



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



Abbeville Rotarians gathered recently to pick up trash along the stretch of highway the Abbeville Rotary Club has adopted on Highway 28 Bypass on the western outskirts of Abbeville. Gathering to help the road look tidy were (from left) Lou Paradis, Jimmy Wilson, Lee Logan, Tom Howie, Matthew Johnson, Scott White, Darren Lewis, and Bill Lesesne. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

## District adopts modified calendar

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District has posted on its Website the District's 2022-2023 School Calendar it has adopted.

The Calendar, according to the District, has 180 school days and 10 Staff Development and Workdays.

The start date for students is August 2—two weeks earlier than last year.

The start date for teachers is July 25—two weeks earlier than last year.

There will be a week-long “intersession” in October and another in February. “This balances out the earlier start dates,” according to the District.

The last day of school for students is June 1—one day earlier than last year.

First semester ends before Christmas break.

The intersession weeks are useful for a variety of reasons, according to the District.

They allow for additional student services to be offered, and to provide student opportunities at the schools for three days of the Intersession Week.

These may include activities such as instructional support in the core subject areas, and other activities.

There is also a section to answer frequently asked questions.

If families have vacation scheduled for the first two weeks of August, 2022, parents should call the school and speak with the principal, and he or she will work out a plan for the student's missed assignments and attendance.

As to what happens if par-

ents do not have childcare during the two intersession weeks, opportunities will be provided at the school for students during the Intersession Weeks.

Similarly, sports are not expected to be affected by the earlier start date.

“Fall sports will begin their practices as defined by the South Carolina High School League,” according to the District.

Dual enrollment classes are not expected to be affected, either.

“Dual enrollment class schedules are set by the colleges, and high school students follow that schedule regardless of the high school schedule,” the District reported.

The Board of Trustees adopted the calendar at its Feb. 22 meeting.

## Referendum arouses vigorous debate

By Henry E. Green

Jeff Lewis of Abbeville, during the public comment segment of the Feb. 22 school board meeting, provided some advice to the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees about the upcoming referendum, set for May 17, to fund projects at AHS and Dixie and the Career Center. “Be a unified board. It will never ever be cheaper than it is now (to create the projects planned with the referendum).”

Still, there was a diversity of opinion among the trustees, and on the evening of Feb. 22, it showed.

This showed in the vote on the bond resolution, paving the way for a referendum in May on a number of improvements at Abbeville and Dixie high schools, and at the Abbeville County Career Center.

Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees Brad Evans asked the trustees if they had any questions about the propos-

als, and some of the board members were content, and some were not.

Attorney Francenia Heizer told the trustees that they could campaign against the referendum, or they could campaign for it, but they could not use school resources either way.

Speaking at churches, meetings of civic groups—all are tools to educate the public.

“Teachers need to be brought on board” if the referendum is to pass, she said.

One item that was originally in the plans for improvements at the Career Center was that of a fire fighting lab, where students studying to be fire fighters could practice their skills, and that was taken off the table.

Trustee Tim Rhodes suggested that somewhere in the future the School District could possibly collaborate with Abbeville County on the project at some point.

The trustees discussed at length the wording of the

referendum question or questions.

The referendum has to lock in the parameters of what is being proposed, said trustee David Brooks.

“Either you make it very specific or we don't need to waste our time to put on an election,” he said.

He also noted that if the trustees do not understand what is being proposed in the referendum, neither will the public.

Trustee James Tisdale called on the board to trust the experts the School District is paying to provide recommendations on capital improvement needs.

Evans called on the trustees to “listen to the experts.”

Ginny Kirk of Thompson Turner construction firm was listening in to the meeting electronically, and so was architect Scott May of LS3P.

“We've never seen school districts in South Carolina put square footage on the ballot,” Kirk said.

## Library System gets healthcare grant

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Library System has been awarded a \$110,000 grant from the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, said Library System director Mary Elizabeth Land.

“We're very excited,” she said Thursday. “This is a 2022 Libraries and Health Cooperative agreement program. The grant will allow us to, among other things, hire a health advocate.”

The library system, of course, has many employees whose skills and background are in matching

people with their information for leisure reading needs,” she said.

“This grant will allow us to add an employee to our staff whose background and skill set are in health services.”

“In the same way that we've always connected people with the information they need, now we'll have someone on the staff who can address people's health questions.”

The health advocate will connect people to programs in the community.

For a patron who has a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, for example, the health advocate would be to connect

this patron with the appropriate support programs in the community.

“These funds are for the next 18 months, and we are so looking forward to be able to offer these opportunities to the community,” she said.

“This is the first grant that we've received specifically for health programs,” she said. “We're excited at the ability to offer skilled help to folks in this area.”

This grant is given out regionally, but this is the first time the Abbeville community has received a grant like this, Land continued.

## Renovations on Civic Center planned

By Henry E. Green

Renovations at the Abbeville Civic Center are slated to begin soon, according to City of Abbeville Deputy Administrative Officer Mike Clary.

The renovations will come in various forms, he said.

“Currently, we have scheduled for the roof to be completely retrofitted,” he said.

“This will cause all water intrusion into the building to cease. Second, we are having all the HVAC Units replaced. The current units are quite old as far as commercial units go and do not work as intended. Concerning additional renovations, the City is working with McMillan, Pazdan, & Smith Architects to evaluate options for work to the rest

of the building. This will be brought before Council in the coming months.”

The roof and HVAC portions of the renovations are slated to start in the next six to eight weeks, and the remaining renovations are tentatively scheduled to begin later this year or next year, he continued.

How will they affect activities at the Career Center? “The roof and HVAC portions should not have a significant impact on scheduled activities,” he said. “When more substantial renovations occur on the interior of the Civic Center, those will need to be scheduled to cause as little interruption as possible to ongoing programs.”

Lloyd Roofing is perform-

ing the roof work. The HVAC work is still in the bid process with that being schedule to go before Council in March. And any further renovations would also need to be bid out later this year.

The roof work will cost just under \$110,000 and the HVAC should be just under \$75,000 depending on the bids.

“We are going to be working with the previously mentioned architectural firm on getting some up to date cost estimates for the additional renovations,” Clary continued.

The Civic Center renovations are being funded through a combination of Hospitality funds, ARP funds, and grant funding, he said.



The Abbeville County Library system has been awarded a \$110,000 grant from the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Library System director Mary Elizabeth Land said recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Bill Boone of Abbeville climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa back in 2006. Here he is at the summit. Boone is on the left and Ken Knox, OD (Doctor of Optometry) from Simpsonville, SC, is on the right. (Contributed photo)

# County Council has budget workshop

**By Henry E. Green**

The looming specter of inflation was an unwelcome guest Monday night at an Abbeville County Council budget workshop.

Abbeville County Director David Garner told Council that the Consumer Price Index this year figures to be as much as three times as much as in the past.

“That’s astronomical,” he said, noting that it is a rate that is “frankly unheard of.”

Council listened as Garner provided a presentation on preparations for FY 22-23.

He did provide some good news, in that American Rescue Plan funds are available for the County to use for certain things. The American Rescue Plan is an economic stimulus bill was passed by Congress and which provides for federal money given to local governments like Abbeville County in the wake of the pandemic.

Abbeville County Council currently has approximately \$3.7 million in ARP funds, which it can use for things such as infrastructure, certain capital expenses, and other government services, Garner said.

In addition to the budget

workshop, Council passed at Monday night’s meeting third and final reading on Ordinance 2022-01 to authorize the County Director to enter into a lease with Rock Communications for space located at the ball field at 750 U.S. 178 in Honea Path to locate a radio communications tower and a 10 foot by 12 foot building. Abbeville County has entered into an agreement with Rock Communications to provide communications services to the County, the ordinance states.

Council also passed a resolution authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual agreement with Smith Gardner Engineers for professional services related to the expansion of the Abbeville County landfill not to exceed \$50,000.

Smith+Gardner Engineers has proposed to provide the necessary documents for bidding on the expansion of Cell 2A for Abbeville County; and the firm will provide all associated engineering services, drawings, illustrations and required components related to the expansion of Cells 2A, 2B and all related areas, the

resolution states.

The compensation for the completion of these services will be \$50,000, according to the resolution.

The County plans to expand the landfill, and has already begun to make preparations for it—to accommodate future waste needs.

Furthermore, the County will be looking to bid out the construction in the coming months, and begin construction later this year, Garner continued.

The County needs to update the software in the tax assessor’s office, and would like to replace that software with one that could communicate with the treasurer’s office and finance office as well.

Garner said he had asked for consideration for state funding to update the detention center, and that is dependent on the state budget once it is approved by the Governor.

The Abbeville County detention center is approaching 20 years old, and certain things need to be upgraded, from the lighting to carpeting in certain areas, and the pneumatic door system, and the plumbing, Garner said.

# ‘Sad situation’ Abbeville County residents speak their minds about Ukraine

**By Henry E. Green**

Like the rest of the world, Abbeville County residents we spoke to are concerned about what is happening in Ukraine.

“I think that is a very dangerous situation and the responsibility of it, in my opinion, lies at the feet of Mr. Vladimir Putin,” said Ed Evans of Abbeville.

“What he is doing is a page out of the play book of Adolf Hitler--only this time the world is not in an appeasement mood.

“What makes this a dangerous situation is that Mrs. Putin’s army is not performing as well as he thought it would. I’m sure he thought Ukraine would be a cake walk. Already he has subtly mentioned the use of nuclear weapons. He forgets that a lot of countries besides his possess nuclear weapons.

“My sympathies lie with the Ukrainians. My heart goes

out to the innocents who are hurt.”

“It seems almost impossible that one man can gather so much power that he can instruct his country to go to war and cause so much suffering and pain,” Lee Logan of Due West said. “I hope that he will be held appropriately accountable some day and that democracy and freedom will be more prevalent for the people of this planet.”

“It’s just a big mess,” said Rick Campbell of Abbeville. “And I believe we never should have approved that pipe line for the oil. We were not obligated to buy oil from Russia until we closed our pipe line down, and now, our gas prices are going up.

“They shouldn’t be invading Ukraine. It’s mainly because President Putin is seeking more power and more land, but Ukraine hasn’t done anything to them, and now he wants to

take over the whole country, and if he gets a foothold in that part of Europe, then he’s not going to stop. He’s going to keep on taking over countries.”

“Personally I stand with Ukraine and where they are,” said Jason Bonds of Abbeville.

He is proud of how the Ukrainian leadership chose to stay and fight instead of leaving the country.

“That’s the American spirit,” he said, noting that the same spirit was strong in America in the days following 9/11.

“It’s a sad situation, that’s for sure,” said Randy Curtis of Abbeville, adding that one has to feel for the Ukrainians and what they are experiencing.

