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24 PAGES

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

Familiar steps 'Walk' expands on the Live Nativity

By Henry E. Green

Cold Spring Mennonite Church put its own spin on the Christmas story this year with its Walk through Bethlehem.

For the past several years now, the church on the outskirts of Abbeville has staged an outdoor version of the story which is familiar to anyone who goes to Sunday School and or church.

Thousands of people have attended “Walk” which is all free and which is something of an expansion of the popular Live Nativity. Performed by the members of the church and Cold Spring Mennonite School, “Walk” takes the Christmas story from the angel’s visit to Mary before Jesus’s birth to the visit of the Wise Men after Christ was born.

Everyone is dressed in period costume, in the style of first-century Palestine. You have Roman soldiers, the Wise Men, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth, the innkeeper, and the townspeople of Bethlehem.

The townspeople are engaged in various endeavors, from making candles to making bread, and working as blacksmiths.

The “Walk” performances are all over for this year—the last one was held on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 18.

Bundled up against the December chill, those in attendance Sunday night gathered in front of the church, and warmed themselves by small bonfires, after first being given pennies by a costumed figure, with those pennies earmarked for “taxes.”

Divided into groups, those taking the Walk took in the first scene, with Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and the angels, before moving on to enter Bethlehem—at the entrance you tossed your penny into a basket as Roman soldiers looked on.

You then walked down what appeared to be Bethlehem’s main street, and you took in the sights and sounds of the town. All of a sudden, Mary and Joseph passed through, with Mary seated on a donkey, and Joseph leading.

They had their famous “no room at the inn” conversation with the innkeeper, and those on the Walk moved on to a “pasture” scene where shepherds were keeping their flocks. A shepherd was

telling the story of Abraham when an angel appeared and told the group the “glad tidings”. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a heavenly choir.

The next stop was the “stable”, where the Holy Family was visited by the Wise Men, who, accompanied by Curtis the Camel, sang to the crowd, in particularly smooth harmonies.

Indeed, music was an integral part of the performance—with voices raised a cappella in the sweetest harmonies.

At the final stop, the “Walkers” were given cookies and hot chocolate, and listened to an evangelical message, as well as a Christian song from George Pullin of Abbeville County, and a message from Marv Miller of Abbeville County.

Thus ended an event which combined a theatrical experience with a spiritual one.

The “Walk” has been featured in local Christmas parades, and Curtis the Camel—yes, folks, a live camel—recently made an appearance in downtown Abbeville.



Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, and friends, were among the characters in “Walk through Bethlehem,” held recently at the Cold Spring Mennonite Church on the outskirts of Abbeville. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Mary is pondering an appearance from an angel in a scene from “Walk through Bethlehem.” (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Santa and Mrs. Claus helped close out the Abbeville Christmas parade recently. No, folks, it wasn't really snowing on Court Square. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

County Council getting three new members

By Henry E. Green

“The new Council.”

That is what the Abbeville County Council that will take office this coming year is being called.

Council will be getting three new members—Bryan McClain, Christine Long and Brandon Johnson.

Abbeville County Director David Garner said Friday that it represents the biggest Council turnover that he has seen in his six years as County Director.

McClain replaces Drew Simpson, whom he defeat-

ed in the Republican primary this past June. McClain, who ran unopposed in the general election in November, will represent District Seven on Council.

Brandon Johnson replaces Jason Bonds, who opted not to run for reelection. Johnson, who ran unopposed in the general election in November, will represent District One on Council.

Christine Long, a Democrat, defeated Republican Bebe Wesson in the general election in November. Long replaces John T. Cal-

houn, who opted not to run for reelection as the representative of County Council District Two. Calhoun retired after 33 years on Council, and was honored with a reception following the Dec. 12 County Council meeting.

McClain has served on Council before, but Johnson and Long have not done so.

The three new Council members, who will take office in January, will join Council members Rick Campbell, James McCord, Billy Norris and Charles Goodwin.

Paper to close for holiday

The Press and Banner will be closed Thursday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Dec. 23, in observance of Christmas.

Normal business hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 26. The Press and Banner will also be closed on

Friday, Dec. 30, for the New Year’s holiday, and normal business hours will resume on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023.



Merry Christmas

Sleigh bells ring. Carollers sing. Magic fills the air as family and friends exchange greetings of joy and good will. It’s happening here and now in our most wonderful town, and we’re pleased to be a part of it. Merry Christmas!

Library to sponsor mental health course

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Library will present a Mental Health First Aid class in January.

A Mental Health First Aid certification course, sponsored by the Abbeville Library, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Abbeville County Administrative Complex. The course, for which the fee is \$40, can benefit employers, police officers, hospital staff, first responders, and caring individuals, according to information supplied by the Library.

The course will look at common signs and symptoms of

mental health challenges, common signs and symptoms of substance abuse challenges, how to interact with a person in crisis, how to connect a person with help, and expanded content on trauma, substance use and self care, according to information supplied by the Library.

Checks for the course fee may be made payable to the Friends of the Abbeville Library.

The course will be taught by Krissi Raines, according to Kristina Sutherly, one of the Abbeville County Library system's health advocates.

To register for the course, one needs to go to any of the

Library System's branches in Abbeville, pick up a registration form and fill it out, and send in a check or cash, Sutherly said.

The registration deadline is Jan. 6, according to the Library.

The course will be part of the health advocacy program in which the library is engaged, Sutherly said.

The Abbeville County Library system has three branches, with a main branch at Abbeville, and branches in Donalds and Calhoun Falls as well.

For more information, one may call the Abbeville County Library at 459-4009.



The Christmas spirit was everywhere on Saturday, Dec. 10, when the Abbeville Christmas parade made its way down North Main and through Court Square. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Mike Mahaffey of Abbeville and his wife Amy recently got into the reindeer spirit before the Abbeville Rotary Club's Reindeer Run, a 5K event, on Dec. 10. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

A burst of music Community's Outreach Center has Gospel Explosion at Opera House

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville Community Outreach Center recently presented a Gospel Explosion at the Opera House, according to Community Outreach Center founder J.J. Jackson.

Seven gospel acts performed, including the Sons of Allen, the Five Stars, Calvin Brownlee and the New Gospel Airs, C.J. and Anointed, Diane George, and Swanee Quintet.

Emcees included Earl Wright and Horace Alexander. Wright lives in Calhoun Falls, and has much experience in being a master of ceremony. Alexander lives in Anderson.

The Outreach Center presents this every year on the Saturday after Thanks-

giving, Jackson continued. "It's our annual fundraiser," he said.

The Outreach Center plans to have a Christmas dinner this year at the Outreach Center.

Jackson and his wife Martha are the founders of the Community Outreach Center, a nonprofit organization. The Outreach Center, which is located at 504 Haigler Street in Abbeville, has an after school program, which currently serves about 25 to 30 children.

There are seven staff members, and sometimes more, Jackson continued.

The outreach center sponsored a program at the Civic Center about mental health, and the resources for it, on Oct. 8.

"We probably had about 125 that came to that program," he said.

Senior citizens and others are able to get Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner plates from the outreach center.

The community outreach center is able to feed hundreds of people in the community in this way.

The Community Outreach Center also has been helping people to fill out applications for assistance with utility bills and rent, in a program called Covid-19 housing assistance program, a state program.

For more information, one may call the Community Outreach Center at 366-6230.

Flu and the Holiday Season: What You Need to Know

(StatePoint) December through March is typically peak influenza (flu) season, though this season is off to an earlier start, with high activity currently across the country. While common, flu is a potentially serious and highly contagious respiratory illness.

In time for holiday travel and festivities, a new American Lung Association campaign funded by CLS Seqirus aims to educate Americans about the flu and steps they can take to protect themselves and others from severe flu illness. Here's what to know:

- Who is impacted by flu? Flu can affect anyone, however, certain communities are at higher risk of severe illness and complications, such as those living with chronic medical conditions including chronic lung disease, heart disease and diabetes. During past flu seasons, approximately 90% of flu-related hospitalizations were among adults with at least one underlying medical condition. During

the 2021-22 flu season, approximately 30% of hospitalizations were among adults with chronic lung disease. People from certain racial and ethnic minority groups are also at higher risk for being hospitalized with flu compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

- What will this year's flu season look like? Flu activity was relatively low the last two flu seasons, but it causes a significant burden every winter. Seasonal influenza activity is already elevated and continues to increase across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as of early December, there have been at least 8.7 million illnesses and 78,000 hospitalizations.

