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14 PAGES

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

Vaccinations offered for District employees

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Area Medical Center collaborated with the Abbeville County School District recently and provided the first dose of COVID vaccine for District employees who wanted to receive it, according to Kathy Bernard, director of special services with the Abbeville County School District. The vaccinations took place the week of March

8-12, at various sites throughout the District.

Second shots in the vaccination process are scheduled for March 31 and April 1.

The opportunity to receive the vaccine was open for any District employee.

“Anybody who wanted it who works for us could get it,” she said.

The vaccine was at no cost to District employees, she said.

School nurses and principals helped coordinate the vaccinations at each site.

Bernard also praised the AAMC personnel who administered the vaccine.

“They went to the individual school sites, and the District Office,” she said.

She had good things to say about the vaccination process as well.

“It went smoothly,” she said. “Overall it was just a great, great thing.”

The Abbeville County School District recently held a vaccination event for its employees. Here Rita Gamble is waiting for her shot. (Contributed photo)



Take a seat!

Out with the old and in with the new--so goes an Opera House project

By Henry E. Green

A City of Abbeville program to sponsor new seats at the Opera House, as the old seats are retired, is going well so far, according to City of Abbeville community development director Mike Clary.

“I think it is going well so far,” Clary said Wednesday of last week. “To date we have raised about \$1,350 through the program that will be put into the Opera House Fund.”

The City of Abbeville is in the process of replacing the seats in the Opera House, Abbeville’s community theater, and members of the community have the opportunity to purchase new seats.

With the Abbeville Opera House seat installation com-

ing in the next six months, the City will begin preparing to remove the older seats in the venue, according to a City of Abbeville report.

The City, which operates the Opera House, will sell the intact seats for \$150 apiece, which will include a named engraving on a new seat, according to a report to Abbeville City Council from City Manager Blake Stone, a report discussed during the Feb. 9 City Council meeting.

Individuals interested in having their names engraved on the new seats may do so for \$75.

All money garnered from the sale of seats and name engravings will go toward the Opera House Historic Preservation Fund.

“We have had seven donors so far including the

Rotary Club, Phyllis Small, Maria Brotherton, Nathaniel Oncken, Paul Cawood, John Andrew Bishop, and Andy Timmerman,” said Clary.

The community development director went on to say that the City’s lineup of shows at the Opera House has been enormously successful so far.

“We have had nearly every show sell out this year at the 50% capacity level so the return has been a success in my opinion. We kick things back off March 27th!”

Comedian Al Ernst is scheduled to visit the Opera House on March 27.

The full lineup of upcoming Opera House events can be viewed at:

<https://www.abbevillecitysc.com/310/The-Abbeville-Opera-House>

Vaccination sensation sweeping county?

By Henry E. Green

So you’ve been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. What’s next?

Well, according to the CDC, fully vaccinated people can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.

They may also visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID 19 disease indoors without wearing masks or practicing physical distancing.

However, they should also take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing, and they should avoid medium and large sized in-

person gatherings.

How do you define “fully vaccinated?”

According to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated at least two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two dose series or at least two weeks after receiving a single dose vaccine.

Joyce Cunningham and her husband Amos of Level Land community have both received their second doses of vaccine.

“No problems at all,” she said. “Not with the first. Not with the second.”

She praised the Abbeville Area Medical Center personnel who administered the vaccine as “very orga-

nized” and “very professional.”

She recommended that all who could get the vaccine do so, with the hope that life could return to normal.

Joyce said that as a supporter of education, she is thankful that educators and staff in the school systems will be able to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Andy Timmerman of Abbeville said he and his wife Lynn and their daughter CaryLynn all got the vaccine on the afternoon of Monday, March 8.

“All three of us had a slightly sore arm the next day but that was it,” he said. “Our second shot is scheduled for April 2nd.”

Senator pays virtual visit to Abbeville County

By Henry E. Green

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott visited Abbeville County last week--virtually--as part of a 46 county virtual tour of the state, according to a news release from the Senator’s office.

Scott spoke with a number of community leaders, including Abbeville First CEO Andy Timmerman, Talk of the Town Eatery and Catering owner Penny Richey, Flexible Technology general manager Jay Schlageter, and Abbeville County Development Director Stephen Taylor.

“Their conversation centered on the overall economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Abbeville County, the importance of protecting both small banks and businesses, and the harmful impact of a \$15 minimum wage on small businesses across South Carolina,” Senator Scott’s office reported.

Timmerman recalled Thursday how the Senator asked about the pandemic’s effect on the bank.

“He asked how the bank was doing during the Pan-

dem--I told him the Bank has done well,” Timmerman said. “We have been able to adapt quickly to the constant changing situation. There was hardly any interruption in service to our customers and we were able to add customers throughout the year as many were having trouble accessing their bank.”

“He asked how the SBA PPP (Payroll Protection Program) was going--I told him the bank also adapted quickly to this situation. We were able to create our program so that we were processing applications from day one during the first round of the program last spring. The criteria for small business for this second round that started in January was significantly tweaked to allow smaller, mostly Sole Proprietors, qualify. A good example of how the changes helped very small businesses is that, in the first round our average loan size was around \$77,000. So far this second round we are averaging about \$21,000.”

“It was a great discussion with our U.S. Senator in

regards to the payroll protection program, and the concerns of the possibility of raising the minimum wage to \$15,” said Taylor.

“We appreciate him taking the time to discuss those matters with us.”

According to Scott’s office, the County’s economy has rebounded well from the economic pain caused by the pandemic.

“Abbeville County experienced a dramatic decrease in unemployment from 13.9% in May of 2020 to 4.8% in February of 2021,” according to the news release. “The strides made by the local economy illustrate the capacity for a strong strategic response to the economic effects of the pandemic.”

The Senator’s office also released a video in conjunction with the “visit”, a video which included scenes of Abbeville’s Court Square, and the tone was one of optimism in the face of adversity.

“You all are very resilient,” Scott told the community leaders.



The Due West Robotics kids were recently hard at work picking up trash along the stretch of highway they have adopted. (Photo courtesy of Charles Angel)

Diamond Hill substation to help serve Lake area

By Henry E. Green

The Diamond Hill substation should be completed by the end of the summer, Abbeville County Fire Marshal Tim Williams said Wednesday.

The substation will be a substation of Antreville fire department, and will be located at the corner of Lake Secession Road and Highway 284, Williams said. Consisting of a three bay

building,” it will house fire apparatus,” said the County Fire Marshal.

As monies are donated to the Antreville fire department, a day room, a small kitchen area and restroom will be added.

“We are in the bid process,” Williams said, noting that the first phase of the building will be a “turn key package” that will include both design and construction.

The substation will assist in the growing Lake Secession area, and will lower fire insurance rates within five miles of the substation.

The first phase will be funded through the County’s capital improvement millage.

The bids for Diamond Hill are in the process of being advertised through local media, Williams continued.

The Miss Abbeville High School Pageant was held on Saturday, February 27th

Submitted by
Bethany Minick

The Miss AHS pageant was held at Lander University on Saturday, February 27th. In conjunction with the Miss WMS Pageant, we had 28 total contestants - 19 from AHS and 9 from WMS.

The pageant was directed by myself (Mrs. Bethany Bonds Minick), Mrs. Katie Simpson Finley, and Mrs. Cherri Smith. It was a fundraiser for our Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and Future Farmers of America (FFA) organizations.