“All we can do is pray for those folks,” he said.

“We can all boycott Russian goods if we can find any,” suggested one area resident Tuesday morning.

# Keep on trekkin’

## Bill Boone talks about how he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania

**By Henry E. Green**

At 19,341 feet, Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest free standing mountain in the world, Bill Boone will tell you. It is also a mountain he has conquered.

Boone described in a presentation to his fellow Abbeville Rotarians recently his experience climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, a dormant volcano in Tanzania, back in 2006.

The Abbevillian is no stranger to that part of the world, having been on mission trips to Tanzania, in eastern Africa.

He now calls Church Street in the city of Abbeville home, but back in 2006 home was a mountainside.

He and a friend, along with a guide and 10 “sherpas” carrying supplies, embarked on the trip of a lifetime, a trip taking him from lush vegetation up, up, up to a place where the atmosphere changed to a landscape that was barren.

“This is a mountain made out of lava,” he said. “It’s just desolate.”

There are glaciers on the mountain, and after several days of climbing, he was awakened by his guide late one night and told that he needed to hustle to get to the top, because the sun would come out, and make the glaciers slippery.

Boone’s story had a happy ending. They made it to the top, where Bill had his picture taken.

If he had been climbing Mt. Everest, he would have needed to carry a container of oxygen, but then again Mt. Everest is 29, 032 feet tall--considerably higher than Kilimanjaro.

Even so, oxygen was not as plentiful at the higher elevations on Kilimanjaro, and Bill felt the effects from time to time. After reaching the top, he had to gather up his energy to make his way down the mountain, while his guide made his way at

a brisk pace.

Boone estimated that near the summit the temperature was about 20 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and he and his companions stayed bundled up.

His trek up the mountain took place over the space of approximately one week, and he and his companions stopped periodically at camps set up on the mountain.

He recalled with amusement a group of English climbers who stopped for tea.

Kilimanjaro, as a free-standing mountain, stands alone and is not part of a mountain range.

Other mountains are higher--that includes Mt. Everest, which is part of the Himalayas mountain range.

As for the glaciers, there are reports that global warming is causing them to melt at an alarming rate.

# AAMC urology clinic closes its doors

**By Henry E. Green**

Abbeville Area Medical Center has closed its urology clinic.

A urologist who had been treating patients has accepted a position with Urological Services in Greenwood, according to a letter sent out from Abbeville Area Physician Network Urology.

“As of Feb. 24, 2022, we will not have a urologist seeing patients at this site,

” according to the letter from Abbeville Urology, a letter dated Feb. 16.

“The practice will be closed effective today, February 24th,” said Meg Davis, AAMC Marketing, Foundation, and Volunteer Services Director.

“AAMC continues to look for opportunities to bring quality, convenient urological services back to our area.

A number of patients were affected, Davis said.

“Approximately 1,000 letters were sent to those who are either current or past patients of the practice,” she said.

The clinic had been located in the old Family Medicine Associates building near the Abbeville County Administrative Complex.

# PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING

Any candidate seeking a political party’s nomination for any office in the 2022 General Election must file with the appropriate county board of voter registration & elections or the South Carolina Election Commission during the upcoming filing period.

Filing opens noon, March 16, 2022, and closes noon, March 30, 2022

Offices	Filing Location
Governor Secretary of State State Treasurer Attorney General Comptroller General State Superintendent of Education Commissioner of Agriculture U.S. Senate U.S. House of Representatives (All Districts) Solicitor (Circuits 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15)	State Election Commission (SEC) 1122 Lady Street, Suite 500 Columbia, SC 29201
State House of Representatives (All Districts)	State Election Commission (SEC) or County Board of Voter Registration and Elections in candidate’s county of residence.
Abbeville County Auditor Abbeville County Probate Judge Abbeville County Treasurer Abbeville County Council District 1 Abbeville County Council District 2 Abbeville County Council District 7	Abbeville County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Abbeville County Complex 903 W Greenwood St Suite 2500 Abbeville SC 29620 864-366-2400 Ext 53

**SEC Filing hours:**  
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Filing hours:**  
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

**Filing Form:** The Statement of Intention of Candidacy & Party Pledge (SICPP) form required for filing is available in the “Candidate Information” section of [scVOTES.gov](http://scVOTES.gov) and at the county elections office.

**Filing Fee:** Filing fees are paid at the time of filing by candidates seeking the nomination of a party nominating by primary. The list of filing fees is available at [scVOTES.gov](http://scVOTES.gov) and at the county elections office. Filing fee checks must be made payable to the appropriate state political party. Candidates seeking the nomination of a party nominating by convention do not pay a filing fee.

**State Ethics Filings:** Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State Ethics Commission at [ethics.sc.gov](http://ethics.sc.gov). Failure to file these documents may result in a candidate fine but will not disqualify a candidate from the election. Contact the State Ethics Commission for more information.

# Portrait

## “An Evening With C.S. Lewis” delights an audience at Erskine

By Henry E. Green

The spirit of C.S. Lewis came alive Thursday night at Erskine's Lesesne Auditorium, as actor David Payne performed a one-man show based on the life of the famous Christian apologist.

Before his death in 1963, Lewis wrote such books as *Mere Christianity* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The latter was part of his classic children's series--*The Chronicles of Narnia*. The seven-book series began in 1950 with the publication of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, and remains immensely popular.

Payne, meanwhile, divided his play into two parts, with the first part dealing with his early life, his conversion to Christianity from atheism, and his friendship with author J.R.R. Tolkien.

The play is set in 1963, when the author is in declining health. In the show, Lewis, sipping a cup of tea, is speaking to a group of American writers who are visiting England.

Following intermission, Payne/Lewis delves into the

story of how he met the love of his life--Joy, an American woman of fierce intellect and a lacerating wit--someone whom you would not want to debate!

What began as a trans-Atlantic correspondence eventually evolved into marriage. Joy moved to England, with her two sons, and she and C. S. Lewis had a number of years of happiness before she died of cancer.

Ironically, Lewis's own mother had died of cancer when the author was only nine years old.

His mother's death had a profound influence on him, providing a major factor in his turning away from Christianity and becoming an atheist. Tolkien played a major role in his returning to Christianity.

Throughout the play, which Payne himself wrote, the spirit of C.S. Lewis comes alive, peppered with dry wit.

Earlier in the day, Payne had done for Erskine convocation another one-man show, and this time he portrayed Winston Churchill, for the benefit of students not only from Erskine but

guest students from Dixie and Ninety Six as well.

The performance was remarkable for another reason as well--Payne told the audience after the show that he is turning 80 this year.

Thursday night's performance was presented in connection with Erskine's Presidential Gala, featuring a dinner at the Bowie Arts Center.

There were hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner, and those in attendance included a number of community leaders. Mike Whitehurst, chairman of the Erskine board of trustees, provided a welcome.

Paul Bell, Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations, introduced Dr. and Mrs. Steve Adamson of Erskine College and Seminary. Dr. Adamson, a Nebraska native, is the new president of Erskine, having taken over in January.

Erskine's enrollment is approaching 900, the President told his audience.

"Erskine is an oasis in the modern secular world," Adamson told his audience.



Erskine hosted a presidential gala recently at the Bowie Arts Center. Later in the evening, "An Evening with C.S. Lewis" was presented at Lesesne Auditorium on the Erskine campus. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



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### Pet of the Month



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

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

### Pet of the Month



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

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

### Pet of the Month



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

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

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[E] LATITUDE 887728/29	\$1499	\$1599.95 (Save \$100.95)	[F] ARCHER 880494/95	\$1499	\$2099.95 (Save \$600.95)

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[I] DUCHESS Reclining Sofa 122203/04	\$1299	\$1699.95 (Save \$400.95), Reclining Loveseat \$1299
[J] BENTON Reclining Sofa 121863/64	\$999	\$1499.95 (Save \$500.95), Reclining Console Loveseat \$999
[K] COLOSSUS Reclining Sofa 120795/96	\$999	\$1599.95 (Save \$600.95), Reclining Loveseat \$999
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QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED ON SELECT ITEMS - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

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# Abbeville Area Medical Center Foundation's Benefit Bash Auction Goes Virtual

Submitted by  
Meg Davis

The Abbeville Area Medical Center Foundation will host its annual Benefit Bash virtually again this year. "With the uncertainty of COVID-19, we still weren't comfortable bringing together a large group of people for our usual dinner and auction," stated Meg Davis, AAMC Foundation Director. "Keeping our volunteers, staff and guests safe is our main concern."

The event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Foundation. The 2021 event raised more than \$26,000.00 which is used to support a variety of equipment purchases, healthcare career scholarships and the Foundation's Endowment.

The secure site can be found at [www.AAMCF-BenefitBash.com](http://www.AAMCF-BenefitBash.com). Auction items are being added daily. Anyone can view the auction items, but in order to place a bid visitors to the site will have to register. The site offers many benefits, including texting bidders when they are outbid and the ability to set a maximum "auto" bid.

Bidding for the silent auction item begins on March 4th and will continue through 9:00pm on March 12th. There is something for everyone including jewelry,

home and garden items, original artwork, travel, items for your furry friends and more.

One of the event's more unique silent auction packages is "A Day with the Rockhound." The winning bidder and a friend will spend the day searching for gems at the Diamond Hill Mine with Abbeville's own Rockhound, Amos Cunningham, who is renowned for his amazing finds. A personal tour of his shop in the Level Land community of Due West to learn about gems that can be found right here in Abbeville County is also included. There are also several crystal cluster auction items donated by his friend, Bryan Major, the Crystal Collector. You can find many of Amos' and Bryan's adventures on [www.thecrystalclubhouse.com](http://www.thecrystalclubhouse.com), including Amos' visit to the Tucson, Arizona 2022 Gem Show. Amos has been featured in many publications including the Index Journal and WCTEL Connections magazine.

A fun-filled live feed will be held on March 12th from 7:00-8:00pm and will feature some amazing live auction items. Each will only be available for bid for a limited time during the feed and

guests can tune in on their mobile device, tablet, smart TV or desktop computer. The feed can be watched on the auction website.

Live auction items include a one-day fishing trip with Pro Angler Casey Ashley, a week stay at Wild Dunes, a \$500.00 Badcock of Abbeville shopping spree and a show package that includes season tickets to the Abbeville Opera House!

You also won't want to miss purchasing a chance to win a beautiful 2.41 ct. lab grown padparadsha sapphire set in rose gold with diamond accents donated by the Jeweler's Bench located on the square in Abbeville! The padparadscha sapphire is a pink orange color and is the rarest color of sapphire in nature. Chances are \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00 and can be purchased on the auction site. The ring is valued at \$1,800.00.