- How can I protect myself? While covering your cough, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you're sick can help stop the spread of flu, the very best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is with vaccination. The flu shot

is recommended on an annual basis for everyone 6 months of age and older and can be given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination. Flu vaccination is especially important for people with chronic lung disease and other chronic health conditions. Speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about influenza and annual vaccination.

- When should I see a doctor? If you do get sick, call your doctor as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment -- especially if you're at high risk for complications. You should also consult your doctor if you have complications such as difficulty breathing, chest pains or a cough persisting for weeks or months after other symptoms go away.

To learn more, visit Lung.org/prevent-flu. Before you gather with loved ones for the holidays, take steps to protect them from flu. Practice good health habits and get your annual vaccination as early as possible.



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Budding artist

Westwood Elementary fifth grader Avery Greider illustrates a book



By Henry E. Green
 A Westwood Elementary School fifth grader has illustrated a book. Avery Leigh Greider has provided the illustrations and cover design for *Draw Together: A Class Act*, written by Mary Ellen Eversman. Nine year old Avery resides with her parents in Abbeville, according to the book cover. "She loves school, reading, softball, and playing with her cat," according to the back cover. "Avery enjoys acting and has performed in the community plays, *Frankenstein* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*." Eversman, meanwhile, lives in Effingham, Illinois, A 1960 graduate of Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana, Eversman is a social worker, and "has authored numerous books for agencies and foundations." According to the book, Eversman was asked by a

group called Family Mental Health Support, based in Effingham, Illinois to write the book, which is about a teacher's efforts to work with her students and help them work together. Family Mental Health Support, meanwhile, "is a nonprofit grassroots organization comprised of local people who have experienced mental health issues within their own families." "FMHS seeks to provide family support through meetings, educational resources and personal experiences." Avery, meanwhile, is the daughter of Jon and Krystle Greider of Abbeville. Avery and her grandmother and her father stopped by The Press and Banner recently and presented a copy of the book. Her grandmother, Sue Heth, who lives in Effingham, Illinois, painted a sweet profile of her granddaughter.

"She likes to fish and hunt," said Heth. Avery loves social studies. "I like learning about history," she said, noting that in school she has been studying *The Great Depression* and *The Roaring Twenties*. So how did a little girl from Abbeville, out of all the fifth graders in the country, get to be chosen to illustrate this book? Heth explained in a telephone interview Monday that she knew Eversman through the world of social work, and Eversman was looking for someone to illustrate the book. Meanwhile, Avery happened to be visiting Heth, and Heth, knowing of her granddaughter's passion for drawing, and knowing of Eversman's search for an illustrator, asked Avery to draw some pictures. She showed Eversman the pictures, which drew rave reviews, and an illustrator was born.

A Westwood Elementary School fifth grader has illustrated a book. Avery Leigh Greider has provided the illustrations and cover design for *Draw Together: A Class Act*, written by Mary Ellen Eversman. Here is Avery with her father Jon Greider. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



This float in the Abbeville Christmas parade on Dec. 10 had a religious theme. The parade helped set the tone for the holiday season in Abbeville County. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Justice and mercy

William McNeil reflects on his time as a City of Abbeville judge

By Henry E. Green

Looking back on his time as a City of Abbeville municipal judge, William "Bill" McNeil has some advice.

To be successful in this job, he said, one needs two things--a large amount of common sense, and plenty of compassion for one's fellow man.

If you're a judge, you would do well to look at the people being brought before you and say, "There but for the grace of God go I."

In a small community, these are people that you are likely to see again in the grocery store.

A generous helping of humility would go well with the compassion--it is difficult, McNeil noted, to get angry at someone who is humble.

The City of Abbeville municipal judge will retire at the end of this year, ending a career which is replete with memories--mostly pleasant ones.

McNeil lives in Abbeville. "I grew up on North Main, at the corner of North Main and Hillcrest," he said.

For those of you who like to walk, you know that's a very special corner. That's where the Mile Rock is--one mile from the Square, that is.

Abbeville, mind you, has a plethora of McNeills--and McNeils.

"My first job--I worked with

George Settles at WABV," he went on to say.

Back in 1964, you had to have an FCC license to work at a radio station, and to tackle this item of business he boarded the train and went to Atlanta--all by himself.

That may not seem so remarkable, except that Bill was only about 15 years old.

"It wasn't that big a deal" back then, he said. Nowadays, one might think twice about letting a teenager go to the big city all by himself.

Back then, "we had regular schedule passenger train service," in Abbeville..

During high school and college, he also worked at what was then the Oxford Shop, a mens clothing store, on the Square.

Graduating from Abbeville High School, he went on to Erskine, where he majored in business.

"During the Vietnam War, I served four years in the Navy," he said. "I served most of my tour on destroyers."

He then returned to Abbeville. "I worked on the railroad for 21 years," he said.

In 1984 he went into business with Bill Prince in the real estate business, and he secured auctioneers, real estate, and appraisers licenses, and he bought the

ERA real estate franchise in 1988.

In 2003 he was appointed by the City to the position of municipal judge.

"And I've been here ever since," he said. "I've enjoyed every minute of it. I have worked with some wonderful people."

His wife Alice, to whom he has been married 50 years, has enjoyed a successful career in education, having been a teacher and administrator in Abbeville and McCormick counties.

They have two daughters--Melissa and Anne Marie. Melissa is married to Russ Cason and they have two daughters--Jordan, a freshman at Clemson, and Liz, a freshman at Ninety Six High School.

Anne Marie and her husband Arik, meanwhile, have three children--Claire, William, and Margaret.

As a municipal judge, he hears cases involving crimes for which the penalty is up to \$500 or 30 days in jail. "Anyone arrested by the City police appears in a municipal court within 24 hours for a bond hearing," he said.

Overall, he has enjoyed being a municipal judge.

"It's been a great experience," he said.



A blood drive was part of a Christmas event in the Watts community in rural Abbeville County. (Contributed photo)

Card of Thanks

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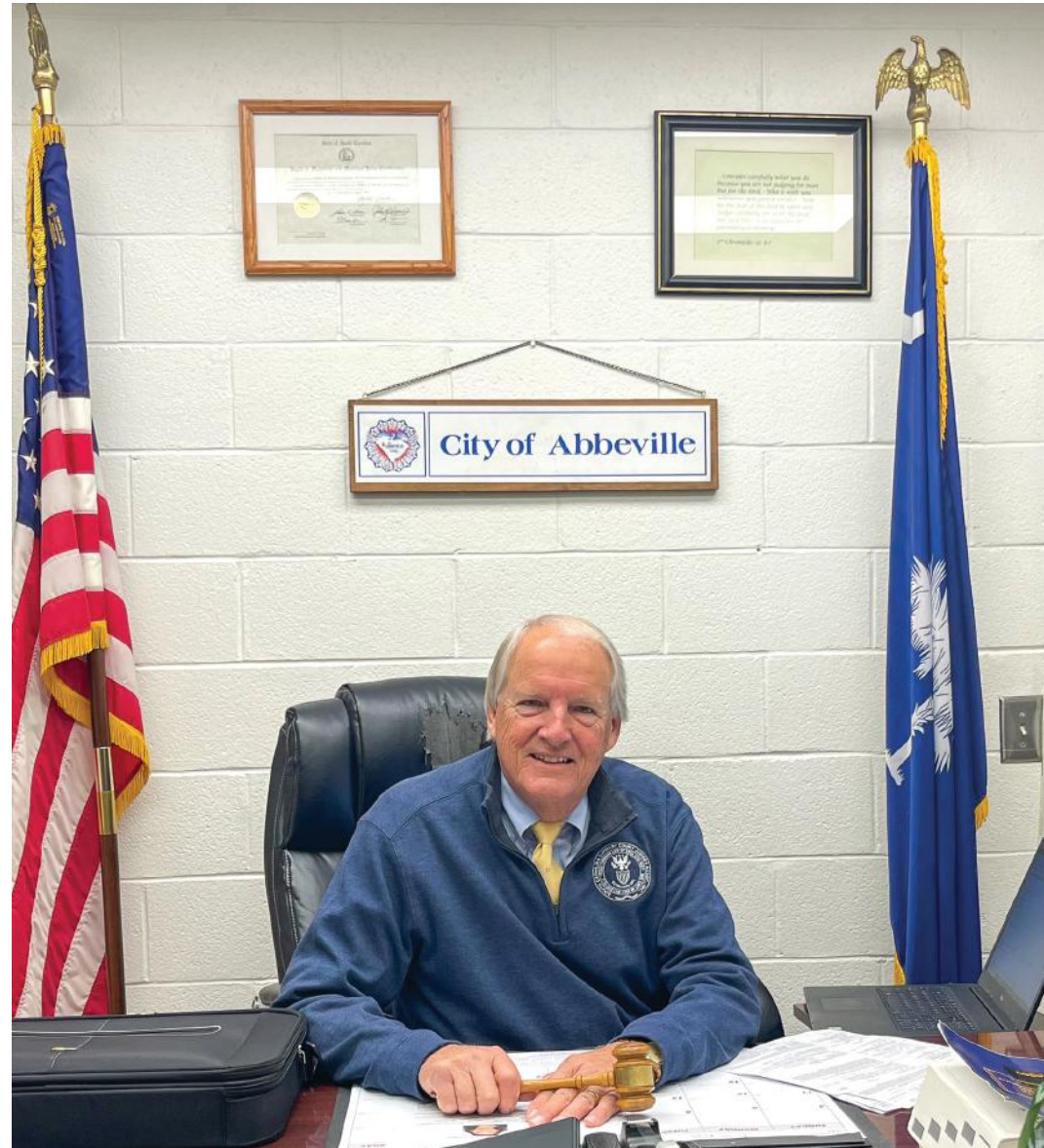
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William "Bill" McNeil is retiring as a municipal judge with the City of Abbeville. (Contributed photo)