This year was special, as we offered each of our high school class winners a scholarship. The newly crowned Miss Freshman, Miss Sophomore, and Miss Junior each received a \$100 scholarship. The newly crowned Miss Senior received the \$250 Tony Simpson Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Katie Simpson Finley. The new-

ly crowned Miss Abbeville High School received the \$500 Tony Bonds Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Bethany Bonds Minick and Dana Bonds.

Results are below:
Miss Wright Middle School Awards

Miss WMS Congeniality Award - Laylan Yates; **Miss WMS People's Choice Award** - Mary Ashley Williams

6th Grade:
1st runner up - Mary Ashley Williams; **Miss 6th Grade** - Laylan Yates

7th Grade:
3rd runner up - Catherine Smith; 2nd runner up - Kaylee Bundrick; 1st runner up - Dallas McCurry; **Miss 7th Grade** - Lillie Brooke Stone

8th Grade:
1st runner up - Addison Beauford; **Miss 8th Grade** - Emma Horne; **Miss Wright Middle School 2021** - Kylee Jo Price

Miss Abbeville High School Awards
9th Grade:
Congeniality - Langley Light; People's Choice Award - Josie Evans; **Scholar Award (Highest GPA)** - Emma Harper; 3rd

runner up - Emma Harper; 2nd runner up - Langley Light; 1st runner up - Josie Evans; **Miss Freshman** - Tyla Johnson

10th Grade:
Congeniality - Jaycie Wilson; People's Choice Award - Michaela Harrison; **Scholar Award (Highest GPA)** - Riley Jones; 2nd runner up - Langley Light; 1st runner up - Kamaria Gray; **Miss Sophomore** - Riley Jones

11th Grade:
Congeniality - Naomi Wilson; People's Choice Award - Marissa Arrowood; **Scholar Award (Highest GPA)** - Drew Beauford; 2nd runner up - Gabriella Skye White; 1st runner up - Marissa Arrowood; **Miss Junior** - Riley Jones

12th Grade:
Congeniality - Grace Thomason; People's Choice Award - Grace Thomason; **Scholar Award** - Ambria Gilliard; **Interview Winner** - Ambria Gilliard; 1st runner up - Bethany Ricketts; **Miss Senior** - Ambria Gilliard; **Miss Abbeville High School 2021** - Gracey Thomason; **Overall Miss AHS People's Choice Winner** - Ambria Gilliard



Senior winners in the Abbeville High School pageant included (L-R) Ambria Gilliard, Gracey Thomason, Bethany Ricketts. (Contributed photo)



Eighth grade winners in the Wright Middle School pageant included (L-R) Addison Beauford, Kylee Jo Price, Emma Horne. (Contributed photo)



Seventh grade winners in the Wright Middle School pageant were (L-R) Caroline Smith, Kaylee Bundrick, Lillie Brooke Stone, and Dallas McCurry. (Contributed photo)



Laylan Yates and Mary Ashley Williams were the sixth grade winners in the recent Wright Middle School pageant. (Contributed photo)



Freshman winners in the Miss Abbeville High School pageant included (L-R) Langley Light, Tyla Johnson, Josie Evans, and Emma Harper. (Contributed photo)



Sophomore winners in the Miss Abbeville High School pageant included (L-R) Jaycie Wilson, Kamaria Gray, Riley Jones, Audrey McCurry, and Michaela Harrison. (Contributed photo)



Junior winners in the Abbeville High School pageant include (L-R) Gabby White, Abbye Light, Marissa Arrowood, and Naomi Wilson. (Contributed photo)



A number of Abbeville Lions gathered in the parking lot of the old Fred's store on the Highway 28 ByPass on the outskirts of Abbeville to clean up the stretch of highway they had adopted: (from left) Rick Pressly, Robert Fossett, Charles Crowther, Mike Allen, Sandi Hood and J.J. Jackson. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Lake Secession to have clean-up day

By Henry E. Green

The Lake Secession Community Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, March 27.

Volunteers may start anytime they want, but they need to all gather at 1 p.m. at the 184 Boat Landing with what they have collected. Prizes will be awarded at that time.

Trash bags may be picked up at Jet's Landing before the clean up.

"This is our first really big kickoff," said Leslie McIntire of Lake Secession.

Smaller clean ups have been conducted from time to time, but "litter is just getting so bad" that a community cleanup is needed, she said.

"We have some people that are doing it by boat as well," she said, noting that volunteers will be picking up trash not only beside the road but from the water as well.

This trash will include everything from beer cans to stray wood from docks.

"We have some local busi-

ness sponsors" which will be donating gift cards to people who collect the most trash, McIntire continued.

These businesses include Jet's Landing, Midway Marine, Sold by Cassie, Waterfront Don, and Salty Britches.

The cleanup is being organized by a group of concerned Lake residents.

McIntire and Cassie Simpson are the organizers of the event.

Abbeville County Coroner office investigating boating accident on Lake

By Henry E. Green

Dr. Mark Dorn, Coroner advised that his office is investigating a boating accident on Lake Secession that has resulted in one person's death.

The Office of the Coroner was notified on Friday night around 11:30 p.m. after Abbeville County EMS, Abbeville County Sheriff's Department, SC Highway Patrol, and investigators from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

responded to a single boating accident on Lake Secession address of 167 Second Avenue, Iva. According to a recent news release from the Abbeville County Coroner's Office.

Dr. Dorn, Coroner, advised that the victim has been identified as Jack Franklin-Lee Hunt, 18 years old, of Townville, SC. On March 12, 2021 around 11:41 p.m.

The victim, an Erskine College student, who was the operator of the boat along

with another student, was traveling back toward the boat landing dock when it appears to have struck debris in the lake subsequently striking the victim and causing his death.

The cause of death has been determined to be accidental.

The Abbeville County Office of the Coroner and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources are investigating the accident.

Schools announce graduation schedules

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District has established its graduation schedule for the spring of 2021, according to Abbeville County School District Superintendent Dr. Mason Gary.

The Abbeville County Career Center graduation is on May 26 at 6 p.m. at the Galloway Center at Erskine College, Dr. Gary said.

Dixie High School will have its graduation on May 28 at 6 p.m., also at the Galloway

Center.

Abbeville High School will have its graduation on May 29 at 10 a.m. at the Finis Horne Arena at Lander University, the Superintendent continued.

The School District will be adhering to safety measures designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, Dr. Gary said.

"We will follow the protocols," he said, noting that safety measures will be in place to keep COVID 19 at bay.

"As we get closer to the event more details will be shared," he said.

Calhoun Falls Charter will be having an in-person graduation program at Fulmer Stadium on the CF Charter campus on Friday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m., according to Assistant Principal Lori Lindler.

These plans are subject to change in accordance with the situation regarding the COVID pandemic, she said

County jobless rate about five percent

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville County's unemployment rate rose to 4.8 percent in December of 2020, an increase of six tenths of one percent from the month before, according to data from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce.

The figure provided something of a contrast with the

one from December, 2019, when the rate was 2.9 percent.

In a ranking of the county unemployment rates for December, 2020, Allendale had the highest rate in the state, with 8.6 percent, while Lexington, with 3.5 percent, had the lowest.

Among Abbeville's neighboring counties, McCormick

had 5.5 percent, while Greenwood had 5.1 percent, Laurens 4.8 percent, and Anderson with 4.1 percent.