"We are hopeful that the auction will be the most successful yet," stated Davis.

"On-line auctions are tons of fun - and we encourage everyone to visit the site and bid high and often."

For more information, contact the Foundation Office at 366-3364 or [mdavis@AbbevilleAreaMC.com](mailto:mdavis@AbbevilleAreaMC.com).



The AAMC Foundation Benefit Bash will be held virtually March 4th - 12th. One of the more unique auction packages is "A Day with the Rockhound," Amos Cunningham, who is renowned for his amazing gemstone finds. Pictured above, Amos recently visited the Tucson Arizona Gem Show. (Photo contributed)

## Matt Babb joins Abbeville First Bank

Submitted by Ellyn Reeder

Matthew T. "Matt" Babb has joined Abbeville First Bank to manage the loan department and drive the bank's commercial loan production. Matt has 17 years of banking experience and comes to Abbeville First Bank from United Community Bank.

"Abbeville First Bank has had tremendous growth over the past few years," says Andy Timmerman, President, "we now want to leverage this growth into opportunities to increase our services. The Bank's strategy is to expand our commercial lending and deposit services so that small businesses in the area can enjoy the same personal, local



Matthew T. "Matt" Babb

service already enjoyed by our consumer customers. Matt is a perfect fit for this plan."

His office is located at Abbeville First Bank's Main Office, 205 S. Main St., Abbeville SC. Babb said, "I am excited to be a part of the Abbeville First team. My career has been spent in

banking with the last ten of those years in commercial lending and I look forward to continuing this work by meeting the needs of my current and future customers in Abbeville, Greenwood and surrounding areas."

Abbeville First Bank is headquartered in Abbeville, SC. It was founded in 1907 as a mutual bank which means it is owned by its depositors. Abbeville First Bank's sole mission is to serve the banking needs of its community which includes Abbeville, Greenwood, and the surrounding counties.

Matt can be reached by phone at 864.366.2158 or by email at [mattbabb@abbevillefirst.com](mailto:mattbabb@abbevillefirst.com).

## Lake Russell Hustle to be held at dam

By Henry E. Green

The Lake Russell Hustle will be held on Saturday, March 12, at 8:30 a.m.

"We'll be running across the Lake Russell Dam," said Stephen Taylor, who is assisting the Coalition in organizing the event.

"This will be a one way 5K race," he continued.

This will be the seventh annual Lake Russell Hustle, which welcomes walkers as well as runners.

Approximately 30 people participated in the event last year.

"This will be a rain or shine event," he said.

Registration will be held at the Manor Boat Ramp

(447 Manor Ramp Road, Calhoun Falls, South Carolina), between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. on the day of the event.

Manor Ramp Road is located outside of Calhoun Falls on Highway 81 South.

"Early registration is \$20, which ends on March 2," Taylor said. "Late registration is \$25."

All kids up to the age of 17 may participate at no charge.

Cash prizes for the top three finishers will be given following the race. They include \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third.

Medals will be given as

well for the various age categories.

Those wishing to participate in the 5K event may contact Taylor for more information at [sctaylor67@hotmail.com](mailto:sctaylor67@hotmail.com)

The Coalition is a non-profit organization which promotes tourism and recreational opportunities on Lake Russell.

Throughout the year, it presents events like the Hustle. Among the others are Freedom Blast, held shortly before the Fourth of July, and featuring food, fireworks and music. There is also an autumn jubilee which features music and food.



Friday, March 4th • 12:00-2:00

Main Street UMC is hosting a World Day of Prayer event for all Abbeville residents. The sanctuary will be open with prayer stations set up to help guide you as your schedule allows. Join us as we ask God to move in mighty ways through our families, community and world.



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3/21/22

## Abbeville County School District Draft B (Modified) Calendar 2022-2023

July 25:	District Opening/Teachers Return
July 26-28:	PD
August 1:	Teacher Workday
August 2:	First Day of School for Students
September 5:	Labor Day
October 3-7:	Intercession (District Office Remains Open)
October 11:	1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends
October 12:	PD (No School for Students)
November 21:	Inclement Weather Make-Up Day, if necessary. (E-Learning)
November 21-25:	Fall Break
December 16:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends – Early Dismissal
December 19-30:	Winter Break
January 2:	Winter Break
January 3:	Teacher Workday
January 4:	Students Return from Winter Break
January 16:	Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday
February 17:	PD (No School for Students)
February 20:	Presidents' Day/Inclement Weather Make-Up, if necessary (E-Learning)
February 21-24:	Intercession (District Office Remains Open)
March 17:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks Grading Period Ends
March 27:	Teacher Workday (No School for Students)
April 10-14:	Spring Break
May 29:	Memorial Day Holiday/Inclement Weather Make-Up Day, if necessary. (E-Learning)
June 1:	Early Dismissal & Last Day for Students
June 2:	Teacher Workday
June 2-3:	Graduation

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3/21/22

# YMCA daycare at Long Cane slated

By Henry E. Green

The YMCA will provide an "in-house" day care at Long Cane Primary School, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, according to Abbeville County School District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lori Brownlee-Brewton.

"It is open to all ACSD employees and the community," she said. "Parents who sign up for this program will be able to drop their child off as early as 7:15 AM and pick-up at 6:00 PM."

The program will be serving children ages six weeks to four years old.

Costs for parents are as follows, she said:

6 weeks-24 months: \$125 for YMCAMember/\$135 for Non-Member.

24 Months-4 K: \$100 for YMCA Member/\$110 for Non-Member.

Afterschool only: \$65 for YMCA Member/\$75 for Non-Member.

The YMCA offers financial assistance to everyone who completes an application and qualifies.

The program was approved by the Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees at the Feb. 22 school board meet-

ing. The District will not be charging the YMCA for the space, Brewton said.

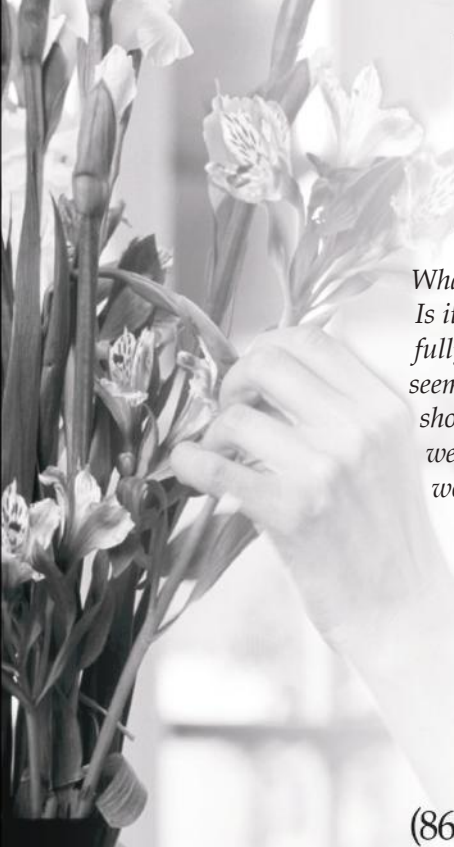
Brian Harlan, Executive Director for the area YMCA, was at the meeting.

"We're here to provide service," Harlan told the trustees. "This is a good partnership."

The Y would assume all liability in connection with the day care, he said.

Trustees Keith Dunn and David Brooks voted in opposition.

Long Cane Primary is located on the eastern outskirts of Abbeville.



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## A Slice of Mike

### "Chosen, Not Handy"

By Mike Elis

If I don't make it to heaven, I will spend eternity in a Home Depot.

Some people have a fear of snakes or spiders. Some, a fear of heights. For me, my biggest fear is explaining to employees in orange vests the supplies I need to fix something in my home.

I am not handy in any way, shape, or form. I always say about us Jewish people that we are the chosen people, not the handy people. If you have ever seen Fiddler on the roof, you know that he was up there fiddling. Thank God he wasn't trying to replace shingles. That would turn out really bad.

I did that as a joke one time when I was on stage and someone yelled from the audience, "Jewish people are handy. The most famous Jewish person of all time was a carpenter."

I looked at him and set the record straight. "Sir, Neil Diamond is a singer. I am not sure where you got carpenter from."

I do own a set of tools, but Lord if I ever had to use them, I would need a help desk phone number. "Yes, hi, how do you use a wrench and why are there four of them in this set?" Eh, who am I kidding; I haven't even opened this set that I got as a housewarming gift back in 2003.

My whole family is full of people who don't know a torque from a Phillips head screwdriver and it goes without saying that if it doesn't involve food, comedy, or family drama, my family knows nothing about it. Our doctor is Jewish, our family lawyer is Jewish, our accountant is as well. The professionals we know in any field that require home improvement or car maintenance, our brethren are nowhere to be found.

I wish I could go back to high school and sign up for basic shop class. I can remember talking with my advisor about how to fill my open first period class and having her tell me, "Mike, you must select an elective for first period. It is either shop class 101 or you can take up an instrument in band class." Based on my experience and knowledge, I suddenly fell in love with the idea of playing the baritone for the next four years.

Truthfully, I can't do much of anything that involves manual labor. I can't build, paint, landscape, or anything that anyone would find useful. I am only good at entertaining the masses and writing from time to time. Some would change places with me and I am totally willing to do so to learn handy skills.

There was a time when we had a family gathering and my uncle complained of his engine light coming on in the car. I remembered someone telling me long ago that if the car is driving fine, this could be that the gas cap isn't screwed on all the way. I answered, "let me look at it." Sure enough, loose gas cap was the culprit and my family was in awe when the car started up with no engine light.

That was when I knew I needed to convert as I had gone above and beyond what my tribe allows for technical knowledge.

Now in my 40s, going to Home Depot still scares me. I am hoping that someday I will learn the basics of fixing simple issues and I will get over my fear of tools and fixing issues around the home.

Now, if you will excuse me. I am going to go feed some snakes, then off to skydiving, and finish my day doing some public speaking.

Anything, just keep me out of Home Depot.

Don't forget to follow the "Mike on the Mic" Radio Show WZLA 92.9FM on Facebook. Every other Wednesday from 11am until 2pm, Mike and Heather with your favorite mix of country music, comedy, talk radio, and so much more.

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## Erskine College hosts over 80 charter school leaders for meeting, tour

Submitted by Ashley Epperson

DUE WEST, SC – On Wednesday, February 16, over 80 charter school leaders, serving 25,000 elementary and high school students across South Carolina, gathered at Erskine College to participate in a Charter Institute at Erskine meeting focused on improving academic outcomes for students across the state.

While on campus, school leaders were treated to remarks Dr. Steven Adamson, the new President of Erskine College and Chairman of the Charter Institute at Erskine's Board. Dr. Adamson shared his vision for public education and shared his excitement to lead the Institute family.