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Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus highlighted the Christmas extravaganza held at the Watts Country Store in the Watts community of rural Abbeville County in early December. (Contributed photo)

Watts up?

It's Christmas joy at a country store

By Henry E. Green

Everybody loves a Christmas story.

That includes Amanda Banks Bungert, an Abbeville County resident who has a story to tell about a very special country store on Watts Road in the Watts community of rural Abbeville County.

"My parents, Kathy, and Johnny Banks, have been hosting the Santa event each year since 2016," she said.

The "Santa event?" Mrs. Bungert explained it all.

The Watts Country Store is on Watts Road in Abbeville, SC. It was my great grandparents' store and was built in the late 1800s. My parents still live there on Watts Road. At the Santa event, people can come bring their children to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and take a picture with him. Afterwards, they choose a treat or a snack and drink and can go outside and participate in any of the stations we

have set up."

Tasty things to eat and drink and a classic Christmas movie also helped set the tone for the gathering, which was held on the weekend of Dec. 3.

"We had a coffee and hot cocoa station and a boiled peanut stand," she said.

"We also had a projector movie set up playing 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' for all the kids.

"All of this event is free. You pay for nothing. All we ask is that you donate to whatever the charity or ministry we have chosen for the year.

"Each year we decide on a charity or ministry to take up donations for, since the event itself is free. A few places we have raised money and supplies for are the Abbeville Animal Shelter and the Gateway recovery house.

"This year was very special and close to our hearts because my brother, James Daniel Banks, lost his battle with stage 4 kidney cancer

at just 36-years-old. He passed away October 27 of this year."

Mrs. Bungert said that she and her family decided to conduct a blood drive, with the Blood Connection, in memory of her brother, and more than 33 people gave blood.

"We were able to raise over \$1,000 for the Potter's Place ministry in Central, SC, as well," she added.

The Lakelands Literacy Association gave books to all the children as well as had a craft for them to enjoy, according to Mrs. Bungert.

"Two Brews donated donuts and donut holes for everyone that donated blood and for the kids after they were able to visit with Santa," she added.

"It was a wonderful way to honor the memory of my brother. He would have been proud and we want everyone to know that ALL THE GLORY GOES TO GOD!!!"

Best Christmas EVER

Wishing peace, joy and fun to everyone who has made our year so memorable!

Thanks for your visits, and best wishes for a blessed holiday season.

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Floats like this one made the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade of Saturday, Dec. 3, a lively event. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Things I Have Left Undone

By Tom Poland

Each Christmas my mind goes back to a June day in Valdosta, Georgia. I was driving through slash pines to interview Robert “Bob” Clyatt. A defense lawyer, Bob represented employers and insurers. He was on the opposite side of Worker’s Comp’s injured workers.

I met Bob, a gracious man, and a beautiful story unfolded.

“I was taking a deposition from an injured worker,” said Bob, “and the deposition dragged on. I didn’t know his daughter was sitting in the lobby. The door burst open and here comes his little girl, same age as my youngest child.”

It was Christmas time and the little girl looked like a ragamuffin. “She stood between me and her daddy and put her arm around him. Here was this child who’s caught between the two forces in Worker’s Compensation—the injured worker and the employer/insurer. It struck me how her life would be forever changed. Her father had herniated discs, had very little education, and was never going to work again.”

Bob called the man’s attorney. “Let’s get that little girl some Christmas presents.”

Bob thought about the many kids whose injured parents couldn’t work. “Kids need a chance” kept going through his mind. He formed a corporation, Kids’ Chance, to help the kids of injured workers but ran into an IRS roadblock getting tax-deductible status. “Things crawled along and I put it on the back burner.”

Time passed.

One Sunday the preacher’s

sermon was *Things I Have Left Undone*. “The preacher said that if God has told you, and I don’t mean a booming voice coming down from Heaven,” said Bob, “but in so many ways He’s told you what He wants you to do and you know you’re supposed to do it, then it’s a sin if you don’t.”

The more the preacher



Angels come in many forms.

talked, the farther Bob slid down in his seat.

“He was talking to me.”

Bob got a copy of the sermon. “I read it every day fifteen times or more. I called the Internal Revenue Service and said, ‘Have you approved it?’ A lady said, ‘No, you’ve got problems.’ I said, ‘I’ll see you in the morning.’ She said, ‘Come if you want to but I’m not going to see you.’”

Bob got up at 4 a.m. and drove to Atlanta to the Internal Revenue Service. When the doors opened, he told them to tell the lady he was there. She came out. “We don’t need to meet,” she said, “I just approved it.”

“I was stunned,” said Bob.

“She took it off the back table

and saw that it was right. After we got the tax-deductible status, the money started coming in, and it took off.”

Kids’ Chance has spread to all 50 states. “We have people now who are lawyers, ministers, a doctor, a broad spectrum of people who’ve gone through school,” said Bob. “All they needed was a chance. I talked to a father who walks with a cane. We gave his daughter a scholarship. The man said, ‘You’ll never know what effect this has had on our family.’ He broke down, and I had to get up and go to the bathroom. I started crying. I thought I can do more since there are so many hours in the day when I’m not doing something. There are thousands of children out there we could be helping.”

The money comes from lawyers and other contributors. “God’s given them a certain amount of ability,” said Bob, “and if it’s to graduate from high school or to be a plumber or a heart surgeon or whatever, as a Christian I have an obligation to do everything I can do to help them.”

People tell Bob all the time that Kids’ Chance was his idea but he knows better. “It was God’s idea and for some reason he chose me to do it.”

Kids’ Chance started when a little angel, worried about her injured daddy, ran into Bob Clyatt’s office. That was 34 years ago of rescued opportunities and many a second chance at life. (Since 1988, Kids’ chance organizations have awarded over 9,300 scholarships totaling over \$33.2 million.)

Photograph by Tom Poland



“You’re a mean one, Mr. Grinch!” The famous Dr. Seuss character waved to onlookers at the recent Abbeville Christmas parade as it passed through Court Square. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Signs of Christmas are everywhere, bringing to mind all the kind people we’ve had the privilege to serve this year, and so we offer our best wishes to all the familiar faces that make the holiday season so special for us.

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Mr. Peanut, also known as Tim Wilhelm, was traveling to Florida, and he passed through Abbeville recently. The Ohio resident dressed as Mr. Peanut, knowing it would make people smile. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Mr. Peanut pays visit to downtown Abbeville

By Henry E. Green
You had to see it to believe it.

There was Mr. Peanut in downtown Abbeville Wednesday.

Right before we began taking pictures on court Square for a Pearl Harbor Day program presented by local veterans, we spotted Mr. Peanut nearby.

The photo opportunity was too much to pass up, so we took a picture of the beloved legume and he gave us his card.

"Rickshaw Willie's LLC", it proclaimed. "Akron's #1 Rickshaw Service--Helping Akron Go Green!"

At the bottom of the card was the statement, "You can't lose when you take a cruise on a rickshaw."

We spoke briefly with Mr. Peanut, said he was retired, and travels considerably--and then the Pearl Harbor Day program began.

A number of people had their pictures taken with him. Phyllis Davis, an Abbeville merchant who runs Abbeville Vintage Market, posed

with Mr. Peanut inside her store.

He posed also with Abbeville Police Department assistant chief Nick Moore.

