in Due West. The second week of league play will bring in the UNC Pembroke Braves, a conference newcomer who was also a participant in the 2021 Southeast Regional and ranked in the top #25 for most of the 2021 season. The following weekend will be the Fleet's first weekend road test against the defending conference Carolinas regular season champion, University of Mount Olive.

"This schedule will challenge our players early. I have found that if you are tested early in the season, it will benefit you down the stretch," Crocco said.

Erskine will see some unfamiliar teams added for midweek contests including Mars Hill, Coker, and Queens out of the South Atlantic Conference.

Erskine will conclude their non-conference play with a four-game set at home against Rounding Jefferson College (PA) and a home-and-away midweek matchup against Peach Belt Conference member Augusta State.

The Conference Carolinas Tournament will take place in Burlington, North Carolina on May 4-8.

Congratulations, Wanda Partridge!

★ ★ FOOTBALL CONTEST ★ ★

**CONTEST
TO BE
CONTINUED
IN 2022**



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: Sherri Dawn Hilley
Date of Death: 10/30/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100333
Personal Representative: Joseph Ray Hilley
Address: 6624 Hwy 252 Donalds, SC 29638
12/8;3tc

Estate: Billy Truman Hall
Date of Death: 11/21/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100332
Personal Representative: Margaret Rebecca Hall
Address: 131 Moore Street, Abbeville, SC 29620
12/8;3tc

Estate: Ruth Franks Hall aka Margaret Ruth Hall
Date of Death: 11/21/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100334
Personal Representative: Marion Dale Hill
Address: 1205 Farmers Bridge Rd. Keysville, GA 30816
12/15;3tc

Estate: Samuel Earnest Brownlee
Date of Death: 11/7/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100336
Personal Representative: Felicia Annalouis Agnew
Address: 132 Josephs Lane, Iva, SC 29655
12/15;3tc

Estate: Carrie Lee White
Date of Death: 11/21/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100338
Personal Representative: William Joseph White, Jr.
Address: P.O. Box 242 Ware Shoals, SC 29692
12/15;3tc

Estate: Rhett Randall Simpson
Date of Death: 11/21/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100339
Personal Representative: Melissa Simpson AKA Lisa Simpson
Address: 313 Noble Drive Abbeville, SC 29620
12/15;3tc

Estate: Allen Brown Bowie
Date of Death: 12/2/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100341
Personal Representative: Patricia W. Bowie
Address: 403 Sharon Heights, Abbeville, SC 29620
12/15;3tc

Estate: Freddie Lee Jordan Hilley
Date of Death: 02/01/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100342
Personal Representative: Tricia Protter
Address: 101 Sleepy Creek Drive Athens, GA 30606
12/15;3tc

Estate: Jimmy Clayton Smith
Date of Death: 10/25/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100323
Personal Representative: Brooke L. Smith
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12/1;3tc

Estate: George Visanka Guy
Date of Death: 09/21/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100324
Personal Representative: George Taylor Guy
Address: 207 Halthanger Road Greenwood, SC 29649
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Estate: Vicky Lynne Harlen
Date of Death: 10/26/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100327
Personal Representative: Raymond Rolla Harlen
Address: 528 Hwy 20, Abbeville, SC 29620
12/8;3tc

Estate: Betty Jane Davenport AKA Betty Jane Porter Davenport
Date of Death: 10/27/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100330
Personal Representative: Robbie Sexton
Address: 6747 Hwy 252 Donalds, SC 29638
12/8;3tc

Estate: Clara Lucille Epps McNeill
Date of Death: 09/19/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100331
Personal Representative: William McNeill & Shirley Walker
Address: 1201 North Main Street, Abbeville, SC 29620 & 581 Boyds Mill Road, Laurens, SC 29360
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City of Abbeville

Project No. 11286-026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND PROTESTS

(December 2, 2021)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- Type of Application: Application for Temporary Variance and Approval of Reservoir Drawdown Plan
- Project No.: 11286-026
- Date Filed: November 16, 2021, as supplemented on November 24 and December 2, 2021
- Applicant: City of Abbeville
- Name of Project: Abbeville Hydroelectric Project
- Location: The project is located on the Rocky River in Abbeville and Anderson counties, South Carolina.
- Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. § 791a - 825r
- Applicant Contact: Mr. Tim Hall, Public Utilities Director, City of Abbeville, 306 Cambridge Street, P.O. Box 639, Abbeville, SC 29620; (864) 366-5058
- FERC Contact: Christopher Chaney, (202) 502-6778, christopher.chaney@ferc.gov
- Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests is 30 days from the issuance date of this notice by the Commission.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. The first page of any filing should include the docket number P-11286-026. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, it must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. Description of Request: The City of Abbeville (licensee) requests approval to implement a temporary drawdown of the reservoir to an elevation of 528 feet mean sea level (msl). Under the licensee's proposal, the reservoir would be drawn down 12 feet below the seasonal minimum elevation of 540 feet msl allowed under Article 401 of the project's license. The licensee states the drawdown is necessary to conduct repairs on the penstock fill valve. As proposed in the December 2, 2021 supplement, the drawdown would begin on January 10, 2022, and the licensee would start refilling the reservoir on January 28, 2022. The licensee estimates the reservoir refill would take approximately 30 days. As required under Article 403 of the project's license, the licensee's request includes an associated Reservoir Drawdown Plan for Commission approval.

l. Locations of the Application: This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. Filing and Service of Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting, or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary

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The kids seemed to be enjoying this float, part of the Abbeville Christmas parade of Dec. 11. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Making balloon figures was one of the joys of Christmas at the Stables, held Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Livery Stable in Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



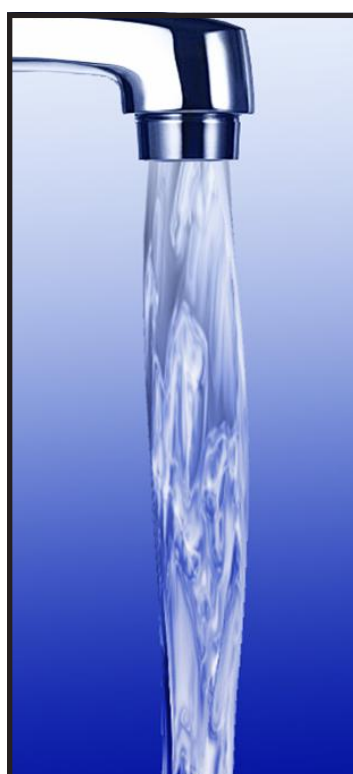
Horses and riders helped bring up the last of the recent Lowndesville Christmas parade. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Host of holiday closings announced

By Henry E. Green
Time off for Christmas! Christmas holiday closings for various local government offices, as well as the Abbeville County School District, have been announced. Christmas falls on a Saturday this week, so much of the holiday closings involve long weekends. The Abbeville County School District will be on winter break. The last day for students

and teachers before winter break in the School District will be Dec. 17, and teachers will come back on January 3, with students coming back on January 5. Abbeville County government employees will have Dec. 24, Dec. 27, and Dec. 28 off. The City of Abbeville offices will be closed Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. Due West Town Hall will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24,

and Monday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday, Dec. 28. Calhoun Falls Town Hall will be closed Friday, Dec. 24. The Press and Banner will be closed on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. There will be no home delivery of mail on Saturday, Dec. 25, and the same holds true for New Year's Day. Friday, Dec. 24, will be a normal mail delivery day.



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