"Charter schools are unique in their ability to innovate in

order to meet the needs of their individual communities," said Dr. Adamson. "I truly believe that charter schools have an important role to play in public education not just in South Carolina, but nationwide."

School leaders also met Erskine students while participating in a tour of the campus, led by Erskine College admissions counselors.

Other notable events of the day included a recognition of Ms. Deirdre McCullough (Belton Preparatory Academy), Mr. Mike Sinclair (Brashier Middle College Charter High School), Dr. Karen Wicks (Royal Live Oaks Academy) and Dr. Cherry Daniel (South Carolina Virtual Charter School) for their ten years of service as a charter school leader. Mevers School of Excel-

lence principal Brenda Coyle was also awarded the inaugural Distinguished Administrator for Exceptional Students Award in honor of "her outstanding commitment to building an exceptional special education program" within her school.

The meeting also featured opening remarks by Ms. Deirdre McCullough as well as several informational presentations by the Charter Institute at Erskine's staff. Mr. Mike Sinclair, school leader at Brashier Middle College, and Mr. Josh Kitchens, school leader at South Carolina Connections Academy, led a breakout session for attendees.

Mr. Kaian Rogers, school leader at Calhoun Falls Charter School, closed out the day with an inspiring speech.

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Great-great grandchildren of J.R. Galloway gathered recently to pay tribute to their great-great grandfather. They include (from left) Ronnie, Lester, McCleadis, Doretta, Tyrone, Travena, Gus, Joyce, Vernon, Robert, and Barry. (Contributed photo)

# Family ties

## Descendants of J. R. Galloway pay tribute to their brilliant ancestor

**By Henry E. Green**  
African-American history in the Abbeville-McCormick area has its share of heroes, and among them was a clergyman and teacher who strengthened education in McCormick County. Rev. J.R. Galloway of Willington was the first black supervisor of colored schools in McCormick County, said his great-great granddaughter, Joyce Galloway of Abbeville. Galloway and her nine siblings want to honor the memory of their ancestor, who died in 1930, when he was only 51. "We are very proud of our great-great grandfather," said Galloway.

Originally from the lower part of the state, J.R. Galloway came to the Upstate when he was a young man., having been educated at a number of universities, including Howard University, as well as Claflin in Orangeburg and Cokesbury College in Greenwood. An African Methodist Episcopal minister, he preached at Green Olive AME Church in Willington, and during the week, he taught in that community. Galloway, who had a wife and five children, was well-known for his intellect. "They say he was a genius," said Joyce. "They say he was brilliant. Today, his

great-great-grandchildren live in various places--Willington, Simpsonville, Florida, Abbeville, Columbia and Mt. Carmel. Today some of his great-great grandchildren are following in his footsteps. "Three of us are ministers," Joyce said. Joyce is a local minister. Her brother Vernon Galloway is a pastor in Savannah, GA, at Union Baptist Church. Her sister Doretta Galloway lives in Columbia and is in the ministry as well. The siblings include Ronnie, Lester, McCleadis, Doretta, Tyrone, Travena, Gus, Joyce, Vernon, Robert, and Barry.



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# A or B?

## School board's vote on school year calendar arouses discussion

By Henry E. Green

There recently arose some controversy about the "calendar vote" at the Feb. 22 school board meeting.

Last month, the school board passed first reading on a plan to adopt what it called Calendar A, which proposed a start date for students of about the middle of August, as was the case last year.

The board took up second and final reading on Plan A, which is a modified school calendar, but this time, as announced by school board chairman, it failed, 5-4. Trustee James Tisdale then proposed the adoption of Plan B, with a start date for students of about the first of August.

Trustee Keith Dunn proposed an amendment to Tisdale's motion.

The amendment provided that "the calendar, as print-

ed, is pending monitoring by the SC Dept of Education for compliance with publishing requirements."

However, the amendment failed, 5-4, with trustees Brooks, Dunn, Rich and Rhodes voting for it, and the others voting against it.

The trustees then voted on Plan B, and adopted it by a 5-4 margin, with trustees Joe Bryson, Brad Evans, Tisdale, Glynda Bryson, and Marvin Peoples voting in favor.

Voting against were Brooks, Dunn, Rich and Rhodes.

The question came with regard to the vote on Plan A, with those raising their hands to signify that they were in favor including Adam Rich, David Brooks, Keith Dunn, Tim Rhodes and Glynda Bryson.

Some in the community suggested that Plan A, a

more traditional calendar, had actually been approved.

Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees chairman Brad Evans indicated initially that the vote on Calendar A had failed, and he explained Tuesday that from where he was sitting he did not see Glynda Bryson raise her hand.

However, both Evans and Dr. Mason Gary, the Abbeville County School District Superintendent, have noted that Glynda Bryson said following the vote on Calendar A that she did not mean to raise her hand in favor of Calendar A, and that she supported Calendar B.

Evans has also said that he has consulted the school board attorney and the attorney has informed him that the board can move on.

Bryson was not available for comment at press time.



Karen Drake was named Artist of the Year recently during the Artist Guild awards dinner, and she was presented with the award by Guild president Jesse Nance. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

# Artist Guild has awards night dinner

By Henry E. Green

Karen Drake was named Artist of the Year, and Connie Scott Volunteer of the Year, while Carolin Ann McLane was presented with the President's Award--all at the Abbeville Artist Guild's awards night dinner at the Village Grill in Abbeville Saturday night.

All three were presented with awards by Guild president Jesse Nance.

McLane serves as the secretary of the Guild, a nonprofit organization which promotes the arts here in Abbeville County.

"Connie has volunteered as a judge for the Hogs and Hens and the Spring Festival," said Guild treasurer Jane Agan.

"She helped with the Hide and Seek artwork. She is willing to help whenever we

have a need.

"Karen is an excellent artist. She had an exhibit of her artwork in the Welcome Center last year. She has encouraged us to gather to create artwork and she invited fellow artists to come to her home to create art and now we are gathering at the Alt room at the library."

This year, the organization is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and celebration plans are to be announced later.

Meanwhile, Guild members have been gathering at the ALT room, in the Abbeville County Library, for "tips and techniques" twice a month. Interested Guild members gather to create artwork and receive help from fellow artists, according to the Guild newsletter.

The Guild's next workshop

will be on Saturday, April 30, with Jim Brinson, on color theory and composition.

In addition, the Guild will have a space at the Spring Festival in downtown Abbeville, and will be sponsoring another community photo contest.

There will also be a Hide and Seek artwork event on Saturday, June 4, in downtown Abbeville.

"We will hide small art pieces in local businesses for people to find and keep," according to the newsletter.

Also, a week-long Summer Camp for Kids is being planned, and in the spring there will be the Abbeville County High School Art Show, and a student art display during the Hogs and Hens festival in October.



Carolin Ann McLane (seated) of Abbeville received the President's Award during the Abbeville Artist Guild's awards night dinner recently. Presenting it to her was Jesse Nance (left, standing), Artist Guild president. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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**Tuesday bookmark**

In addition to the pencil and bookmark give-away for elementary school students: Abbeville County School District will be offering gift card/certificate give-aways from our local businesses the entire week. Each school location will conduct a drawing. All students that eat breakfast at school will be included. There will be one winner each day per school. ACSD students, do not miss your opportunity to be entered in our daily drawings.

**Monday – March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
\$15 Gift Certificate to Two Brews

**Tuesday – March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Friday – March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Thursday – March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
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## Scott Introduces Bill to Improve Health Care for Those Eligible for Both Medicare and Medicaid

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) introduced the Supporting Care for Dual Eligibles Act to improve health care for individuals who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

“Individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid have some of the greatest health needs in our nation, yet they are often left with fragmented care,” said Senator Scott. “As ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, I’m committed to ensuring our most vulnerable populations receive

the care they need, and improving the coordination between these two distinct health programs will do just that.”

Sen. Scott’s bill would: Provide a \$100 million grant for timely, targeted assistance to state Medicaid programs to improve care for dually eligible beneficiaries;

Permit state Medicaid offices to use their grant money for a wide variety of purposes, including hiring new workers, improving the sign-up process for beneficiaries, or developing their

understanding of Medicare;

Be paid for by increasing the frequency of Medicaid Payment Error Rate Measurement Audits from every three years to every two years.

This morning, Sen. Scott, ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, held a hearing with Chairman Bob Casey (D-Pa.) on improving health care for dually eligible individuals. Click here for the full hearing and here for Sen. Scott’s opening remarks. [ternship\\_coordinator@internships@scott.senate.gov](mailto:ternship_coordinator@internships@scott.senate.gov) or (202) 224-6121.

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US House of Representatives

## Rep. Duncan leads in calling Pelosi to Nullify Biden’s Healthcare COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate

Submitted by Congressman **Jeff Duncan**

Laurens, S.C. — Reps. Jeff Duncan and Fred Keller led in calling on Speaker Nancy Pelosi to bring Rep. Duncan’s Congressional Review Act to end President Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate on federally-funded healthcare employees to the House floor for a vote.

“Rep. Fred Keller and I led a letter demanding Speaker Pelosi immediately bring my legislation, H.J. Res. 67, to the House floor for a vote. If passed, this resolution I sponsored in December would nullify the Biden Administration’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all employees at federally-funded healthcare facilities,” said Congressman Jeff Duncan. “Our medical professionals who served on the frontlines during the pandemic have been told to get the shot or get out, and the Biden Administration has failed to consider the implications of such an overreaching mandate on our nation’s healthcare system.”

“Our healthcare workers, many of whom already have natural antibodies to COVID-19, deserve the right to make the personal decision about whether or not to receive the COVID-19 shot,” said Congressman Jeff Duncan. “Americans should never be forced to choose between receiving a government-imposed shot or losing their livelihood. As I have reiterated time and time again, this mandate is reckless, irresponsible, will only exacerbate the na-

tionwide healthcare worker shortage, and could end up costing lives instead of saving them. Getting the COVID shot is a personal decision and should never be forced on anyone in the name of ‘science’ since it lacks long-term data, is not always sufficient in preventing transmission or infection, is often less effective than natural immunity, and is sometimes unsafe for the immunocompromised.”

“President Biden’s sweeping vaccine mandate on America’s healthcare providers is both overreaching and counterproductive to the goal of ensuring the availability of quality care in America, especially in rural communities,” said Congressman Fred Keller. “Many rural hospitals faced major challenges before the pandemic, and this mandate from the federal government would force them to close their doors permanently, leaving millions of Americans without accessible care. Vaccination is a personal decision and healthcare providers are uniquely qualified to make these determinations for themselves, rather than the president doing it for them.”