The unemployment rate in Abbeville County has declined in recent months, according to U.S. Tim Scott's office, from 13.9 percent in May of 2020 to 4.8 percent as recently as February.

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CF Chamber plans Eggstravaganza event

By Henry E. Green

The CF Chamber of Commerce will have their annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the Blue Hole Recreation Area West Carolina Tel Pavilion on Saturday, March 27th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include food, games, prizes, and a large egg hut for three different

age groups, according to Mindy Rogers of Calhoun Falls.

This is a free event, but food will be sold to help the nonprofit group County Line Elite raise funds to assist with their travel ball team. Also, the Chamber will have cake walks for \$1 per walk.

"If anyone would like to

make a cake donation for this event they can be dropped off at the Calhoun Falls Civic Center before 4 p.m. Friday, March 26th," said Rogers, adding that the Calhoun Falls Chamber plans to have a visit from the Easter Bunny that day.

The Eggstravaganza will be a rain or shine event.



Abbeville Area Medical Center held a COVID vaccination clinic at the Christian Life Center of First Baptist Church in Abbeville last week. Abbeville County Democrats delivered pizzas to the hard-working medical personnel, and then they all posed for a group photo. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

I saw the light

Rate of vaccinations accelerating throughout United States

By Henry E. Green

More and more these days, one is hearing the phrase "light at the end of the tunnel" with regard to the pandemic, as vaccinations ramp up across the county, across the state, and across the nation.

A vaccination clinic was held at the First Baptist Church of Abbeville Christian Life Center Thursday and Friday and Monday.

AAMC and First Baptist collaborated to present the clinic.

Representatives of the Democratic Party in Abbeville County presented the medical personnel with pizzas in honor of their efforts.

Abbeville County School District personnel were also offered the vaccine, as AAMC personnel visited

the schools and the District office to offer the vaccine to District employees.

Meanwhile, according to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Abbeville County as of Monday afternoon had a total of 1,957 positive cases and 29 deaths.

Among Abbeville's neighboring counties, Anderson County had a total of 18,810 positive cases and a total of 446 confirmed coronavirus-related deaths.

Greenwood County had 6,864 cases and 144 deaths, and Laurens County 5,905 cases, and 142 deaths, while McCormick County had 760 cases and 18 deaths.

In the state as a whole, there were a total of 455,088 positive cases and 7,850

deaths.

As of March 1, Abbeville County had a total number of 1,919 confirmed positive cases and 29 coronavirus-related deaths, according to DHEC.

As of Feb. 21, Abbeville County had a total of 1,881 positive cases and 28 coronavirus related deaths.

The pace of vaccinations has accelerated nationally, and some people say that the end of the pandemic is in sight, but health care officials are issuing a warning against relaxing restrictions too soon.

As one expert put it, the United States should refrain from spiking the ball at the five yard line and wait until we are firmly in the end zone.



CF Chamber of Commerce will be having the annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the Blue Hole Recreation Area West Carolina Tel Pavilion on Saturday, March 27th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This happy bunny is certain to be there! (Photo courtesy of Mindy Rogers)

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More than 1,000 vaccinated at clinic

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Area Medical Center joined forces with a local church recently to offer vaccinations for COVID-19.

AAMC set up operations in the Christian Life Center of the First Baptist Church of Abbeville for a clinic that was held Thursday, Friday, and Monday.

"We vaccinated almost 1,200 people since this clinic began on Thursday," said

AAMC marketing director Meg Davis.

Davis expressed gratitude for the church's willingness to help.

"When we needed to move our vaccination clinic from the Abbeville Shopping Center, we had to find a convenient location that was large enough and had available parking to handle a large number of people in a short period of time," Davis said.

"We reached out to the First Baptist Church and asked if they would allow us to use its Christian Life Center.

The answer was an immediate 'yes.' AAMC is very appreciative of the support shown by the church's staff who has made sure all our needs were met as we prepared to vaccinate a large number of people as efficiently as possible."

(See related story.)



AAMC Hosts Operation Warmth Drive - Abbeville Area Medical Center recently hosted an Operation Warmth clothing drive. New scarves, hats, gloves, socks and other items donated by AAMC staff members were collected and distributed to United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County (UCMAC) and the Abbeville School District. (Photo contributed)

Calhoun Falls to have 'Springtime' this year

By Henry E. Green

Calhoun Falls will be having Springtime in the Falls this year, after last year's festival was canceled due to COVID concerns.

This year's festival will be presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce, and will be held the third weekend in May.

The festival will include music, food, and fun, said Rebeca McCaslan, Chamber executive director.

On May 14 ELoveation will be performing on the

first night of the festival, taking the stage in downtown Calhoun Falls on Cox Avenue from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., she said.

On May 15, Calhoun Falls will have its town-wide yard sale, and on the night of May 15, the festival will feature on Cox Avenue disc jockey Palmetto, who will be playing music from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., McCaslan said.

More activities are to be finalized in the coming weeks.

After Governor McMaster lifted a number of mandates, the Chamber decided to have the festival, said McCaslan, noting that the activity will be outdoors.

There will also be sanitation stations set up in downtown Calhoun Falls during the festival, stations where people can wash their hands, according to the Chamber executive director.

"Masks are encouraged but not required," she said.



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Abbeville Testing Events

Tuesday, March 2nd & March 9th • 8:30am-11:30am

Abbeville Shopping Center - Hwy. 28 (Abbeville YMCA/old Fred's location)

Abbeville Mobile Testing Site Relocated Beginning March 11th

AAMC Respiratory Clinic 901 W. Greenwood St. Ste. 6
(behind the Healthcare Center)

Every Tuesday & Thursday • 8:30am-11:30am

March 11th

March 16th • March 18th

March 23rd • March 25th

March 30th

McCormick Testing Events

Tuesday, March 16th • 9:00am-12:00pm

Monticello Golf Course (1148 Barksdale Ferry Road McCormick)



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A reception for artist Jesse Nance (left) was held recently at the Welcome Center in Abbeville, and among those present was his good friend Linda Campbell Pryor (right) of Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



These young ladies were practicing their dance routine on the evening of Wednesday, March 10, on Trinity Street in downtown Abbeville. Dancing to a Michael Jackson song, "Smooth Criminal," they were practicing for a dance competition in Greenville, according to Ivrie Hite, studio director at Dance Academy on Trinity Street. The young people are students at Dance Dynasty. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Beer walk in Abbeville very successful

By Henry E. Green

The 2021 St. Patty's Beer Walk was presented by the Downtown Abbeville Merchants Association Saturday in downtown Abbeville, and the event featured 130 participants, according to Association president Jennifer Creswell.

Creswell was quite pleased with the turnout for the event, which took participants on a tour of downtown Abbeville, where they stopped at participating businesses.

Each business offered them a particular kind of beer. Participants checked in first at the Greater Abbeville

Chamber of Commerce, where they picked up maps showing the location of the participating businesses, including the Chamber, Wings 101, Abbeville Vintage Market, Kindred Outfitters, Urban 2 Country, Grits and Groceries, the Belmont Inn, 105 West, Southern Succotash, Commercial Printing, Daily Bread, Breezy Quarters, Divine Your Space, Gathering on Trinity, Trends on Trinity, and As We Grow.

"It was sold out," Creswell said.

The array of beers was diverse. The Chamber offered Harp Lager, described as

having a "crisp and clean finish," said Julie Wilson, Chamber interim executive director Monday.