"I did not get his name," said Moore Thursday. However, he did say that Mr. Peanut told him he was travelling from Akron, Ohio, to Florida, and in the course of his journey he came upon Abbeville, which he thought was a "neat little town", and he put on his Mr. Peanut costume and walked around town.

"I wasn't about to pass up an opportunity to get my picture taken with him," said Moore.

The Assistant Chief posed for a photo on Washington Street.

Meanwhile, the next day we found some YouTube videos featuring Rickshaw Willie, and we also called the number on the card he gave us.

On the voice mail, he identified himself as Tim Wilhelm, and on a YouTube video he talked about the joys of riding his pedicab

around downtown Akron, which he described as a beautiful, safe place.

Wilhelm called back and said Thursday that he sold the rickshaw several years ago.

"I've been to 23 different states, and more than 100 cities," since he retired, he said.

Wilhelm noted that he used to drive the rickshaw in parades. He bought two Mr. Peanut costumes several years ago.

"I did it for the parade," he said.

This 67-year old retired truck driver has found that Mr. Peanut has a way of making fiends.

"It just makes everybody smile," he said.

Tim lives in Norton, Ohio, near Akron, and he has a wife and two daughters. He loves to travel on the backroads of America--his journeys have taken him everywhere from Graceland to Plains, GA, to the Spam museum in Minnesota.

"Everybody loves Mr. Peanut," he said.

Various offices will be closed for Christmas

By Henry E. Green
Christmas falls on a Sunday this year.

Government offices are usually closed for Christmas, but since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, how will that affect plans for closings?

Abbeville County School District is on winter break and students will return to school on January 4, and

teachers on Jan. 3., a District spokesperson said.

City of Abbeville administrative offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26.

Due West Town Hall will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, and Tuesday, Dec. 27, according to a Town spokesperson.

Town of Calhoun Falls

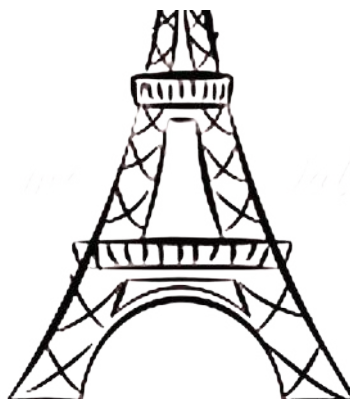
administrative offices will be closed on Friday, Dec 23, and Monday, Dec 26, and Tuesday, Dec. 27.

The same will hold true for Abbeville County government administrative offices. Those offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, and Tuesday, Dec. 27, according to reports.

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SC House Of Representatives
District 11



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Blake Stone, City Manager
Fran Strickland Anderson, Asst. City Manager



Brandon Burdette is the principal of Wright Middle School in Abbeville. (Photo courtesy of Brandon Burdette)

Doing it Wright

WMS principal Brandon Burdette enjoys an “awesome occupation”

By Henry E. Green

In the halls of Wright Middle School, Brandon Burdette is hard to miss.

It's safe to say that the Wright Middle School principal would never be chosen to play one of the Munchkins in a revival of “The Wizard of Oz.”

“I have not measured myself in a while but last I remember I was somewhere between 6'6 and 6'7,” he said.

If you're thinking that he played basketball at some point in his life, you would be right.

“I played basketball throughout high school as well as other sports,” he said.

Born in Greenwood, he grew up in Donalds, and graduated from Dixie, and then went on to Erskine, where he majored in education and received a BS in Special Education in 2006.

Education, in fact, has been the professional focus of his life of his years, even before he came to Wright Middle School, where he is in his second year as principal.

“I spent three years teaching and coaching at Crescent High School,” he said. “I moved to Greenwood High School where I taught for seven years and coached football. In 2015, I accepted an assistant principal job at Emerald High School. I remained in that position for six years before becoming the principal at Wright Middle School.”

WMS, located on the outskirts of Abbeville, has approximately 350 students and is Abbeville County's only middle school. Being the principal of a middle school must definitely carry with it its own set of challenges and opportunities.

“It is an awesome occupation to have,” Burdette said. “As a principal, I have the opportunity to get to know every student and watch them grow. Being the principal is great but an impossible job without a great faculty and staff. I have some of the best educators working at WMS that I have ever worked with. Without support from

my assistant principal, support staff, teachers, community, and parents, this would be a much more difficult job. Abbeville County has been my home my entire life and is the best place to work in the state.”

There are challenges, of course.

“The biggest concern that I have is for the success of my students and teachers,” he said. “A lot of times in this profession you can hit a wall and feel like you are pedaling on a stationary bike and moving nowhere. For any educator that is in this field for the right reasons, you always worry about your students—not only concerned about their grades and success in school but also as a person. Being able to see a student years down the road and hear that they are successful and safe is motivation to continue.”

Burdette and his wife Ruth have been married 16 years, and they have two children—14-year-old Logan and 11-year-old Brantley—and they all reside in Abbeville County.

CROSSWORD

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: VACATION DESTINATIONS

- ACROSS**
- Walt Whitman's dooryard plant
 - Bag, à Paris
 - Sound of astonishment
 - Smell of baking bread, e.g.
 - Self-importance
 - Ma Bell, e.g.
 - List of Catholic saints
 - Bobbsey twin
 - Donor's bequest
 - *Country to see Stonehenge
 - *Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle
 - Tokyo, in the olden days
 - Way off freeway
 - Gremlin or pixie
 - Assistant
 - Crunches alternative (2 words)
 - Mountain lake
 - Thailand, pre-1939
 - Parlor piece
 - *Maldives continent
 - Plaudit and pomp
 - Unadulterated
 - Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
 - Red carpet purse
 - Pelvic bones
 - Gives way under force
 - Like acne-prone skin
 - Pose a question
 - Letter opener
 - Morse code dash
 - *Grand Canyon state
 - *Broadway state
 - Loaded
 - Marbled bread
 - Bad car
 - South Pacific sailboats
 - "_____ Milk?"
 - Related on mother's side
 - Unload on eBay
 - Gilligan's home
 - Tap, e.g.

- DOWN**
- Spike, as in punch
 - Iraq's neighbor
 - Like a maxi skirt
 - Soap plant
 - *One of two countries to see Niagara Falls
 - Mail a package
 - Agha, alt. sp.
 - Gloria Estefan's hit
 - Disease-causing organism
 - One of algae
 - Diagnostic test
 - One-trick ungulate?
 - Sluggish
 - _____canceling earbuds
 - RE/MAX agent, e.g.
 - *Amalfi Coast country
 - Kenyan tribesman
 - Amazon "club"
 - Vegas cube
 - Cone-shaped quarters
 - Throat dangler
 - *Mona Lisa city
 - Go stealthily
 - Nervous biting victim
 - *Haleakalā island
 - Accent mark
 - Software plug-ins
 - Barack Obama, pre-pres.
 - Wailed
 - Frustration, in a comic book
 - Laughing African predator
 - *Swiss or Italian skiing destination
 - Steak option
 - "White Wedding" Billy
 - Eagerness
 - Post-deductions amount
 - Yemen's neighbor
 - College cadet program
 - ACL location
 - Uncle Sam wanted this

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Return to your Bible

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;”

— Acts 17: 26-27 (NKJV)



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Invite Songbirds to Your Winter Garden

by Melinda Myers

Winter has many birds searching for food. Lend a helping hand by starting, continuing, or expanding your bird-feeding efforts.

If you are not able to plant a shepherd's crook in the ground to hang your feeder, look for other options. Sturdy tree branches, hooks and supports used for summer hanging baskets, and deck railings are a few possibilities.

Recycle your Christmas tree into a bird shelter and feeder after the holidays. Move it outdoors and decorate it with slices of oranges, strands of cranberries, and other songbird treats.

Place bird feeders within three feet and no more than 30 feet away from your home to reduce the risk of deadly window collisions. Further reduce the risk by hanging streamers in front of the windows or placing decals on the windows.

Select locations with nearby trees and shrubs that provide songbirds with a quick escape from predators. Avoid low-growing shrubs that provide cover for outdoor cats that kill over a billion songbirds each year.

Avoid excessively windy, wet, or otherwise exposed areas that may discourage birds from visiting your feeders. Provide a bit more shelter from the elements by fastening an evergreen bough above the feeder.

Add a source of water to support and attract a wide variety of birds. Those in colder areas will need a bubbler, heater, or aerator to prevent the water from freezing. As always, it is

important to keep your bird-bath clean.

Purchase quality birdseed mixes. These may cost more but contain a higher percentage of seeds the birds like to eat. This means more quality seed for each dollar spent. Many cheaper brands fill their mixes with milo, oats, and wheat that the birds tend to discard in favor of more desirable seeds in the mix.