Co-Signers: Reps. Fred Keller, Jeff Duncan, August Pfluger, Tom McClintock, Bill Huizenga, Brian Mast, Bill Posey, Michael Burgess, Austin Scott, Andrew Clyde, Randy Feenstra, Bob Gibbs, Richard Hudson, Ralph Norman, Jake LaTurner, Barry Loudermilk, Matthew Rosendale, Rodney Davis, Kevin Hern, Michael Guest, Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Glenn Thompson, Mary Miller, Tracey Mann, Mike

Kelly, David Valadao, David McKinley, Ted Budd, Andy Harris, Andy Biggs, Tim Burchett, Randy Weber, William Timmons, Claudia Tenney, Vicky Hartzler, Julia Letlow, Ronny Jackson, Jack Bergman, Guy Reschenthaler, Bob Good, John Rutherford, Eric Crawford, Doug LaMalfa, Troy Nehls, Chris Jacobs, Dan Bishop, Kelly Armstrong, Debbie Lesko, David Kustoff, Ben Cline, Victoria Spartz, Barry Moore, Markwayne Mullin, Brian Babin, Vern Buchanan, John Rose, Neal Dunn, and Ron Estes

Background: In December, Rep. Jeff Duncan led House Republicans in opposing Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate on Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through a Congressional Review Act to halt Biden’s mandate. The Congressional Review Act process is the legal process whereby Congress can overturn an Administration regulation, once it has been properly noticed. “Proper notice” occurs once a regulation is printed in the Federal Register and received by the Clerks of the House and Senate. The CMS vaccine mandate regulation was printed in the Federal Register on November 5, 2021. It was noted as received by the Senate Clerk on December 1, 2021, and by the House Clerk on December 9, 2021. Now that all three of those notices have been received, a CRA receives privilege in the House if the Minority Leader brings it up as a “privileged resolution,” which means the House must bring the legislation to the floor for a vote.

SC Statehouse Reports 2022-The House of Representatives

## House Week in Review

Rep. Craig A. Gagnon, District 11--SC House of Representatives February 22-24, 2022

The State House convened this week and had a number of bills on the floor for deliberation. Many more are on the way, including the state budget bill which was passed out of Ways and Means and will be taken up the week of March 14th.

Among the most important bills was H. 4880, a bill providing for income tax relief. This legislation restructures the state income tax brackets ultimately saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of their tax dollars. The bill collapses several tax brackets as well as lowering the top tax bracket making South Carolina among the lowest in the southeast. It also exempts all military retirement income from South Carolina individual income tax, regardless of the taxpayer’s age. I supported this bill as it has important safeguards against a major downturn in the economy. It passed unanimously. The bill might be in for some further scrutiny in the Senate, however, as Senate Finance Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler vows to out-do any tax reductions offered by the House.

The House approved and sent the Senate H. 3347, a proposed state constitutional amendment for increasing state financial reserve funds that are used to cope with revenue shortfalls. The Resolution raises the State’s reserve fund from the current 5 percent to 7 percent over the next few years. I support this resolution. The voters will have the final say-so on at the ballot.

The House gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4939, a bill requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a “Certified S.C. Raised Beef” designation.

The House gave third reading (which I voted for) and sent to the Senate H. 4778, a bill that adds that an entity that has contracted for the right to store water in a reservoir owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers has exclusive rights to any return flows generated to that reservoir under the “Water Resources Planning and Coordination Act.” The bill further outlines that the “return flow” means water that is discharged directly or indirectly to a reservoir from a water recovery facility. This will help many areas bordering the Savannah River.

The House gave third reading (again, I voted for) and sent to the Senate H. 3598, a bill that creates the “Veterans Service Organization Burial Honor Guard Support Fund.” The purpose of this fund is to help offset the costs paid by South Carolina chapters of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations that provide well-equipped and properly trained honor guard burial details at the funerals of qualifying South Carolina veterans.

The House unanimously approved H. 4143, as amended by the committee, gave third reading and sent to the Senate, legislation dealing with the warning lights on tow wreckers. This bill outlines that a wrecker must use a mounted oscillating, rotating, or flashing light at an emergency scene and at any time when rendering roadside assistance.

The House unanimously approved H. 3538, as amended by the committee, gave third reading and sent to the Senate, legislation that requires the Department of Natural Resources to set conditions under the Alligator Management Program for the humane taking and disposition of alligators.

The House unanimously gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4904, legislation that allows the Department of Natural Resources to obtain and utilize Schedule III Nonnarcotic and Schedule IV Controlled Substances for the capture and immobilization of wildlife.

The House unanimously gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4905, a bill that includes the reference of hybrid bass in the striped bass statutes.

The House unanimously passed, gave third reading and sent to Senate H. 4906. In an effort to prevent the introduction or distribution of a disease, in particular the chronic waste disease, that affects the deer population.

The House unanimously passed, gave third reading and sent to Senate H. 4907, legislation that updates the freshwater game fish laws to include other species of bass, such as the Alabama bass, and trout hybrids. The legislation outlines that it is illegal to sell certain game fish in this state.

The House unanimously passed, gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4600, a bill that modernizes the code of laws pertaining to

persons authorized to make healthcare decisions for a Department of Mental Health patient unable to consent so as to be consistent with 2019 legislative changes to a statute governing care for all adults unable to provide consent for treatment.

The House unanimously passed, gave third reading and sent to Senate H. 4597, a bill that outlines that an individual who is in need of an anatomical gift shall not be deemed ineligible to receive an anatomical gift solely because of the individual’s physical or mental disability.

The House approved by 103-3 (which I voted for) H. 3599, as amended by the committee, gave third reading and sent to Senate, a bill that enacts the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. This bill allows South Carolina to enter into a multistate licensure compact to provide for the reciprocal practice of occupation therapy among the states that are part of the compact.

The House approved 103-3 (which I voted for) H. 3833, as amended by the committee, gave third reading and sent to Senate, a bill that allows for South Carolina Board of Examiners in Psychology Board to enter into the Psychology Inter-jurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). This bill permits eligible psychologists to practice telepsychology and temporary in-person psychology across state boundaries.

After informing the House that it non-concurred in the amendments proposed by the House to S. 203 (on the subject of the removal of school district trustees and filling of vacancies) a conference committee was appointed to iron out the differences.

On Wednesday, I was honored to meet with several FFA members from Abbeville, Dixie and Calhoun Falls High Schools. I grateful to Ms. Finley from AHS, Mr. Murdock from Dixie and Ms. McCannon from Calhoun Falls Charter for teaching these fine students and taking time to visit the State House.

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

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

## Legislative summary

Senator Mike Gambrell Legislative Summary February 25, 2022

It was a pleasure to attend the Greenwood Republican Women’s luncheon on Monday, and to be able to speak at the Belton Alliance Board Meeting that evening. This Alliance is ten years old and is making a real impact in this vital community.

In Columbia, the Senate began debating the ‘hands free’ bill, S.248, which prohibits holding a cell phone in your hand while operating a motor vehicle. During the debate, distracted driving was identified as the major cause of automobile accidents. According to the National Highway and Transportation Safety Board, a driver is 90% more likely to have an accident if distracted. Mobile phone use

is the number one cause of distracted driving. After considerable discussion and several amendments, the bill was given second reading on Wednesday and third reading on Thursday. It has been sent to the House of Representatives for their deliberations.

The General Assembly was visited this week by groups representing the FFA Association from across the state. While the letters of their name historically stood for Future Farmers of America, this group is for those interested in agriculture and leadership and will enhance the education of those aspiring to be teachers, doctors, scientists, and more. It was my honor to meet with the groups from Crescent Honea Path High School, Belton Middle School, Palmetto High

School in Williamston and the Anderson District 1 and 2 Career Technology Center.

We were hosted on Wednesday for a luncheon by the Independent Banks of South Carolina. I had the pleasure of speaking with Nokia Davis, Vice President of Commercial Bank, and with Andy Timmerman, the President and CEO of Abbeville First Bank who is the President-Elect of this Association.

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



# Bohemian Grove: Playground of the Ruling Class

By Geoff Hult

In 1872, a group of San Francisco artists, writers, and lawyers began to gather in the California redwood forests of Sonoma County. This was known as the Bohemian Club where these folks would gather in their love of nature and the arts. Authors Mark Twain and Jack London were early members. It was decided among this group to expand the Bohemian Club to include the wealthy and well connected. Bohemian Club quickly expanded and morphed into an elite institution, pushing out the original elements living a "bohemian" lifestyle. It has always been a men only club.

Today, the area of Sonoma County, CA, known as Bohemian Grove is a 2700 acre secured private area, heavily guarded by agencies such as the Secret Service, private contractors, and local police. Every July, for two weeks, elements of the US and world's ruling class gather in Bohemian Grove. These elements include presidents, ex-presidents, media moguls, the Hollywood elite, chiefs of staff, US Senators, defense contractors, corporate CEOs, heads of foreign nations, as well as some artist types and many more. The initial joining fee is @ 25,000 US dollars and the wait list to become an actual member may be as long as 20 years.

Democrats and Republicans alike are members of Bohemian Grove and are, at least at the national level, playing on the same team and only presenting themselves to the American public as opposing each other. A good example of how the Republican/Democrat paradigm at the national level is merely show is the 2004 presidential election in which Democrat John Kerry and Republican George W. Bush are presented to the public. Both Kerry and Bush are members of the secret society out of Yale University known as Skull and Bones. Skull and Bones is a grooming ground for future deep state operatives and this is where the allegiance of both Kerry and Bush always has and always will lie. Not to party politics and not to America, but to deep state philo-

sophy.