Creswell, meanwhile, noted that her organization plans to have a Shop Small event on May 8, to encourage people to patronize local businesses.

The Association is also planning a summer wine walk, with a specific date and more details to be announced later.

Saturday's beer walk was held in conjunction with Saint Patrick's Day, of course.

PTC planning in-person semester this fall

Submitted by Kristine Hartvigsen

Piedmont Technical College is planning for a return to in-person classes for the upcoming Fall 2021 semester. While the college will continue to offer hybrid and online classes for those who prefer the flexibility these options provide, students will have a wide variety of face-to-face options across all programs. Fall registration will open on April 1.

"This is really good news, especially for students who prefer face-to-face classes," said PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers. "As we continue to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic, the trend lines are encouraging, and we are expecting to see vaccines become widely available as this year progresses. We expect to be in a much more 'normal' situation this

Fall, as experts continue to indicate."

Dr. Keli Fewox, PTC vice president for academic affairs, noted that the expedited changes in course format that were prompted during the crisis came with valuable lessons for the college, primary among them the importance of continuing to maximize flexibility for students in any range of circumstances.

"While we are getting back to more widely available face-to-face instruction, we learned a lot about being nimble in our course delivery," she said. "At Piedmont Tech, it has always been a priority to schedule our courses to make attendance possible for students with busy schedules so they can fit a college education in between jobs, parenting and other life responsibilities."

In an abundance of cau-

tion, the college will continue to implement its existing Centers for Disease Control (CDC) safety guidelines, including the requirement that everyone on any PTC campus properly wear face coverings and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

"With the increasing availability of vaccinations, we anticipate a lowering of infection risk throughout the summer," Dr. Rivers said. "But we also recognize the need to closely monitor any additional spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants. This is certainly no time for complacency. If we are to truly prevail over this pandemic, everyone must do their part by getting vaccinated when eligible and protecting those around them by continuing to wear a mask."

Sutherland ready to work on City Council

By Henry E. Green

John Sutherland won last week's special Abbeville City Council election in City Council District Three.

Sutherland will be filling the unexpired term of Trey Edwards, who vacated the seat with his election as Abbeville Mayor last year.

Sutherland will be serving the last two years of Edwards's unexpired term.

In the special election, held on March 9, Sutherland defeated Sandi Hood and Dee Henderson to claim the District Three seat. City Council elections are nonpartisan.

Sutherland works for Pepsi Cola in Anderson. "I'm a supervisor," he said.

"I've got 24 years in the soft drink business," he said.

That includes 14 years of working for Coca-Cola.

After working with Coca Cola, he went out on his own, and started several businesses, including a tanning salon, a convenience store, and a short order restaurant.

The convenience store was in Oconee county, and the others were in Anderson.

He named the convenience store and the short order restaurant after his daughter Riley.

He did all this before returning to the soft drink business.

Sutherland grew up in Anderson—"right across from the Anderson Mall."

"I've been living in Abbeville four to four and a half

years," he said. "My dad grew up in Abbeville."

Sutherland, who has never held elected office before, believes traffic safety should be a priority.

Children playing in the yard have been known to run out into the street, chasing stray balls.

This poses a danger in terms of motorists speeding up and down the street, and Sutherland wants them to slow down, as if, he says, their own children lived nearby.

"Slow down," he said. "You never know."

He is enormously excited about the prospect of serving on City Council.

"I'm just ready to work," he said.

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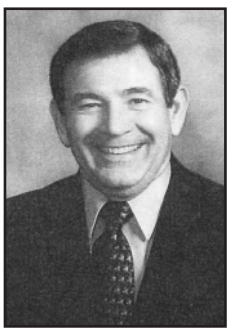

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The Power of a Name

Psalm 124:8 "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Joyce E.A. Russell is the Vice Dean and Director of the Executive Coaching and Leadership Development Program at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business. In an article written in January 12, 2014 she shared this incident. A friend of hers was in rehab and he was not getting good personal attention. His wife reminded him that he had not been nice to the people attending to him. She told him, "You don't even know their names." He grumpily replied, "Why should I know their names?" She gave him some tips on how to remember the names of people and encouraged him to call the staff by their names. He took her up on her advice and his personal attention increased dramatically. Joyce points out how important it is to know people's names and call them by their name. If that is true of people, how much more important to know and call upon the name of the Lord? Our text declares that the name of God is our help. I would like to dwell on that thought for a few moments. The name of the Lord reveals His character. In

the model prayer, Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught us to begin our prayers with: "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..." the word hallowed means holy or reverent. The name of God should be revered. We should not take the name of God lightly or irreverently. God will not take it lightly if we take His name lightly. Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." The name of the Lord is powerful. Psalm 124:8 reminds us that the Lord created the heaven and the earth. That describes power, and His name gives us power. It was in the name of the Lord that David defeated the mighty giant Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:45 David said to Goliath: "... thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, who thou hast defied." David had all the power of the name of God behind him as he faced the giant and defeated him. Moses asked the name

of God at the burning bush when God met him and called him to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. God told him, "I am that I am" meaning the eternal I am, the always existing one, the all powerful one. It was in the name of God that Moses defeated Pharaoh, the most powerful king on the face of the earth at that time. The name of the Lord is powerful enough to save sinners. Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The name of God is not only powerful, but it is precious. The name of the Lord is our help in times of stress or times of fear. The name of God calms our fears and emboldens us to face the terrors of life. We can breathe that holy name in prayer any hour of the day or night. What a precious privilege it is to be able to call upon the Lord at any time.

City of Abbeville plans spring clean-up

By Henry E. Green
The city of Abbeville will have a "spring cleaning" on Saturday, March 20, with the City of Abbeville collaborating with a number of community groups to give the town a sprucing up, according to Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone. Volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Opera House to get started on the clean up. The volunteers will be coming from a variety of organizations, such as the Greenwood-Abbeville Jaycees, the Boy Scouts, and others, the City Man-

ager said. "They'll be given their designations then, as to what streets they'll go to," said Stone. At press time, the City was in the process of determining which streets needed the clean up. Streets expected to be on the list include Harrisburg, Calvert, Haigler, Ferry, Cambridge, Branch, Vienna, Carolina Circle, Washington, Carwellyn, Long Branch, parts of East and West Greenwood, First, and Meadow, Stone continued. "Palmetto Pride will issue

trash bags and protective gear," he said. The clean up is expected to take until early afternoon. The volunteers will be picking road side trash to help beautify the city. The City actually performed a similar clean-up in conjunction with Abbeville County several years ago, Stone said. A rain date is to be announced. For more information, one may call the City at 366-5017.



The Calhoun Falls Charter FFA Wildlife team competed virtually last month against 30 other teams from across South Carolina. They were tested in general knowledge, identification of plants as well as waterfowl and other animals. The team placed 8th and Tanner Alewine was 8th highest individual. Team members (from left) are Gracee Dixon, Tanner Alewine, Taylor Smith, and Sydney Ramsey. (Photo courtesy of Nancy McCannon)

CF Charter FFA wildlife team excels

By Henry E. Green
The Calhoun Falls Charter FFA wildlife team performed well in a recent FFA competition. "They competed virtually last month against 30 other teams from across South Carolina," said Nancy McCannon, FFA Advisor/Agriculture Instructor at Calhoun Falls Charter. "They were tested in general knowledge, identification of plants as well as waterfowl and other animals." The team placed eighth

and Tanner Alewine placed eighth in individual competition. The team members included Gracee Dixon, Alewine, Taylor Smith and Sydney Ramsey, McCannon said. According to information from FFA, "FFA Chapters across the state of South Carolina enhance the education and experience of the agriculture programs offered in our school systems." Calhoun Falls Charter, Dixie and Abbeville all have

FFA chapters. FFA is among the largest youth organizations in the United States. It is a career and technical student organization founded in 1925 as the Future Farmers of America, according to Wikipedia. FFA has occupied a prominent place in Abbeville County scene. The 2021 Miss FFA Pageant, hosted by the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, was recently held at the Abbeville Opera House.