Use a variety of seeds and feeders to attract a diverse group of birds. And don't forget about ground feeders like juncos, quails, and mourning doves.

Black oil sunflower seeds are a favorite of cardinals, buntings, chickadees, finches, grosbeaks, jays, juncos, nuthatches, titmice, and woodpeckers. They are also a favorite of squirrels. Install squirrel baffles if you don't want these critters devouring all your bird seed. Or use safflower seeds instead to keep cardinals, grosbeaks, finches, doves, and sparrows happy instead of the squirrels.

Nyjer thistle is a favorite of finches, goldfinches, siskins, and buntings. Purchase fresh seed and use a feeder that keeps it dry. Finches and others will tend to avoid stale and wet Nyjer thistle seed.

White millet is another popular seed and a favorite of ground feeders such as juncos, siskins, and towhees. You will also find cardinals, finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows feasting on them.

Nuts and cracked corn attract Jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and brown creepers. Mix them with other seeds or include a

specially designed nut feeder in your landscape.

Suet is an excellent food for woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, and jays. You may even find other birds like wrens and cardinals visiting your suet feeders.

Help the birds find new sources of food by sprinkling some seed on the ground near the feeders. If birds dine on the scattered seed but still don't visit the feeders, keep leading them closer with additional seed.

Keep your feeders clean and filled so the birds know there is a reliable source of food. If your feeders go empty, it may take a few days to attract them back to your yard.

Evaluate your existing landscape and look for opportunities for adding new plants that provide food, shelter, and nesting spaces for birds. Creating a more bird-friendly landscape helps increase the number and variety of winged visitors. Their presence adds color and motion to the winter landscape and watching them will help lift your spirits.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the Christmas season and its unique meaning to each of us, we can appreciate the multitude of our blessings. For these many gifts we offer our humble thanks to God.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator from Senate District 4. I am aware and sincerely appreciative of your trust, as evidenced by your electing me to attend the responsibilities of this office. It will always be my utmost endeavor to be deserving of your trust and I am quite sure the experience and seniority I have acquired during my years of service enable me to more effectively serve both you and our great state of South Carolina.

As we enter into the New Year and I return to Columbia for the next session of the State Legislature, I assure you that I will always be attentive to my duties and aware of my responsibility to you and to our great state. I and my family wish you and yours the very best Christmas ever and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2022.

Mike Gambrell
State Senator, District 4

Nature's way

Carol Rondeau of Abbeville talks about the power of 'healing teas'



Carol Rondeau recently presented a program at the Abbeville County Library's "alt room" about "healing teas." (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

By Henry E. Green

Ah, a nice, soothing cup of tea.

It may have the power to lift your spirits, but did you know that it may have the power to heal?

Just ask Carol Rondeau of Abbeville, who gave a presentation at the Abbeville County Library recently about healing teas.

Simply put, different kinds of tea are good for fighting different ailments.

It all starts with what Rondeau calls "base teas"—typically herbal teas, which do not have caffeine, so you can drink them any time.

It turns out, according to Rondeau, that you can add various plants to these "base teas" to help fight ailments ranging from allergies to irritable bowel syndrome.

"Nettles are great for allergies," she said.

Then, there's mullein.

"Mullein is a plant that is perfectly fine with teas," she said.

It also, according to Rondeau, has medicinal properties.

"It's great for lung support," she said.

Carol recalled that her husband used to get bronchitis every year, but she found a way to fix that.

"In December I start feeding him mullein to keep his lungs clear," she said. "He hasn't been in the ER in two years."

Mullein has another use. "It makes great toilet paper," she said. "It's got these big fuzzy leaves."

Similarly, peppermint and ginger are good for digestive issues, and dandelions are effective in fighting gall bladder concerns, although Rondeau says not to use dandelions if you have an Aster allergy. Chamomile can help tackle irritable bowel syndrome, but the same cautionary note about the Aster allergy applies.

Lemon balm can help fight a hyperactive thyroid, and uva ursi and corn silk can

tackle urinary tract infections.

Lemon balm, echinacea, and rose hips can strengthen the immune system, and fennel can help combat constipation.

Troubled by anxiety? Try chamomile, St. John's Wort or skullcap. Again, Rondeau cautions against using chamomile or St. John's wort if you have an Aster allergy, and she says not to use skullcap during pregnancy or if you are nursing.

Milk thistles and dandelions are good for your liver, and ginger and turmeric have an anti-inflammatory nature.

"Pretty much the basis of all our illnesses is inflammation," she said.

Rondeau and her husband Ed run Cedar Ridge Farm Apothecary at 914 Haigler Street in Abbeville.

Carol has given a number of presentations in the Abbeville area about the power of herbs.

Warmth & Wonder

at this magical time of year

Beautiful and peaceful, merry and bright too, that's the kind of season we're wishing for you. May it find you surrounded by laughter and friends, contentment and cheer, from beginning to end.

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Merry Christmas!

We'd like to take a moment, to let you know just how very much we value your friendship. May you and your family be blessed with the gift of health, wealth, happiness and harmony this Christmas season.

Sue Simpson
Abbeville County Auditor

All Eyes on Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like our favorite time of year, and we hope your Christmas is a vision of happiness!

Thanks for visiting us in 2020. Best wishes to you and yours!

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Merry Christmas



Thank you from each team member at Stoll Industries! We are so grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and raise our families in this community.

Abbeville County Cattlemen's Association Cattleman of The Year Award

Submitted by Dale Wilson

Wayne Ashley is the recipient of the 2022 Abbeville County Cattleman's Association Cattleman of the Year award. Wayne is a man with community spirit and willingness to help and to work whenever or wherever needed. He is active in his church, his fire department, the Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Association, WoodmenLife, and much more. Wayne served our country for 6 years in US Army Reserve. He works his farm and cattle in a cooperative spirit of working with friends and neighbors. Wayne is good at getting the job done with less time and encourages all to work together. Some examples are spreading lime, baling hay, moving equipment, working cattle, and helping fix "things". It is never a "me" question in all of this but an "us" attitude.

The system of controlled breeding that he uses is truly amazing as one bull covers the multiple herds on his farm and several friends on schedule. The timing and dates of bull movement are a yearly pattern.

Even without a higher degree, Wayne is a true teacher and educator. He has spent over 40 years educating all of us on the proper use of farm equipment and how to use it and even more so how NOT to use it. If you broke it, he can likely fix it. Wayne is an expert welder, fabricator, and resourceful engineer when it comes to figuring out things or fixing equipment. But don't go to him after doing something stupid and expect a pat on the back. You will get clear instructions on how to not do that again. That is a valuable trait and not a negative one.

He has served as an advisor to the directors of the Cattlemen's Association and fabricated many

livestock handling devices and modified a grill. We all benefit from his work when we eat those good grilled steaks at the Abbeville County Agriculture Complex. Wayne also served as President of Abbeville County Farm Bureau, presently serving as Farm Bureau Treasurer, and held many positions at Cold Springs Fire Dept., currently serving as safety coordinator. Wayne has volunteered for over 40 years as a firefighter. He serves as Chairman at Beulah Baptist Church. Wayne dedicated 40+ years of service maintaining and scheduling the Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation District's no-till drills, lime spreader, and more.

He receives a lot of help from his children, grandchildren, and favorite dog "Charlie".

Congratulations to Wayne and his wife Jannie.

Wayne Ashley is the recipient of the 2022 Abbeville County Cattleman's Association Cattleman of the Year award. Wayne is a man with community spirit and willingness to help and to work whenever or wherever needed. (Photo contributed)



Now you know

That quotation at the top of the front page has a story behind it

By Henry E. Green

If you look at the top of the front page of The Press and Banner, you will see a quotation.

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

You may or may not be wondering who said it, but the quotation is actually attributed to a man by the name of Learned Hand.

According to Wikipedia, the quotation is part of the

"Spirit of Liberty" speech which Hand, a judge, gave in 1944.

A jurist, a lawyer, and judicial philosopher, Hand served as federal trial judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York from 1909 to 1924. He also served as a federal appellate judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1924 to 1951.

Born in 1872 and raised in Albany, New York, he graduated from Harvard.

The "Spirit of Liberty" speech, meanwhile, was given by Hand in Central Park, New York in May of 1944.

It was all part of the annual "I Am An American Day" event, in which newly naturalized citizens swore the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hand died in 1961. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, a collection of Hand's speeches and papers has been edited and collected as *The Spirit of Liberty*.