So what is deep state philosophy and what actually goes on inside Bohemian Grove? The all male congregation of the Grove routinely put on elaborate plays dressed in drag and engage in what is known as the Cremation of Care ceremony. The Cremation of Care ceremony is the centerpiece ritual of Bohemian Grove and involves the burning of an effigy of a child in an elaborate ritual mock sacrifice to a 40 foot tall metal framed owl. The 40 foot tall owl is a representation of the ancient Canaanite deity of child sacrifice known as Molech, or Moloch. Molech is referenced in the Old Testament in Leviticus 18:21, 20:2-5, 1 Kings 11:7, 2 Kings 23:10, and Jeremiah 32:35. From the Torah: "And do not give any of your offspring to pass through to Molech. And do not profane the Name of your Elohim. I am YaHuWaH." (Lev. 18:21)

And from the Prophets: "And they built the high places of Baal which are in the valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and their daughters to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My heart, that they should do this abomination, to make Judah sin." (Jeremiah 32:35)

This shows the ruling class to be engaged in ritual behavior that is directly opposed to the God of the Bible. This is an example showing also that the religion of the ruling class of this world is Luciferianism. Deep state philosophy is rooted in Luciferianism and US domestic and foreign policy comes from the minds of men and women whose allegiance is to this philosophy, and who are guided by spiritual forces of wickedness in high places. As Paul writes in Ephesians: "Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

As well, there have been reports over the years of actual ritual sacrifice and murder taking place in Bohemian Grove. Some people who claim to have been the victims

of abuse while in the Grove and witnesses to crime are Fiona Barnett, David Shurtler, Peter Alexander Chernoff, and Paul Bonacci. Barnett claims human hunting parties take place in the Grove and that as a child they dressed her up as a teddy bear and hunted and terrorized her for sport. Chernoff claims to have witnessed the murder of 10 year old Kevin Collins in the Grove in 1984. Collins had gone missing from San Francisco that same year and was one of the first children to appear on milk cartons as a missing person. Chernoff has spoken about this at city council meetings in San Francisco but the claim was not investigated. Paul Bonacci claims that in 1985, at the age of 17 or 18, he was forced to participate in a snuff film which involved the murder of a child. Interviews with Bonacci regarding Bohemian Grove and a lot more have been conducted by ret. FBI Ted Gunderson and investigator Gary Caradori. These interviews can be found on brighteon.com and bitchute.com. Federal, state, and local law enforcement are not tasked with investigating the interests and enterprises of the ruling class, but rather to protect those interests and enterprises, regardless of what they are.

Some other resources on Bohemian Grove are Mike Hanson's book "Bohemian Grove: Cult of Conspiracy" and the film "Dark Secrets: Inside Bohemian Grove." This is a film by Alex Jones who claims he was able to sneak into the Grove in 2000 and film the Cremation of Care ceremony. However, I have recently heard the footage was filmed by someone who was a former limo driver for Grove members and gave the footage to Jones, to which he took credit for. Either way, the footage is legitimate.

"Let no one be found among you who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices divination, or a user of magic, or one who interprets omens or a sorcerer." (Deuteronomy 18:10)

Geoff Hult  
nonwo222@gmail.com



## Senators Scott, Risch, Colleagues introduce Russia Sanctions Legislation

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) joined Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and a majority of his Republican colleagues in introducing the Never Yielding Europe's Territory (NYET) Act to provide the critical support Ukraine needs to defend itself and deter Russian aggression today, while imposing real costs on the Kremlin for its ongoing and potential future aggression against Ukraine.

"Since Putin views President Biden's weakness and indecision as an invitation to escalate the situation with Ukraine, Congress must send a clear message that the United States will not tolerate his bullying," said Senator Scott. "By stopping the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and levying heavy financial penalties, this bill will make it economically and militarily painful for Russia to continue its aggression. With daily new reports of an imminent incursion, we must be united with our transatlantic allies in our commitment to protect sovereignty and democracy."

"While a 'military' invasion has not yet occurred, there are other ways Russia can attack Ukraine that would be debilitating for Ukrainians and European security more generally," said Ranking Member Risch. "Rather than simply restating authorities the president already has, the NYET Act takes immediate action to permanently stop Nord Stream 2, sends a powerful deterrent message, imposes heavy economic and military costs on Russia, strengthens U.S. allies and partners, and supports Ukraine via new authorities, funds, and tools."

NYET Act co-sponsors include Senators Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Pat Toomey

(R-Pa.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Todd Young (R-Ind.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), John Kennedy (R-La.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Mitt Romney (R-Utah), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.).

The NYET Act:  
Imposes real costs on Russia:

Immediately stops construction of the Nord Stream 2 project and would mandate sanctions on the project without a waiver should Russia invade. Prior to an invasion, the bill suspends sanctions for as long as the German government continues to suspend the certification process.

Sends a clear deterrent message to Putin that an invasion of Ukraine will result in massive economic consequences to Russia's economy, including:

Sanctions on major Russian banks; and  
Secondary sanctions on banks that continue business with sanctioned Russian banks.

Sanctions Putin's cronies, enablers, and major banks before Russia fur-

ther invades Ukraine to ensure Putin pays a price now for hybrid attacks already launched.

Allows any chairman or ranking member of a national security committee to force a determination from the president on whether Russia's aggression against Ukraine constitutes a major escalation and fulfills conditions to trigger sanctions.

Supports Ukraine before, during, and after a Russian escalation:

Provides \$500 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Ukraine, including \$250 million in emergency funding, with \$100 million for emergency lethal assistance for critical capabilities like air defense, anti-armor, and anti-ship capabilities.

Creates a new Ukraine Resistance Fund to help Ukraine resist attempts to occupy or subjugate any new territory Russia seizes, while sending a clear message to Putin that his military will pay a price for advances into sovereign Ukrainian territory.

Authorizes a new Lend-Lease authority for Ukraine.

Expedites congressional review of arms sales and security assistance to Ukraine.

Counters Russian malign influence and aggression throughout Europe:

Doubles funding for U.S. military exercises in Europe.

Creates a new State Department FMF program for Eastern Europe to help European allies strengthen their own defensive capabilities and incentivize greater burden-sharing.

Boosts funding for State Department efforts to counter Russian disinformation, including the Global Engagement Center, and expands broadcasting by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.



## Scott, Booker introduce legislation to make Lynching a Federal Crime

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Senators Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced legislation to make lynching a federal crime. Scott and Booker, along with then-Senator Kamala Harris, first launched their effort to make lynching a federal crime in 2018.

Named after Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy who was brutally lynched in 1955, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act would amend the United States Code to specify that lynching is a crime that warrants an enhanced sentence under existing federal hate crime statutes.

"While we cannot erase our nation's past, we can

work toward a better future for all Americans," said Sen. Scott. "The Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act will do just that. This long-overdue piece of legislation sends a clear message: We will not tolerate hatred and violence against our fellow Americans."

"Between 1936 and 1938, the national headquarters of the NAACP hung a flag with the words 'A man was lynched yesterday', a solemn reminder of the reality Black Americans experienced daily during some of the darkest chapters of America's history," said Sen. Booker. "Used by white supremacists to oppress and subjugate Black communities,

lynching is a form of racialized violence that has permeated much of our nation's past and must now be reckoned with. To that end, I am proud to introduce this legislation to help us acknowledge the pain caused by lynchings and make the shameful practice a federal crime. Although this bill will not undo the terror and fear of the past, it's a necessary step that our nation must take to move forward."

In 2019, Scott, Booker, and then-Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) led unanimous passage of an earlier version of the legislation on the Senate floor, marking a historic step towards the first federal anti-lynching law in the United States.



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# Obituaries

## Clay

Sara Katherine Ross Clay, aged 88 of Greer, SC, went home to be with the Lord February 28, 2022.

Sara was born in Greenville and raised on Cannon Road in Greer by the late Ruby Lee Stone Ross and David J. "Shorty" Ross, and attended both Jordan River and Greer High School. She is a graduate of both North Greenville College and Lander University. Sara's career primarily focused was in the education field. She taught in the Abbeville and Newberry County school systems where she taught home economics, civics, and managed the job training program (in Newberry). She was a property manager in both Greenwood and Greenville, South Carolina in the 1980's. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a long-time member of Washington Baptist Church.

Sara had a passion for the home arts, including French hand sewing, painting, crocheting, and in recent years

mandala painting, as well as an avid quilter, and enjoyed gardening. She also loved traveling, spending time with her family, and was also active in charity work including Community Ministries and domestic violence prevention programs.

Sara is survived by her three daughters, Mrs. Gerriss Klant (Robert) of California, Mrs. Angela Cook (James) of Maryland and Ms. Beth Clay of Virginia, two daughters-in-law, Kimberly Griffin of South Carolina and Nancy Clay of Maryland; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Carolyn Ross Chisam (Jerry) and Mrs. Judy Davenport Marriner (Tommy) of North Carolina, 15 grandchildren, Bethany, Kristin, Jay, Angel, Nicholas, Santiago, Michelina, Kathryn, James, David, Aaron, Bronson, Brandon, Cory and Christopher and 16 great-grandchildren.

She is also preceded in death a brother David Joe Ross, two sons, William Barry Clay and Billy James

Clay, and her former husband, Gerald R. Clay.

A funeral service will be held 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Washington Baptist Church conducted by Rev. Dr. Drew Hines and Rev. Trent Henson. Burial will immediately follow at the church cemetery.

The family will receive guests at the conclusion of the interment.

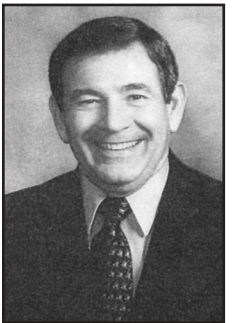
Memorials may be made to Washington Baptist Church, Kingdom Vision Fund, 3500 N. Highway 14 in Greer (<https://washingtonbaptist.org/>).

The family wishes to thank Dr. Troy MacPhillips and the Compassus Hospice Team, as well as the caregivers at Brushy Creek Post-Acute and Rehabilitation where Sara had lived in recent years.

The family will be at their respective homes.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com).

# a Word from "THE WORD"



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

Rev. Dr. John Keith

## Calamity

**Psalm 57:1 "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in you; and in the shadow of your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by."**

Journalist David Osborne was excited about the purchase of his new home at 58 Glebe Street in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia. Renovations were nearly complete, and he was due to move in within a week. After work, he drove to his new address to check on some of the final details. When Osborne arrived that fateful Monday afternoon, he found a "what's-wrong-with-this-picture" scenario beyond his ability to believe. His dream house had become a nightmare. A huge crane with a wrecking ball towered over his property. Every floor in the house had been removed. Thousands of dollars worth of renovation materials including a valuable antique fireplace had been transformed into a large pile of debris. Standing in the rubble that was his home was South Wales Housing Minister Frank Walder. The Housing Minister offered this explanation: "the contractor and demolition crew were told to go to 58 Glebe Point Road but instead went to 58 Glebe Street."

Oops! How does one handle such a calamity? When this Psalm was written, David was hiding

in a cave from King Saul who was trying to kill him. David might have been wondering, "How can this be happening? I have been anointed the future king of Israel and here I am hiding from Saul." Your situation might be similar—you are facing a severe calamity in your personal life, wondering what you are going to do about it. Let me suggest three things from this verse that may help you.

First of all you should run to the Lord. That is exactly what David did in this Psalm. He pours out his soul to the Lord. He knows that there is no one else who can help him like the Lord. Friends are a huge help during a time of calamity but no one can do for you what the Lord can do. David had other companions in the cave with him but he cried out to the Lord. That is what I encourage you to do, run to the Lord and share with Him your calamity. The Lord understands what you are going through and He knows how to help during your time need.