Obituaries

Williams

Charlotte Faye Worley Williams, 79, of Abbeville, wife of Charles R. Williams, Sr., died peacefully Sunday, March 14, 2021 at her home surrounded by family. She was born in Elberton, GA to the late Elbert Lafayette Worley and Emily Adams Worley.



Charlotte Faye Worley Williams

GaGa, as she was affectionately known, graduated from Elbert County High School, class of 1960. She also attended Massey Business College in Atlanta. Previously employed with Flexible Tubing, Mrs. Williams retired from the Abbeville County School District after 28 years of dedicated service. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and the Sherry Wilson Sunday School Class. Mrs. Williams, consistently involved in community activities, was associated with the Abbeville Lions Club, Creative Garden Club, Department 56 Houses Club, and the Abbeville Red Hatters. An enthusiastic Georgia Bulldogs fan, she could

often be found cheering on her favorite team. It was evident that GaGa held her family close to her heart; time spent together brought her contentment and happiness.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Raymond, Zachary, Denver, and Eddie Worley; a sister, Kathy Worley; and a granddaughter, Emily Faye Smith.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles; a son, Chuck Wil-

liams (Dana) of Abbeville; a daughter, Cherri Emily Williams Smith (Mark) of Abbeville; grandchildren, Tucker Smith, Emily Anna Smith, and Mary Ashley Williams; and numerous nieces and nephews.

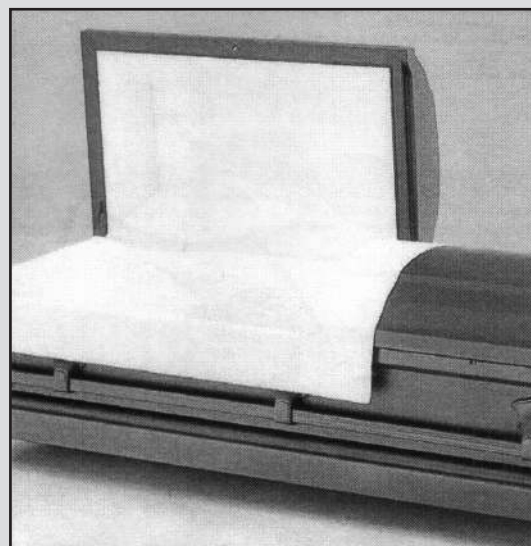
The family will receive friends 10:00AM-11:00AM, Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in the Abbeville First Baptist Church Christian Life Center. Funeral services will begin at 11:30AM with Rev. Reiny Koschel and Rev. David Green officiating. Burial will follow in Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

The family is at the home. Memorial contributions, in memory of Mrs. Williams, may be sent to the First Baptist Church Scholarship Fund, PO Box 825, Abbeville, SC 29620.

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

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District planning eLearning Day in April

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County School District is planning to have an eLearning Day on April 1, providing continuity to instruction even when school buildings are closed, said Brandi Sears, Director of Instruction and Accountability with the District. "Our district received approval for eLearning from the SC Education Oversight Committee earlier this year," she said. ELearning allows the district to provide or continue instruction via the use of technology resources during times of inclement weather, local disasters or interruptions in basic

services such as power or water and so forth. "On these days, teachers provide instructional activities and resources through the digital Learning Management System. Students access and complete the assignments from home using their district-issued devices. All teachers and students participate in eLearning days. "The chromebooks and instructional programs have been integrated into the regular curriculum and are used at school as well. The district held a Digital Homework Practice on December 9th in which all students were asked to submit electronic

homework assignments. This allowed students and parents to determine their Internet accessibility from home and troubleshoot any issues. ACSD conducted its first eLearning on the make-up day scheduled for February 22, 2021, and the second eLearning day will occur April 1, 2021. ELearning provides significant benefits for students, Sears indicated. "It allows the learning to continue even when the buildings are closed," she said. "As a result, students don't have to 'make-up' those days."



Dig a Deal has opened in the Abbeville Shopping Center on the Highway 28 Bypass on the western outskirts of the city. It is a family-owned and operated business, with Katherine Wardlaw, her husband and their five children all taking a hand. Here are Katherine Wardlaw, daughter Tykeria Wardlaw, daughter Tyra Williams, holding cousin Antonio Crawford, and husband Darius Wardlaw. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Dig a Deal store offers great variety of items

By Henry E. Green

Dig a Deal, LLC, recently opened in the Abbeville Shopping Center on the western outskirts of the city of Abbeville. The new store had a grand opening Saturday, said owner Katherine Wardlaw. "It was amazing," she said. The turnout was awesome. Dig a Deal offers overstock items from a variety of retail distributors. "I call it a liquidation store," she said.

So what can you find at Dig a Deal? "Everything under the sun," she said. That includes everything from pens and pencils to clothing to microwaves. "I've got a toy section for the kids," she said. It's called, appropriately enough, Dig a Toy. "We have a drawing twice a week," she said, noting that the drawings are on Saturday and Sunday. Dig a Deal is very much a

family-owned and operated business, run by Katherine, her husband and their five children. The store hours are as follows: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and Mondays and Tuesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The store is closed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, said Katherine, noting that those days are used to restock the store.

BNNano launches research in Abbeville Incubator & Soft-Landing Facility

Submitted by **Stephen Taylor, Abbeville County Economic Development Director**

BNNano, a Burlington, North Carolina-based engineered materials company, is launching research & development activities at the Abbeville Incubator & Soft-Landing Facility. BNNano is an advanced manufacturing company that transforms and revitalizes industrial commodities, such as aluminum, at nano scale in order to optimize performance. Their products can be found in metals and composites in the defense, additive manufacturing, automotive, aerospace, life sciences and textile industries. BNNano is the world's leader in the production of Boron Nitride Nanotubes, and they pioneered the patent pending NanoBarb™ material enhancement. Launched in 2016 by founders Jason Taylor and Steve Wilcenski, the company is a start-up business based on support from

family, friends and Angel Investors. BNNano makes the fourth business to benefit from Abbeville's incubator, which was established in 2014 with funds from the United States Economic Development Administration. "We are excited for the opportunity to engage with the Abbeville Incubator," said, BNNano, CEO Steve Wilcenski. "This partnership is a strategic next step for BNNano and central to our growth strategy. As we grow our company, research and design is paramount. We look forward to this new relationship with like-minded partners and know our shared focus on innovation and collaboration will benefit both BNNano and the Abbeville Incubator." "It is always exciting to welcome a new industry to Abbeville County," said, Abbeville County Council Chairman Billy Norris. "We are proud that BNNano chose to grow their company in our community. We are fortunate to have an incubator/soft landing facility that

we can offer businesses. We look forward to working with BNNano for years to come and growing their company." "We are excited that BNNano has chosen Abbeville County and the Abbeville Incubator as the location they feel will give them the resources and opportunity for growth and innovation," said, Abbeville County Economic Development Board Chairman Rusty Denning. "We look forward to a long-term partnership with BNNano as they continue grow their company for years to come." "BNNano's technology has a broad range of uses, and it's exciting to see them choose the Upstate for their growth journey," said, Upstate SC Alliance President & CEO John Lumms. "The selection of Abbeville's Incubator and Soft-Landing Facility is another indicator of the Upstate's proactive approach to welcoming business and fostering innovation in communities of all sizes."