Abbeville Police Assistant Chief Nick Moore had his picture taken with "Mr. Peanut," also known as Tim Wilhelm stopped in Abbeville. (Photo courtesy of Nick Moore)

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Section B December 21, 2022

Lamar West
Riley West
Lynne West
Henry Green
David Lawrence
Shawn Knox
Amanda Smith

Shirley Simpson
Sue Simmons
Jennifer Gambrell
Kathy Kuenzer
Ray Bowie
Betty Davis

**From The
 Press & Banner Staff**



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, also known as Mr. and Mrs. Tim Dixon, graced the Calhoun Falls Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

City of Abbeville awarded grant for park

By Henry E. Green
 The City of Abbeville has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to improve the Chestnut Street Park, Abbeville City Council learned Wednesday night. The City was notified by Upper Savannah Council of Governments that it has been awarded \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Chestnut Park Improvements project, Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone told City Council. The project will consist of two playground areas and

an open air pavilion. Work on the project is expected to begin in late 2023 or early 2024. The City will be submitting a 10 percent match, with the funding for the match expected to come out of the City's hospitality fund. In other matters Wednesday night, Chief Municipal Judge Edward Strickland was sworn into office by William H. McNeil, City Judge. After he was sworn in, Strickland praised McNeil, who is retiring, as a friend and a mentor. Strickland's wife Alice

stood beside him as he was sworn in. There was also a proclamation from the City to honor the Christmas Angel Tree program. Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards read aloud the proclamation to Lori Glace, who directs the project, and gave her a copy. The Christmas Angel Tree project has been providing joy to boys and girls in the Abbeville community and beyond for more than three decades.

City begins process to re-license City's dam

By Henry E. Green
 The City of Abbeville is in the process of applying for a renewal of the license it has to operate the Lake Secession Dam, according to Tim Hall, the City's director of public utilities. The dam aids in "electric system sustainability" for the City of Abbeville, supplying electricity for "peak shaving" periods. The license, meanwhile is issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It is set to expire in 2027, and the City has begun the

process of applying for a renewal—a process which is expected to take approximately five years. The City is working with the firm of Klein Schmidt, a "hydro consulting group" which has offices in Greenville and Columbia, and has a "specialty in the re-licensing process," Hall continued. The firm will help the City gather data relating to the operation of the "powerhouse, the dam, and the recreational aspects of the body of water that is Lake Secession," he said.

The City has already submitted a notice of intent to re-license, and a "preliminary application document." This was filed with the Washington, D.C. regulatory office of FERC on Nov. 29, he said. "This is a process which all operational hydros must adhere to under FERC and the Department of Energy," he said. FERC is a division of the U.S. Department of Energy. The license is a 30 year license, Hall continued.

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The Lowndesville Christmas parade was held on Sunday, Dec. 18. This float was all part of the fun. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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City transportation projects move forward

By Henry E. Green

"Infrastructure" seemed to be the operative word Wednesday night, at the Abbeville City Council meeting, as a number of transportation projects which the City has launched took a step forward.

The Raymond /Johnson Road bid was approved. The City received bids from firms on Nov. 10 for construction on the Raymond/Johnson CTC Road Improvement Project. Only one responsive bid was received, and that was from Satterfield Construction, which submitted a base bid of \$164,390, City Manager Blake Stone told Council.

Council granted Stone permission to enter into a contract with Satterfield Construction.

The Adams Drive Park bid was also approved.

The City received bids on Wednesday, Dec. 7, for the Adams Drive Basketball Court and Steps Project. One bid was received on the project--B&K Grading, which submitted a base bid of \$35,784.84, and Council granted Stone approval to award the contract for the

base bid to B&K Grading &Paving.

Mayor Trey Edwards recused himself from voting, since he works for B&K, and turned the meeting over temporarily to Mayor Pro Tem Benji Greeson to provide over the vote, and Edwards left the City Council chambers and then returned after the vote was completed.

Council was informed of CTC funding for Maple, Brooks, and Standpipe.

On Oct. 26, the City submitted a CTC funding application to Abbeville County for \$570,000, Stone told Council.

The request was made to provide funding for rehabilitation on the following streets--Standpipe, Brooks and Maple--Stone continued.

On Nov. 14, the County Transportation Committee awarded the City \$570,000 for the project, which is expected to begin in the fall of 2023 with bids coming to Council for final approval, according to City Manager Blake Stone.

The members of the County Transportation Commit-

tee are the same as those of County Council, and the CTC allocates money for transportation projects here in Abbeville County, with funding generated from a state fuel tax, according to reports.

Council was given an update on the 2023 Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Abbeville Planning Commission will meet January 3, Jan. 24, and Feb. 21 to review the City's Draft Comprehensive Plan.

"These meetings are open to the public and the draft Comprehensive Plan document will be available on the City's Website," Stone went on to say.

Council discussed, but took no action, on purchasing 3.2 acres of property on Branch Street.

Council went into executive session to discuss three topics--an appointment to a public body, a discussion of residential garbage collection, City events and festivals.

No resulting action was taken following executive session.



Josh Fox (right) was recently named the Conservative Farmer of the Year. He was presented with the award at the Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation District Christmas dinner recently by Conservation District chairman Fred Raines (left). (Photo courtesy of Melody Coursey)



Edna Faggart and her beloved pooch were among the participants in the recent Abbeville Christmas parade. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



The Lowndesville Christmas parade was held on Sunday, Dec. 18, and made its way through the community on a cold, cold day. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Blessings Of The Season

May your home be filled with His light and love this holiday season and may the spirit of Christmas burn brightly in your heart for a long time to come.

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Alan Hughes and Staff

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Abbeville held its Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 10. Floats like this one made their way through Court Square. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

a Word from "THE WORD"

Rev. Dr. John Keith



jkeithfbca@gmail.com

Christmas

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us."

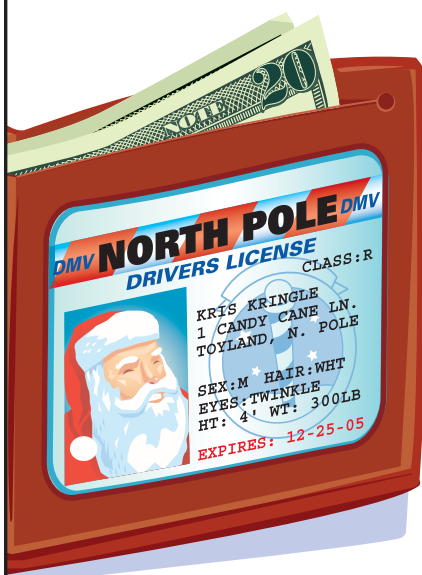
The story is told of two missionaries who were held for ransom by bandits in the hills of Columbia. They were kept captive in a squalid hut. Kept under armed guard, they were forbidden to speak to one another. Yet on Christmas day, one missionary intently worked with pieces of hay that were there on the hard clay floor. When he had finished, he stepped back and showed the other missionary his finished product. In the dim light of the hut, the other missionary smiled broadly as there in the straw arranged on the floor was the single word, "Immanuel." Which means, of course, God with us." Even in that dark, dreary, squalid hut in captivity the word "Immanuel" brought comfort and joy to them. Think about that name—"Immanuel"—God with us. What does that mean to you. Let me share some things that

name means to me. First of all, when I think of Immanuel it gives me comfort. It gives me comfort to know that I am not alone in this world. Even if there are no other human beings with me, I am not alone because God is with me. What a comfort to know that no matter what happens to me personally or in the world around me, God is with me. When I am in physical pain, God is with me. When I am in emotional pain, God is with me. When I am afraid, God is with me. That thought gives me great comfort. Secondly, when I think of the name Immanuel, it encourages me. When I think about Jesus coming into this world, taking on human flesh, it encourages me to know that because of that He understands the human condition. Jesus knows what it is like to get tired, to get hungry, to feel the grief of losing

a loved one. Since He has experienced the same things He is not only aware of what I am going through but He knows how to help me when I experience these things. Thirdly, when I think of Immanuel it gives me courage. If God is with me, who can be against me? If God is with me, together we will be able to overcome any obstacle or defeat any adversary. Knowing that God is with me gives me the courage to face impossible odds, to tackle impossible tasks, to scale any mountain no matter how high and scary it might be. Folks, lets face it. We live in dark and terrible times. Take courage in the fact that God is with us. He knows how difficult it is right now. He knows exactly how we feel. Take comfort and courage from the fact that God is with us in these difficult times.