Second, request the Lord's mercy. Notice that David repeats it twice—"be merciful to me." God is merciful and as His

children we can request His mercy. You will also notice that David does not ask for deliverance, just the mercy of the Lord. To me this indicates that David is throwing himself on the mercies of the Lord and letting the Lord work out his situation any way He knows best. David is not telling the Lord how to help him, just trusting the Lord to work it out in his best interest. Too often when we have a problem we tell the Lord exactly how we want Him to take care of it—David didn't do that, he only requested the mercies of the Lord.

Third, we need to rest in the Lord after we make our request. David shared his request with the Lord and then said, "my soul trusts in you." In other words, David was trusting God to take care of his calamity in the best possible way for his best possible interest. We have a tendency to take our calamities to the Lord but not leave them there, we take them back and worry over them. David was not doing that, he shared with God his calamity and then trusted God to take care of it. For me that is the best policy—take it to the Lord and leave it there.

CROSSWORD													
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**ACROSS**

1. In ill humor
5. Like a ship?
8. Repeating word on South Pacific map
12. Man-eating fairy tail giant
13. Newspaper piece
14. Pertaining to the ear
15. Family group
16. Not the life of the party
17. Andean animal
18. \*Like Sunday, the day of announcements
20. Bodily disorders
21. 19th century Robber baron Jay
22. Architect's software, acr.
23. Articulates
26. Soak up
29. Cuban dance step
30. Auditory canal, e.g.
33. Needlefish, pl.
35. "Star Wars" creator
37. Swindle
38. March edition, e.g.
39. Rest or settle
40. Johnny Cash's "Get \_\_\_\_\_"
42. "It never ends this way"
43. Another word for acetylene
45. High or hilly land
47. Grazing spot
48. Copying machine
50. \_\_\_\_\_ code
52. \*Those remaining in last weekend (Two words)
56. Gives off
57. Afghanistan's western neighbor
58. Beginner
59. Send in payment
60. Halfway around links
61. Besides
62. Biz bigwig
63. \*D-\_\_\_\_\_ schools only
64. Swedish shag rugs

**DOWN**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Brown and "What's Up, \_\_\_\_\_?"
2. Gawk at
3. River in Orenburg, Russia
4. Weasel out
5. Go bad
6. Massacre of the Innocents king
7. "I Dream of Jeannie" star
8. \*Last year's runner-up from Washington
9. Like word of mouth
10. Those born under Aries
11. Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ king
13. Between 90 and 180 degrees
14. Spy's cover
19. Crocus bulbs, e.g.
22. \*Network
23. \*School with most titles
24. Car rack manufacturer
25. Like an implied agreement
26. Your mom's sister
27. Haile Selassie's disciple
28. Boston hockey player
31. Heart pain
32. Ken or Barbie, e.g.
34. \*Placement
36. \*First A in NCAA
38. Motivate
40. Biology class acronym
41. Benevolent
44. Leavening agent
46. Another word for golf club
48. Rice wine
49. Lacking sense
50. NYSE MKT, formerly
51. Frost design on a window
52. Porto \_\_\_\_\_, Italy
53. Like acne-prone skin
54. Bear constellation
55. Fish eggs, pl.
56. Before, archaic

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# Work on Adams Drive continuing

By Henry E. Green

Work on Adams Drive in the city of Abbeville continues, according to Mike Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer with the City of Abbeville.

City of Abbeville crews have been working to upgrade the existing Adams Drive park, removing two large trees whose roots had "created a less than ideal environment for play and for the future development of the park," Clary said.

In addition, new sidewalks and parking are being installed, he continued.

"Currently there are no parking spots at the park,

and the sidewalk/drainage portions will connect to the existing sidewalks and stormwater drainage on Meadow Drive," Clary said.

The sidewalk and drainage work should be finished within the next two weeks, and the City is currently reviewing options to install new playground equipment, resurfacing the existing basketball courts as well as other park improvements," he said.

Part of the project is being funded through a PARD grant from the State of South Carolina, and the remainder is being funded through a combination of both gen-

eral fund and hospitality fund monies from the City, he said.

The sidewalk, parking and drainage work has a price tag of approximately \$105,000, about \$30,000 of which is from the PARD grant, according to Clary.

"We don't have a final figure yet on the other park improvements," he said.

"The park is often frequented by children and families that reside in the area around the park, and we hope that these improvements will encourage more residents and visitors to use the Adams Drive facility," he said.



Abbeville High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter competed in the District Competition Tournament. Students demonstrated their skills and knowledge in a selected event. Below are the top results from the competition. picture: Emma Horne and Ziya Watt (team) - Introduction to Event Planning - 1st place; Gage Evans and Audrey McCurry (team) - Business Management - 1st place; Bethany Hughes, Riley Jones, and Addison Nickles (team) - Banking and Financial Systems - 2nd place; Tiazure Johnson - Business Communications - 3rd place; Faith Kent - Organizational Leadership - 3rd place; Pearl Patel - Health Care Administration - 4th place. Also, students have competed in several other events through SC FBLA and National FBLA and were successful. Those results are: SC FBLA Instagram Challenge - Won 1st Place (Emma Horne and Gage Evans); SC FBLA Recruitment Flyer challenge - Won 2nd place (Tiazure Johnson and Pearl Patel); SC FBLA District I: Battle of the District - Won 1st Place (Ziya Watt); National FBLA - PBL Week Multimedia Contest - Runner up in the Graphic Design/Photography (Bethany Hughes)

The mission of FBLA is to inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experience. With this mission in mind, we collected and donated perishable items to UCMAC in November. We are committed to leaving a positive impact on our community. (Photo contributed)

# Dream Center to be focus of CF event

By Henry E. Green

There will be a special event on Saturday, March 5 at the Calhoun Falls Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Community Engagement, presented by Dreams with Open Arms in collaboration with Clemson University architecture studio and Hanbury architectural firm, according to LaSean Tutt, founder of Dreams with Open Arms.

The purpose of the event will be to help gain input from the community on the concept of a community center in downtown Calhoun Falls.

This community center would be called the Dream Center, and would be located at 104 Cox Avenue, and would be created by Dreams

with Open Arms.

Students from the studio and from Hanbury will be on hand to answer questions with regard to design and concept.

The community center would be housed in an existing building on Cox Avenue, and would be renovated, Tutt continued.

The project is still in the design phase. Funding sources are still being determined for the renovation of the building.

The goal is to provide a place where agencies such as DHEC, DSS, or Piedmont Tech can provide resources and services--"some allocated space for them to come to come on a consistent basis to help

the community," she said.

There would be enrichment activities such as those for exercising, and for senior citizens, for example.

Who would run the Dream Center is "undetermined at this time," she said.

Dreams with Open Arms, which is a nonprofit organization which seeks to "support our community with resources and services", owns the building.

The building, she said, was donated to the organization by her husband, Chad Cornick.

Hanbury and the students from Clemson are slated to design the building, Tutt continued.



## Bell Toll Ceremony February 2022

### Honoring Deceased Veterans

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

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

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As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
But just thought of us that day.  
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Or maybe furnished a car;  
Perhaps you rendered a service unseen,  
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### What training in colonoscopy did the doctor receive?

They must first complete a three-year Internal Medicine residency and are then eligible for additional specialized training in Gastroenterology. Gastroenterologists receive dedicated training in endoscopy (upper endoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy) by expert instructors. This fellowship is 3 years long so by the time Gastroenterologists have completed their training, they have had 6 or more years of additional specialized education following medical school.

### Can the doctor diagnose and treat any findings on colonoscopy?

Gastroenterologists learn how to properly interpret the findings and biopsy results of these studies in order to make appropriate recommendations to treat conditions and/or prevent cancer. A non-GI physician may not be able to provide on-going treatment for specific and often chronic gastrointestinal conditions.

### What makes Gastroenterologists different?

Studies have shown that Gastroenterologists perform higher quality colonoscopy examinations and comprehensive consultative services when compared to other physicians. This translates into more accurate detection of polyps and cancer by colonoscopy when performed by Gastroenterologists. It is this ability to provide more complete, accurate, and thorough care for patients with gastrointestinal conditions, which distinguishes Gastroenterologists from other physicians that provide some similar services.

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# Heavy work

## Abbeville County Department of Public Works has variety of tasks

By Henry E. Green

(The following article is one in a series on Abbeville County government operations.)

The Abbeville County Department of Public Works tackles a variety of tasks, from taking care of County roads to operating the County's landfill, according to Director of Public Works Lee Garrett.

"We have three departments," said Garrett. Those include the departments of road maintenance, the landfill, and solid waste collections.

In terms of the budget, the landfill is the biggest, he continued.

"I'm also the County Transportation Committee Administrator," and the County Litter Officer, he said.

The County has 139.6 miles of County-maintained roads, and it is the job of the Department of Public Works to maintain them.

"We maintain and rehabilitate unpaved roads," he said.

In addition, Public Works personnel complete resurfacing projects for paved County roads, work on culverts for existing and new properties, maintain six county bridges, and maintain two railroad crossings.

"We do drainage improvements for County roads," he added.

The Department of Public Works uses a number of dif-

ferent types of equipment.

"We utilize motor graders, front end loaders, compactors, dump trucks, and excavators.

Department of Public Works personnel also work on problems relating to erosion.

They do not go on private property, and they do not go on private roads, City roads, or state roads.

The department is also responsible for the Abbeville County Landfill, located on Gassway Farm Road, about midway between Abbeville and Calhoun Falls.

The landfill has two components. "One is a Class Three Municipal Solid Waste Landfill," he said. "It accepts municipal and industrial and commercial waste."

In addition, there is the Class Two construction and demolition debris landfill on the same site, about a mile behind the "MSW" landfill.

"The major difference between the two is that in 1998 federal law mandated Class Three landfills to have liners in their bottoms," he said.

"The nature of municipal solid waste during decomposition is to produce liquids that are contaminated with various substances that are in the waste streams.

"The purpose of the landfill liner is to protect the groundwater from these liquids, which are technically called 'leachates.'

Everything about the design is to contain leachate to the liner system so that it can be collected and pumped to storage, where it is again collected by tanker trucks, and deposited into local waste treatment facilities, where it is treated.

"The leachate is periodically sampled and analyzed to make sure there is nothing exceeding toxic limits."

The MSW is lined, and the construction and demolition debris landfill is not.

"At the landfill we have heavy equipment operators who handle the waste products in accordance with DHEC regulatory compliance," he said. "In doing that they adhere to the engineering plan for design of each hill (of waste)."

Each hill is not just piled up, but is designed to ensure that all waste decomposition by-products are contained on the footprint of the hill."