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 - Characteristic of birds
 - *Ongoing job in the garden
 - *Without synthetic fertilizers
 - 2nd tallest bird
 - Theatrical production
 - Curiosity killed it?
 - Additionally
 - Capital of Poland
 - Passage into a mine
 - Prefix in levorotary
 - Mid-century modern, e.g.
 - Toothy wheel
 - *Some are heirlooms
 - Make like a cat
 - Erasable programmable read only memory
 - Stanislavski's rifle, e.g.
 - Unwanted correspondence
 - Motionless
 - Catch-22
 - "Are you sure?" in a text
 - Freight horse cart
 - Opposite of don'ts
 - *6 or more hours of sunshine
 - *Radicchio or frisée
 - On foot
 - Negative vote
 - 2020 NFL MVP
 - Morrison's "The _____"
 - Hockey great Bobby
 - Respectable and quiet
 - Sports award
 - Affirmative response
 - Infemos

- DOWN**
- Old bathtub foot
 - Opposite of seek
 - Ne plus ultra
 - *Opposite of #57 Across
 - Minimum, pl.
 - Influencer's journal
 - *Stinging pollinator
 - Holiday song
 - Bulgarian money
 - Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning role
 - Popular smoothie berry
 - Update an iPod
 - Inhabitant of Hungary
 - Nothing, pl.
 - Like sashimi
 - Lack of money
 - *Tomato supports
 - Highly skilled
 - Miss America's headdress
 - Slowly leak
 - Moves at the gym
 - Monument to Buddha
 - Orderly arrangement
 - *Wiggly plowers
 - Faster than a walk
 - *Some plants and flowers emit a good one
 - *Type of digger
 - Centers, old-fashioned
 - French vineyard
 - *Last of 3 numbers on a bag of fertilizer
 - Be a pest
 - Washington, e.g.
 - Grow dim
 - Extraterrestrials' rides
 - Pilot's stunt
 - Type of parrot
 - "Musical" constellation
 - Russian mountain chain
 - *Type of garden hose that saves space
 - Goes with "odds"
 - Am is to I as _____ is to we

Community Calendar

UCMAC encouraging people to fill out survey
The United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County is welcoming county residents to fill out a survey on the need for public transportation in Abbeville County. "An electronic version of the survey is available and we need to get as many responses as possible," said UCMAC executive director Bill Boone. Boone encouraged peo-

ple wishing to complete the survey to reach out to the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6ZH9FSL>.

Vision committee meeting slated
The Abbeville Area Medical Center Vision Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17 at 4 p.m.

Stukes lecture planned
McDonald-Boswell Professor Emeritus of History Dr. David Grier will deliver the annual Stukes Lecture at Erskine College Monday, March 22, at 3 p.m. in Memorial Hall. His talk 8is entitled "Hitler's Favorite General: Ferdinand Schorner." Admission is free and the public is welcome. Seating is limited. Masks and social distancing are required.

Coalition presents Lake Russell Hustle

By Henry E. Green

A young Abbeville man was the top finisher in the Lake Russell Hustle, a 5K event presented by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition at the Blue Hole recreation area in Calhoun Falls Saturday morning. Eli Kaczinski of Abbeville finished with a time of 16:11.06, followed by Quade Lindler with a time of 20:00.83, and Tyin Turman, with a time of 25:28.36

In the 50 to 99 age category, the top finishers were Shirley Smith, Gloria Dennis and Christine Wachs.

In the 0-17 age group, Javario Tinch finished first, followed by Wyatt Fisher, and Megan Wachs.

In the 18-35 age group, Blake Rodriguez was the top finisher, followed by Madison Curroto.

Megan Wachs was the top overall female participant, with a time of 29:27.96.

There were 43 participants overall in the 5K event, which featured a medal ceremony at the conclusion for the top finishers in each age group.

By participating in the Lake Russell Hustle, Eli Kaczinski was just doing what he loves. "I run basically every day," he said, noting that he competes in many road races.

"I love to compete," he said. Originally from Iowa, the 25-year-old Kaczinski has

been running for 12 years. Meanwhile, Megan Wachs is a Wright Middle School student who runs cross country with Abbeville High School.

The Lake Russell Hustle, a run/walk event which this year featured 43 participants, is just one of a number of events presented by the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition, which raises awareness of the recreation and tourism potential of Lake Russell.

The Coalition, for example, is planning to present Paddle Fest in May to highlight the joys of kayaking and paddle boarding at the lake. More details are to be announced.



The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition presented the Lake Russell Hustle recently at the Blue Hole recreation area in Calhoun Falls. Here, event coordinator Stephen Taylor (at right) gives directions to participants before the race begins. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



On your mark! The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition presented the Lake Russell Hustle recently in Calhoun Falls. Here are the 43 participants setting off on the 5K course. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition presented the Lake Russell Hustle recently at the Blue Hole recreation area. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Abbeville City Council member Louise Aikens recently graduated from the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government, a program offered through the Municipal Association of South Carolina to help provide municipal officials with a strong foundation in local government. Through 25 hours of classroom work, they learn about such topics as the Freedom of Information Act, and planning and zoning. (Contributed photo)



Self Regional COVID-19 testing events open to the community:

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Tests are first come, first served as long as testing materials last. Insurance will be billed, but there is no out-of-pocket cost for testing.

More SRH dates, times and locations to be announced soon. Always check the Self Regional website and Facebook page for latest info. about community testing events.

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Renovation of City's mini-parks continues

By Henry E. Green

Work to renovate the City of Abbeville's mini-parks continues.

Rainy weather has slowed the progress of work in connection with the renovation of the City of Abbeville's mini-parks, City Manager Blake Stone told City Council at Council's March 9 meeting.

The renovation is expected to include an upgrading of the equipment at the mini-parks.

Assistant City Manager Fran Strickland indicated that some of the benches at

the parks might be replaced, for example.

In addition, the mini-parks are slated to be included in the spring clean-up planned for the City of Abbeville on Saturday, March 20.

Also at the March 9 meeting, Abbeville City Council discussed the possibility of having a special meeting to meet with people nominated to be members of City boards and commissions.

"They did not set a specific date," said Assistant City Manager Fran Strickland Anderson. "We may end up with one or two boards

at each Council meeting until we have the positions filled. It is possible we may have a special meeting with some other items between now and the next regularly scheduled meeting. We may try to get one of the boards then."

Anderson noted recently that Council likes to meet in-person with individuals being considered for City boards and commissions.

Because of COVID, that has not always been possible.

Work continues on Abbeville's Trinity Episcopal Church, with scaffolding around the church's steeple. The scaffolding is in connection with replacing the shingles and the covering of the church's spire, according to Mike Bedenbaugh, president and CEO of Preservation South Carolina. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



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Pet of the Month Meet Pluto. This sweet guy has been at the shelter since Aug. 2020 and really needs a new home. Pluto is very social and loves people and other dogs. He is a 2 y.o. mixed breed, neutered & heartworm neg. The stars will align when you meet Pluto. Come to the shelter and meet him today. You will not be able to resist his loving personality!