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Blessings At Christmas

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The organization's first food drive of this kind, the "Give Big, Get Gig" initiative asked customers to donate at least three nonperishable food items for area food pantries in return for receiving a complimentary speed boost to WCTEL's premier speed tier, 1 Gigabit, for the month of December. (Photo contributed)

WCTEL's Give Big, Get Gig Holiday Drive generates 2 tons of food donations

Submitted by
Jess Tollison

Abbeville, S.C. -- When WCTEL asked its customers and members to give big, people listened.

The organization's first food drive of this kind, the "Give Big, Get Gig" initiative asked customers to donate at least three nonperishable food items for area food pantries in return for receiving a complimentary speed boost to WCTEL's premier speed tier, 1 Gigabit, for the month of December.

"We are fortunate to be in a position where we reach thousands of customers throughout western South Carolina," says Jeff Wilson, WCTEL CEO. "It's a pow-

erful statement to see so many people step up in a way that benefits their fellow neighbors and citizens so significantly."

The campaign, which supported food pantries in Abbeville County, Greenwood County, McCormick County, Iva, and Newberry, generated nearly 3 tons of food donations. Donations were collected throughout the month of November at WCTEL offices and donated equally across all five areas on Friday, Dec. 9 during a company-wide coordinated effort.

"Our customers don't need an incentive to give; but, we also wanted to thank them. December can be a busy time for everyone," Wilson

says. "Guests and family members fill up homes, many of which are connecting to Wi-Fi as they play games, stream their favorite shows, work from home and hook up new home security equipment. If we can help their holiday experience by giving them a little speed boost in exchange for helping their fellow neighbors, it's a no-brainer."

Supported pantries included

- UCMAC
- Food Bank of Greenwood County
- Iva Food Bank
- McCormick Helping Hands United
- Newberry Living Hope Foundation Food Pantry

How to Work Out Without Excuses

(StatePoint Media)

It's all-too-common for those embarking on a regular exercise routine to skip a planned workout for one reason or another. Here are some of the most common excuses that people make not to exercise, along with some solutions to overcome these challenges:

"I need low-impact exercises." Many traditional workouts are tough on joints, which over time, can cause over-use injuries or exacerbate existing conditions. To achieve your fitness goals pain-free, consider low-impact exercises such as yoga, swimming and elliptical machines.

"I don't have the space to work out at home." Whether you live in a small apartment or just can't dedicate too much space to a home gym, there's good news. Certain manufacturers of exercise equipment have your back and are developing versatile, sleek fitness equipment to address your needs. At less than 23 pounds, the Cubii Total Body+ (available now for pre-order) is a good example of a compact machine offering a low-impact, approachable and achievable workout that targets everything from abs and arms to quads and calves. With a low-impact motion, you

can hit eight key muscle groups using one machine. Its elliptical component features 12 resistance levels that can be adjusted from your phone, and its resistance bands range from 2 to 7 pounds, allowing you, to tone, sculpt and strengthen your upper body, no matter what your fitness level is.

"I'm not seeing results." If you've been working out for a little while and haven't seen immediate results, don't get discouraged. Whether your fitness goal centers around weight loss or getting toned, it's important to remember that little changes add up over time.

"I'm just not motivated." If keeping the exercise spark alive is difficult, consider turning to tech. New apps that connect to your equipment via Bluetooth, like the Cubii App, can send you reminders to get moving, as well as help you track your goals. They can also help you stay accountable by allowing you to connect with a fitness community and compete with friends, or join live and on-demand classes.

"I don't have any time." Between work, family and other commitments, finding the time to hit the gym for an hour or more isn't always possible. But practicing self-care and prioritizing your own health and wellness is essential. What you may not realize is that a high-quality workout doesn't need to happen in a specific place or re-

quire a lot of time. In fact, some forms of exercise can occur while you're working or watching TV. What's more, even a short burst of activity is very beneficial to getting you strong, boosting your metabolism and energy, and improving your mood. That's where a great versatile piece of equipment for the home or office can come into play.

For example, unlike a traditional standalone piece of fitness equipment, the Cubii Total Body+ is a 2-in-1 system that combines cardio with upper body strength training for a full-body workout you can do anytime, anywhere. To learn more about how to get active today, visit cubii.com.

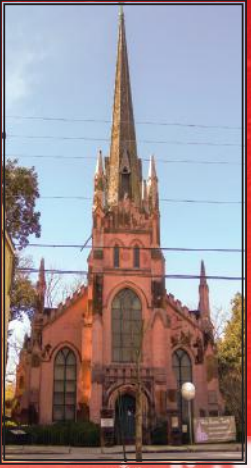
Creating a new exercise habit can be an uphill struggle, especially if you are short on time, space or motivation. Luckily, new tools are emerging that can help you work out without excuses.



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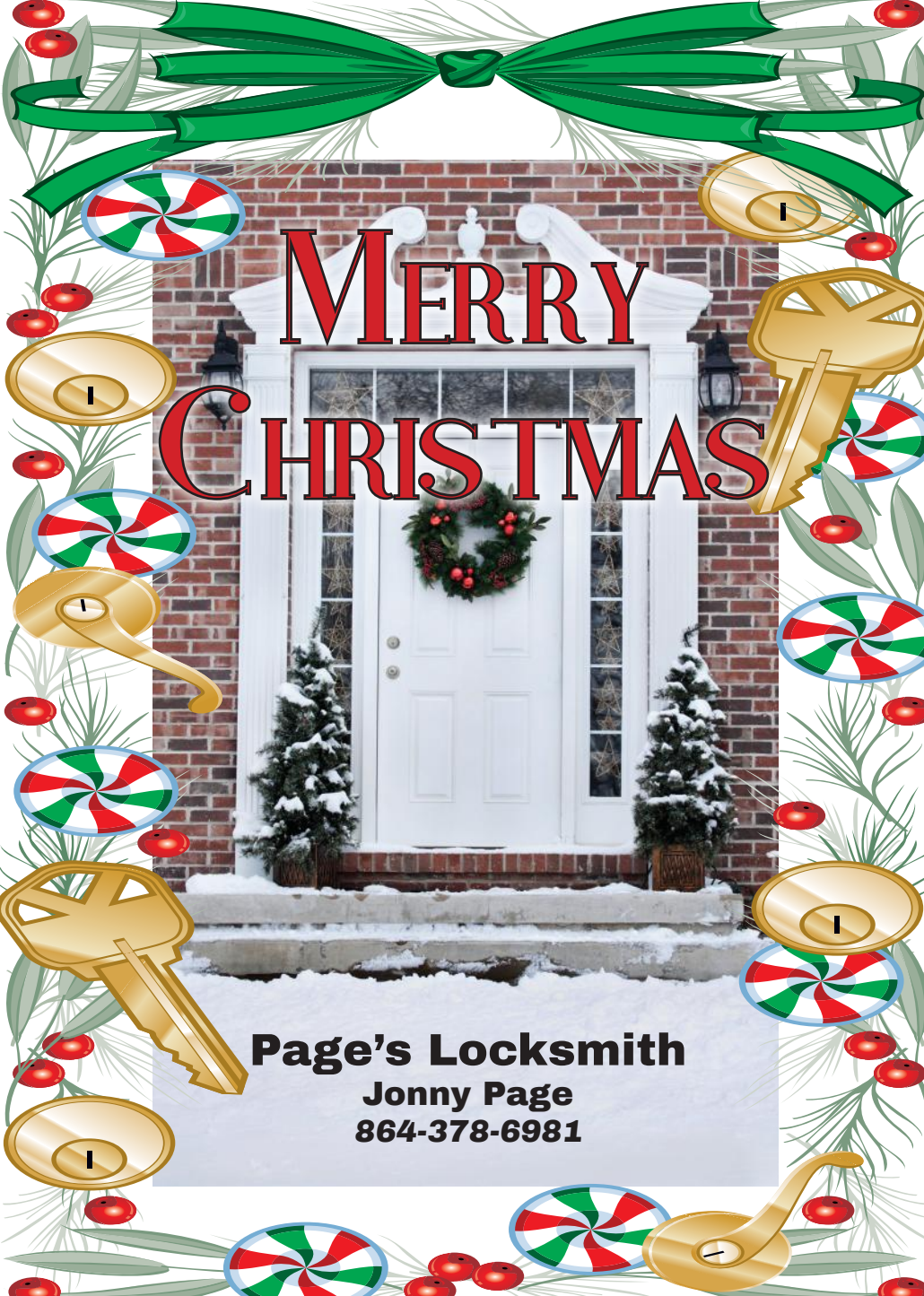
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Abbeville man faces drug charges

An Abbeville man is facing drug charges following an incident Monday on Railroad Street, according to an Abbeville Police Department incident report.