The entire site is designed to ensure that storm water runoff travels to designated sediment basins where it gets sampled and analyzed periodically, to ensure no contamination of local streams, Garrett continued. "Currently we have four employees that are supplemented with local County inmate labor.

"The inmates or trustees can learn various skills, especially in the field of heavy equipment operation," he said.

Crystal Mincey, an Abbeville woman and ordained minister, is the sort of person who is always willing to help a friend and who is quietly encouraging to others during her weekly Tai Chi class. (Photo contributed)



## Abbeville Woman Brings Healing to Local Mothers

Submitted by the Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce

Crystal Mincey, an Abbeville woman and ordained minister, is the sort of person who is always willing to help a friend and who is quietly encouraging to others during her weekly Tai Chi class. But those who know her remember the tragedy she and her family suffered in 2017, when her daughter Cheyna died in a car accident two days before she was set to graduate college. "Before something like that happens, you might fear death," says Crystal. "Afterwards, you realize that what really scares you is the thought of living life without your child." Although she knew she needed to be a present mother for her daughter Cassandra, who was also grieving, Crystal struggled with survivor's guilt over the loss of Cheyna. At the time, Crystal felt that she "had no support system" to help her heal from the loss, and no one she could talk to. "Everyone was always so delicate, and wouldn't want to say Cheyna's name, but that was all I wanted to hear," she said. "It was such a lonely time. I don't want anyone to have to experience something like that alone. I want to change that."

That's what prompted Crystal to start her own support group, Angelmoms of Abbeville. "Our main mission is

to raise each other up, to be supportive, and to keep our children's memories alive," she says. "The only ones who can truly understand are the ones who've been there, and I want to help these women." With her background in ministry, Crystal hopes to provide support and counseling to these women. The response to the group has been positive, she says, and notes that women want to support other women. Because of the interest and the number of women who have reached out, Crystal has recently opened the group to include surrounding areas as well. The group itself began as an off-shoot of the Women of Abbeville group, but Crystal is now exploring the possibility of becoming a nonprofit, with goals of being more visible and active in the community, and eventually being able to provide more resources to the women she serves. "It was heart-wrenching for me to have to use GoFundMe [to cover costs of a headstone] and I don't want others to have to endure that added strain."

Crystal says she remembers that one of the main emotions she felt at the time was anger, but that she sees how anger can make mothers "shut down and lock up" rather than healing in a healthy way. She hopes that having a

support group can be the pathway to overcoming grief and starting the healing process for mothers. One of the strategies that Crystal uses to encourage attendance is to have women bring a "support person" to meetings. She recognizes that the trauma these women have faced may make them susceptible to social anxiety, and having someone present that they know and trust can make a big difference in how they respond, she says. She has also started having events and meetings for any grandmothers experiencing this loss, because "they've lost not only a grandchild but are watching their own child suffer, and they need support too. Grief impacts the entire family."

With the focus on healthy healing and compassionate counseling, Crystal wants to use Angelmoms to reach as many people as possible.

"There is another side that I want to help you reach, and help you understand that you don't have to go through this alone," she says. "Your family can be the reason you reach for that goal."

She wants mothers to know that she is always available.

"I answer calls from my moms even in the middle of the night," she says.

"We can get through this together, and be a saving grace for each other."

## Greenwood man faces drug charges

A Greenwood man faces drug charges after he was arrested by Abbeville County Sheriff's Office deputies, according to a Sheriff's Office incident report.

Austin Grady Human, 26, of 208 Boles Avenue, Greenwood, faces charges of trafficking in methamphetamine or cocaine base, 400 grams or more, and trafficking in heroin, morphine, etc., 28 grams or more, according to the incident report.

Human was arrested on Feb. 22 after deputies responded to reports of a drug overdose on Highway 71 in Abbeville County.

A search warrant was obtained, and Human was subsequently arrested, following the seizure of a quantity of meth and fentanyl, the report continues.

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## Memorial Tribute Sleeves on the Abbeville State Shirts

Submitted by Bill Glace

Each year, the Abbeville Wrestling team makes yellow t-shirts for their state qualifiers. The yellow shirts really help our wrestlers and fans stand out in the stands at the state tournament! On the front of the shirt is Abbeville Wrestling with the Circle A and the quote- "Winners never quit and quitters never win." This was a favorite quote of Coach Glace's grandfather, William Robert Glace, Sr. The front of the t-shirt was designed by the late Tony Southard. On one of the sleeves a few dedicated Panther Fans who have died in the last year are recognized. The Honorees for this year are Mason Speer, Jimmy Ayers, and Jimmy White.

Mr. Mason Speer was a dedicated volunteer for the AHS football team for many years. His grandson Chris-

In Memory of Cherished Panther Fans

JIMMY AYERS

MASON SPEER

JIMMY WHITE

dedicated Panther fan who has supported the Panthers for decades. His grandson, Mr. Scott White, is our Abbeville High School principal. Jimmy White, along with many of his family members, played football and other sports for AHS.

On the other sleeve is the late Coach Wayne Reeves who volunteered with the Abbeville Wrestling Team for several years. He is in the National Hall of Fame of Wrestling.

On the back of the shirt are this year's individual state qualifiers that competed in the SCHSL State Wrestling Tournament February 25 and 26, 2022, at the Anderson Civic Center.

This year's state qualifiers were Zach Arrowood, Michael Gordon, Addison Nickles and Jacob Ferguson. The drawings on the shirt were done by AHS graduate Ken Gillespie.

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2/16, 3/2, 3/16, 3/20

## Boys basketball

# AHS boys fall to Gray Collegiate in playoffs

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville High School varsity boys basketball team lost to Gray Collegiate 63-42 in the third round of the state playoffs Thursday night.

The game was played at Al-len University in Columbia. Gray Collegiate is located in West Columbia.

The Panthers, who trailed

27-16 at the half, were eliminated from the playoffs with the defeat.

Despite the loss, the Panthers had much to be proud of this year. AHS won the Region championship, splitting with Christ Church during the regular season, and then defeating the Cavaliers 51-48 in a game

played at the neutral site of Liberty High School to determine the Region title.

Abbeville cruised to easy wins in the first two rounds of the playoffs, with the Panthers defeating Chesnee in the first round and Saluda in the second.

Both games were played in Abbeville.

# CF Charter launches spring sports season

By Henry E. Green

Calhoun Falls Charter is starting its spring sports seasons.

"We'll have track and softball," said Calhoun Falls Charter athletic director athletic director David Campbell.

The Flashes have a JV baseball program currently, and are working on establishing a varsity baseball team.

Meanwhile, Calhoun Falls Charter principal Kalan Rogers is the track coach, and the Flashes will have both boys and girls teams.

Shawn Turman will coach the Lady Flash softball team.

Juwan Owens, the Blue Flashes' football coach, will be coaching junior varsity baseball.

The spring sports activities are starting just as the winter sports are concluding.

The Calhoun Falls Charter boys basketball team defeated Lewisville in the first round of the playoffs,

but lost to Calhoun County in the second round.

The Calhoun Falls Charter varsity girls basketball team, meanwhile, defeated McCormick in the first round, but lost to McBee in the second round.

Lady Flash senior Jasmine Cade was named All State in Class 1-A-girls basketball, said Calhoun Falls Charter girls basketball coach Joseph Cade.

The first meet of the season for the Calhoun Falls Charter track team will be on March 10, at Crescent High School, said Kalan Rogers, track coach and school principal.

"We're coming off a pretty successful season from last year, where we finished third in the state in Class A," he said.

"I have some key returners," he said. They include Quade Lindler, who was the 800 meter state champion.

There are also Jamari Norman, and Marquice Turman. "They finished in

the top five in the 110 meter hurdles, and Marquice finished second in the 400 meter hurdles. Both of them will look really good in jumping events this year."

On the girls side, Raynais Williams, Kortasia Tillman, Courmazhia Sanders "will be a pretty good young group that will run sprints and do jumping events," he said.

"One of my newcomers for the boys side will be Cameron Bryant," he said. An eighth grader, he will throw the shot put and discus.

On the girls side, there are two newcomers--junior Shanya Hudson and seventh grader Anastasia Gillam.

"I look for them to be very versatile in all events this year," he said of the newcomers on the girls side.

"I'm excited about this season," he said. "I'm fired up. Be on the lookout for Calhoun Falls throughout the year."

# Abbeville Wrestling at State

Submitted by Bill Glace

The Abbeville Wrestling team had four wrestlers qualify for the State Tournament this past weekend at the Anderson Civic Center. They are Zack Arrowood at 113 lbs, Michael Gordon at 170 lbs, Addison Nickles at 195 lbs and Jacob Ferguson at 285 lbs.

Zack Arrowood had two big matches at State. Zack pinned Chambers from Phillip Simmons in the second period. His other big match was against Henderson from Chesnee, who had pinned Zack the week before at the Upperstate Tournament. At state, Zack found himself behind in points and began to go to work. Although he did not score enough points to win the match, he did completely dominate his opponent for more than three minutes at the end of the match. Zack is a sophomore and has two more opportunities to compete at state.

Michael Gordon's biggest match came when he wrestled the number one seed from Timberland. Michael got behind early in the match with a score of 4-0, but he fought hard and persevered to come back and tie up the score at 6-6 in the third period. He ultimately lost the match but showed a lot of that Panther Grit by continuing to fight until the last whistle. Michael is a junior and will have another opportunity to compete at state.

Jacob Ferguson ended up with the two toughest op-



pon. His first match was with Sapp from Buford, whom he pinned in the second period. His second match was against Ellis from Crescent, his region rival and the only person to beat Addison this season. Addison made quick work of Ellis throwing him to his back in the first period in an impressive fashion. Addison faced Ramirez from High Point Academy in the Championship Finals. This was a rematch

from the Upperstate Finals where Addison pinned Ramirez in the second period. Looking back on the two matches, Addison remarked that Ramirez had completely changed his style and strategy for the rematch at State. Those changes led to a closer match. With the score being 4-3 with 40 seconds left in the match, Addison threw Ramirez to the mat to score two more points

to extend his lead to 6-3 and claim the State Champ title. Addison is a junior and will have an opportunity to claim another State Championship title next year.

The Abbeville Wrestling coaches are overcome with pride in these wrestlers and the whole team for the successes and progress they have each made this season.

We are excited to see what next season holds!

All four qualifiers return next year to compete, and more wrestlers on the team hope to join them at State next year.

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MICHAEL GORDON 170 LBS  
JACOB FERGUSON 285 LBS  
ZACK ARROWOOD 113 LBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Estate: Melvin Scott Lane  
Date of Death: 01/15/2022  
Case Number: 2022ES0100052  
Personal Representative: Sandra Terese Lee  
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