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Mar. with support of Greater Abbeville Humane Society. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.



Pet of the Month Come meet Possum with his cute brown ears. This sweet boy is a mixed breed, around 6 yrs. old and is neutered. He has the sweetest demeanor and loves the outdoors. He is good on a leash and is dog and people friendly. He has been at the shelter since Sept. 2020. Come meet Possum and take him home with you today!

Adoption Fees are only \$25 thru Mar. with support of Greater Abbeville Humane Society. Visit Abbeville County Animal Shelter M/W/F 10-5, Sat. 10-3. Call 366-6639.

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- Specialty Care**
- Advanced Cardiology Associates**
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A reception was held for artist Jesse Nance recently at the Welcome Center in Abbeville, where Nance's art is on display during the month of April. Jane Agan (left) and Sara Broadwell (right) were among those admiring Nance's art during the reception. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Artist Jesse Nance honored at reception

By Henry E. Green

There was reception Friday night at the Welcome Center in Abbeville for Abbeville Artist Guild president Jesse Nance, whose work is currently on display there during the month of March.

Nance was born in Abbeville and grew up here. "I was here until I went into the Air Force," he said.

After serving in that branch of the armed forces, he eventually returned to Abbeville, where he now lives on Parker Street.

An artist since 1989, he likes to put bold, vibrant colors into his art. "If you're going to paint something, paint something that makes

you happy," he said.

So it is that Nance's work at the Welcome Center include a delightful blend of hues--yellow, orange, red, green and purple all make a statement in his art, and flowers are among the artist's favorite subjects.

The reception included a number of friends of the artist, and among them was Linda Campbell Prior of Abbeville, an interior designer. "Jesse and I have been best friends" for a long time, she said. "We adopted each other."

The display of Nance's work is being presented by the Abbeville Artist Guild. The Artist Guild is a non-

profit organization which promotes the arts in Abbeville County.

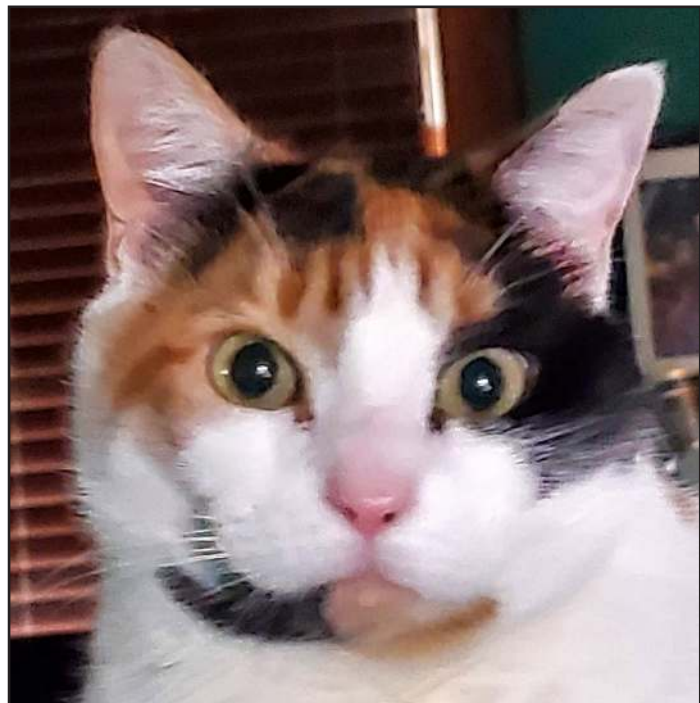
Currently, the Guild has about 30 members, according to Jane Agan, the treasurer of the organization.

The Guild will present in April a display at the Welcome Center of the work of Johnny Johnson of Abbeville, said Agan.

Johnson had a show at the Welcome Center in March of last year, when the Welcome Center closed because of COVID.

Johnson has painted renderings of many of Abbeville's churches, Agan continued.

'Genius' cat's tinnitus "cure" actually Play-Doh, investors furious



Story continued on page 66



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

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Estate: Thomas Nickles Stone
Date of Death: 11/18/2020
Case Number: 2021ES0100059
Personal Representative: Cathy S. Elledge
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Estate: Sylvester Woods
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Case Number: 2021ES0100068
Personal Representative: Thelma Woods
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Case Number: 2021ES0100075
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3/10;3tc

Estate: Frances Wiona Klugh
Date of Death: 8/29/2020
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Estate: Mary Powell Hipsher
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Estate: Walter Campbell Reece
Date of Death: 3/9/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100083
Personal Representative: Deborah R. Hamilton
Address: 2350 Clandon Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
3/17;3tc

Estate: Christopher Kenneth Hall
Date of Death: 2/17/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100084
Personal Representative: Roger Mark Hall
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3/17;3tc



LEGAL NOTICES

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Contents of storage units (personal and household) listed below WILL BE SOLD to the highest bidder at **Bypass Storage, 712 Hwy. 28 Bypass, Abbeville, SC** on March 20th at 9:00 am:
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3/17;sw





Former Abbeville High School Panther baseball player Vernon Walton recently paid a visit to the current Panther baseball team, and posed for this picture with them. (Photo courtesy of Nick Milford)

Erskine Football Fleet fall in home opener against Shorter, 24-13

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College football team (1-2) lost its home opener of the 2021 season against Shorter University (1-1) by a score of 24-13 in the Flying Fleet's first home football game in seventy years on Saturday at J.W. Babb Stadium.

Erskine QB Craig Pender was 33-56 for a career-high 375 yards as the Fleet out-gained the Hawks through the air, 397 yards to 133.

Fleet WR Kevon Catoe threw Erskine's only touchdown of the game, as Catoe found Rashad Luckey from 22 yards out on a trick play. Catoe also had five catches for 64 yards.

Fellow freshman WR Senika McKie had career-highs in receptions (14) and receiving yards (217) to lead the way for the Fleet.

Shorter ran for 274 yards in the game, led by Jaiden Dollar (17 carries, 182 yards, 2 TD), who's 45-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter sealed the Hawks' victory.

Erskine LB Brandon Lane tallied a game-high 11 tackles including a sack.

Erskine's defense started the game with a three-and-out, but the ensuing punt was muffed by the Fleet as the Hawks regained possession in Erskine territory. Shorter capitalized on the miscue, scoring a touchdown five plays later to take an early 7-0 lead. The Fleet's offense took over for the first time and drove down the field, as a Dearius Hazel three-yard run set up first and goal on the two-yard line. But, the Hawks delivered a goal-line stand and Erskine settled for a Bennett Caldwell 21-yard field goal to make it a 7-3 game. The Fleet's defense earned another three-and-out on the following Shorter possession, and a Senika McKie 33-yard reception

set up another first and goal for Erskine. But again the Hawks' defense stood tall as the Fleet were forced to kick another field goal; this one from 35 yards out as the Fleet trimmed the deficit to 7-6. Shorter answered with a field goal of their own on the next possession and had a 10-6 lead after the first quarter.

On the Hawks first drive of the second quarter, they marched down the field and had first and goal from the Erskine three yard line. This time, it was the Fleet's turn to have a goal-line stand as Jamal Barron broke up a third down pass attempt to set up a Shorter field goal, which was blocked by Jaelan Harfield to keep the score at 10-6. Erskine got a stop on fourth down on their next defensive possession and the Fleet offense appeared to be driving just before the half, but were stalled at midfield as a scoreless second quarter meant the visiting Hawks took a 10-6 lead into the halftime break.

Erskine was forced to punt on their first drive of the second half, but Khalif Poag recovered the muffed punt and the Fleet offense got a second chance. The Fleet got a first down, but three straight incompletions, the last on a fourth down and eight, ended the drive. And, Shorter added to their lead with a 77-yard scoring drive, capped by a 29-yard rushing touchdown as the Hawks extended to their lead to 17-6 halfway through the third quarter. Both defenses exchanged stops on the ensuing possessions, and Erskine took back over on their own 20-yard line. Craig Pender found McKie and Catoe for first-down receptions and Rashad Luckey had a crucial three-yard run on fourth down to keep the drive alive. Then, on third down and 10, the Erskine offense used some trickery to finally find paydirt. Pender took the snap, and handed

off to Catoe coming in from the left slot. Catoe appeared to be running a reverse, but then dropped back to pass and found Luckey for an 11-yard touchdown as the Fleet answered back and cut the Hawks lead to 17-13 after three quarters.

The Fleet defense got another three-and-out on the first possession of the final quarter, and the Erskine offense picked up a few first downs, but Pender was sacked on a fourth down play inside the Shorter 30-yard line as Erskine turned it over on downs. Shorter drove the ball into Fleet territory on the following possession, but the Erskine defense held strong and forced a punt as the Fleet took back over with just 7:30 remaining and trailing by four points. The Fleet were pinned inside their own five-yard line to begin the drive, but Pender found Catoe on three separate occasions as Erskine drove into Hawks territory, but faced a fourth down and five. Pender tried to connect with McKie, but was unable to do so, as Erskine turned it over on downs again. With just 3:38 to go in the game, the Fleet defense was forced to take risks, and Shorter made them pay as a 45-yard rushing touchdown on third down sealed a 24-13 victory for the Hawks.

WHAT'S NEXT? The Fleet continue their 2021 season next week against North Greenville University next Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in Tigerville, S.C.

Follow the Flying Fleet all season long to get schedule updates, scores, highlights, photo galleries, game notes and more at www.erskine-sports.com.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET Visit the Official Home of Erskine Athletics at www.erskinesports.com. Follow us on Social Media – Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube

Erskine Athletics updates fan policy for indoor sports

Submitted by
**Andrew Preston,
Sports Information
Director**

The Erskine College athletics department has revised its fan policy for volleyball to allow each player from both teams to receive two passes in addition to allowing Erskine students into Belk Arena for the remaining four matches this season.

The decision to limit capacity inside Belk Arena was developed with the safety of Erskine student-athletes, coaches, and athletic staff in mind and will continue to be re-evaluated on a monthly basis.

The decision to allow stu-

dents and two additional guests per student-athlete was taken into consideration after updated guidelines from the state of South Carolina as well as decreasing COVID cases statewide and nationally.

Only the visitor-side bleachers will be accessible, and a maximum capacity of 300 people will be allowed inside Belk Arena.

All fans in attendance must remain masked and stay socially distanced at all times.

Attendance policies for all road contests against Conference Carolinas (Conf. Carolinas Policy Page) and non-conference opponents will be at the discretion of the host institution and fans are

encouraged to check with the host institution for any restrictions on attendance.

Most Flying Fleet home games will be streamed on the Fleet Sports Network as part of the Conference Carolinas Digital Network. Events can be viewed using streaming devices such as Roku, AppleTV and Amazon Fire.

MORE ABOUT THE ERSKINE COLLEGE FLYING FLEET

Visit the Official Home of Erskine Athletics at www.erskinesports.com

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Baseball

AHS Panthers win their season opener

By **Henry E. Green**
The Abbeville High School Panther varsity baseball team performed well in a preseason tournament, and went on to win its season opener, AHS coach Nick Milford said.

"We ended the preseason tournament with three wins and one loss," he said.

"The Panthers took a 7-3 loss against Fox Creek last Wednesday. We bounced back Saturday with a 2-0 Victory over Clinton. Fox Creek would go to win the tournament.

"We opened up the first game of the regular season Monday (last night) against Dixie," he said Tuesday. "We were able to win 10-2. Thomas Beauford, Rusty Chappell, and Hunter Overholt split the work on the mound for the Panthers. Taylor Scott, Trent Delgado, and Thomas Beauford all had multiple hits. We will return to action next Tuesday (Mar 23) at home vs Liberty."

Milford has expressed confidence in this year's team. "Even though we gradu-

ated four seniors last year, we will return a solid group of players from last year's team," he said recently. "Our returners include a group of five seniors who have played a lot of innings on the varsity level."

Meanwhile, the Panthers welcomed a visit from former Panther baseball player Vernon Walton, who Milford said now lives in Maryland. "He was visiting down this way and came by to share some inspiring words with the team," the coach said.

Houge's Dominance leads Fleet in sweep of Lees-McRae

Submitted by
Erskine Athletics Department

The Erskine College softball team (9-5) earned its first two wins in Conference Carolinas play with a sweep against Lees-McRae College (3-15, 0-4 CC) on Friday at the Erskine Softball Complex. Hannah Houge tossed a complete game shutout in both games for the Fleet.

Erskine now leads the all-time series 22-6 and have won three straight meetings against the Bobcats, all shutouts from Houge.

GAME 1: The Fleet got a hit in each of the first three innings but could not scratch across an opening run as both starters exchanged zeroes in Game 1. In the fourth inning, Parker Birch led off with a double down the left field and line and scored moments later on a Taylor Antley double as Erskine finally broke through and took a 1-0 lead. That would be all the help Erskine starter Hannah Houge needed as she worked out of trouble in the fifth and sixth innings before striking out the side

in the seventh to give the Fleet a 1-0 win in Game 1. Houge allowed just five baserunners in her complete game shutout as Erskine won their first conference game of the season.

GAME 2: After throwing 114 pitches in Game 1, Houge got the ball to start the back half of the doubleheader. Houge surrendered a one-out single and the next batter reached on an error, but a groundout ended a scoreless top of the first inning for the Bobcats. And the Erskine scored an early run for Houge in the bottom half the opening frame as Sydney McInnis, who singled with one out, came around to score a Birch RBI single to give the Fleet a 1-0 lead. Houge continued her dominance through the middle innings, retiring 10 consecutive hitters at one point in the game. The Fleet added a crucial insurance run in the fifth inning on another Birch RBI single, this time scoring Kelci Brown to double the Fleet lead. Houge took the mound in the top of the seventh just three outs away from another complete game shutout, but

the leadoff batter reached on an error to bring the tying run to the plate for Lees-McRae. But, Houge induced two flyouts and a groundout as she went the distance again in Game 2 to give Erskine a 2-0 win.

GAME 1: Hannah Houge (8-1) tossed a complete game shutout, allowing just two hits while striking out 14 Bobcats hitters. Houge was just five batters over the minimum in her Game 1 victory.

GAME 2: Houge threw another complete game shutout in Game 2, allowing just three hits while striking out 8 batters. Parker Birch was 2-for-3 and drove in both Erskine runs in Game 2.

The Fleet welcome Conference Carolinas foe King University (8-4, 3-1 CC) on Saturday for another doubleheader.

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