According to the incident report, Devin Vance Ethridge, 27, of 201 Railroad Street was arrested on Dec. 19, after two Police officers went to his house Monday evening "in reference to an active Fentanyl overdose." "Dispatch advised us that the male subject, later identified as Devin Ethridge, had made a female leave the house and he locked the door, right before using Fentanyl," according to the report.

Dispatch had advised the officers that there had been

an emergency call to the same address approximately one month before.

Both officers attempted to make contact with Ethridge by knocking on the door, windows and announcing their presence a number of times with no response.

"Given the seriousness of the situation and the exigent circumstances present", one of the officers "forcibly made entry into the house," the report continued.

They located Ethridge, who they said was lying "unconscious and unresponsive" on his bed.

One of the officers made a sternum rub on Ethridge, "and within seconds he woke up", and EMS entered the house, and "determined

that he was OK."

One of the officers observed what were believed to be narcotics nearby, the report continued.

"Due to the Plain View Doctrine, and our prior valid entry given the nature of the call and exigent circumstances leading us to believe that failure to make a forced entry would cause loss of life, all narcotics that were in plain sight were seized as evidence and Mr. Ethridge was arrested and warrants will be sought for trafficking Methamphetamine due to the total weight equaling 11.4 grams and PWID schedule 1-4 for the blue Fentanyl pills that are marked as Oxycodone," the report continued.



These ladies are weaving baskets, in their roles as townspeople of Bethlehem in "Walk through Bethlehem," performed recently at Cold Spring Mennonite Church. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Agreement Enhances Transfer of PTC-Graduated Registered Nurses to Lander Baccalaureate Nursing Program

Submitted by
Graham Duncan

When shifts change at any health care facility, it's essential to have an efficient handoff of information and responsibility between staff who are leaving and those coming in. An agreement signed recently by officials from Piedmont Technical College (PTC) and Lander University is designed to facilitate a smooth handoff of PTC Registered Nurse (RN)-licensed Associate Degree Nursing graduates who transfer into the Lander Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) Program.

"Ultimately, the goal our institutions share is to provide the best patient care possible to our communities, delivered by the most qualified professionals we can produce," said Tara Gonce, PTC dean of health care. "In South Carolina, the overall supply of qualified nurses still falls short of current demand, so the need persists. This agreement is a monumental step in addressing

nursing workforce supply issues in our state."

"The call for registered nurses to achieve higher levels of education is driven by the increasing complexity of healthcare," added Dr. Holisa Wharton, dean of the William Preston Turner School of Nursing at Lander University. "Having taught nursing at PTC for 7 years prior to coming to Lander, I know the high caliber of registered nurses produced by both programs. PTC provides the critical foundational nursing education and Lander will provide a rich liberal arts environment to advance nursing knowledge through coursework in evidence-based practice (research), community health, advanced assessment skills, leadership and professional development."

The articulation agreement is a powerful way to enhance the transfer of students from PTC to Lander. Under its terms, PTC students who are RNs and meet transfer requirements will be guaranteed admission and priority acceptance into Lander's

RN-BSN Program.

"The RN to BSN Program at Lander can be completed in nine months and is completely online, so it's really convenient for working RNs who want to further their education," said Dr. Keli Fewox, PTC vice president for academic affairs. "Under this agreement, Lander will accept up to 90 semester hours of transfer credit and require RN-BSN students to complete an additional 30 hours to earn a total of 120 hours for the bachelor of science in nursing."

"Piedmont Technical College and Lander University share the same obligation to developing the workforce of South Carolina through high-quality education, and this agreement honors that obligation," added Dr. Scott Jones, Lander provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "Lander University recognizes the achievements of PTC's nursing students and is committed to helping them build upon their education and advance their careers."

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The Abbeville Christmas parade on Dec. 10 was one of a number of parades held in Abbeville County to help celebrate the season. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Scott, Graham, Colleagues Introduce Religious Education Week Resolution

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) joined Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) in introducing a resolution designating October 2 through October 8, 2022, as “Religious Education Week” to celebrate religious educational institutions and the options they provide to families seeking the best education for their children.

“Each year, millions of families across the nation choose to enroll their children in religious education,” said Sen. Scott. “With this resolution, we affirm that decision and commit to ensuring religious schools can

thrive alongside their secular counterparts. Families should be able to educate their children in the way they see fit, and religious schools play a large role in making that possible.”

The resolution is cosponsored by Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), and Todd

Young (R-Ind.).

Organizations in support of the resolution include the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, Coalition for Jewish Values, Foundation for American Christian Education, School Time Bible Ministries, Association of Christian Schools International, Agudath Israel of America, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Christian Coalition, Alliance Defending Freedom, Christian Legal Society, Catholic Education Partners, Family Research Council, National Committee for Religious Freedom, and Catholics Count.

Lander University Archives Receives Unusual Donation

Submitted by Karen Petit

Good things can come in small packages, at least as far as Dr. David Mash is concerned.

Mash, Lander University's associate director of Library Services, recently received a phone call from Jane McGahee, of Clinton. McGahee told him that she had been going through some things that belonged to her grandmother, Clara Bobo, who attended Lander during the 1930s and had come across three old Lander College yearbooks. “She couldn't bear to throw them away, and she said, ‘would you be interested in these?’ And I said, ‘absolutely, we'd love to have them,’ Mash said.

The yearbooks in the box

that Mash received were signed by numerous classmates of Bobo, and one was signed by Dr. John W. Speake, president of Lander from 1932 until 1941. Between two of the yearbooks was something that Mash found even more interesting: a souvenir folder of 17 postcards depicting the old Oregon Hotel, the Southern Passenger Depot, and other Greenwood landmarks of the 1930s. The folder had been mailed to Clara's older sister Sarah Bobo, of Union, a former Lander student herself.

“We're just so excited that this little piece came,” Mash said, calling the folder “unique to anything we have.”

While the outside of the folder shows signs of wear, he said, “the interior of it is

in perfect condition.”

Mash is in the process of digitizing the photos and researching the places shown in them so that he can annotate each image with historic information and context. The photos will be stored in acid-free envelopes and indexed, “so that if somebody walks into this library 50 years from now, they'll have the indexing, and they'll be able to go right to them.”

To view the postcards now, go to <http://www.lander.edu/archives/postcardexhibit>.

Mash encouraged friends of the university to donate old postcards or other items of historical importance to Lander's archives collection. Even something small, he said, can be “of large consequence.”

MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year

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“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”
Micah 5:2 (KJV)

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Senator Tim Scott Statement on Passage of the NDAA

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) released the following statement on his vote to pass the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“I’m proud to have fought for a robust increase to military funding in this year’s NDAA, including a pay raise for our troops for the fourth year in a row,” said Senator Scott. “As the world’s fiercest defender of democracy, we must take seriously our responsibility to modernize in order to compete and win against adversaries around the globe. Investing in a strong national defense means American families can sleep easier at night knowing our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to keep us safe.”

Background:
The FY23 NDAA autho-

izes \$847 billion to support U.S. national defense and includes a 4.6% pay increase for the troops and rescinds the onerous COVID vaccine mandate for service members.

The bill invests in advanced weapons systems, including the procurement of hypersonic missiles, to deter aggressors like Russia and China. It also includes the Scott-sponsored DEFEND Act, which will increase missile defense integration between the U.S., Israel, and Arab partners to further the goal of stability in the Middle East.

Many of the priorities Senator Scott advocated made it into the final NDAA, including a requirement for each military department to increase transparency in the process used to score the quality of life on military

bases, in order to help South Carolina remain one of the most military friendly states in the country.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) included in the NDAA contained Scott-advocated funding authorizations for projects in Horry County, Myrtle Beach, and North Myrtle Beach, as well as increased funding for Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. Additional South Carolina wins championed by Senator Scott include: \$10 million, Shaw Air Force Base’s RAPCON Facility; \$75.9 million, Parris Island’s Recruit Barracks; \$4.8 million, Parris Island’s Ambulatory Care Center Replacement; \$900,000, USMC Air Station Beaufort Fuel Pier Replacement Design; \$1.7 billion, Savannah River Site

The Psychology of Order Following

By Geoff Hult

In 1961, Yale University Psychologist Stanley Milgram conducted an experiment in an attempt to explain the psychology of genocide, and in particular how the Nazis could have done what they did. Participants in the study were 40 men aged 20-50 and were all led to believe they were participating in a study on memory and learning, to ostensibly see what the effect of punishment was on the ability to memorize content.

There was an experimenter in charge of each session, as well as a “teacher,” and a “learner.” The learner was an actor and the real experiment was on the teacher, unbeknownst to him. The teacher was instructed to first teach a list of word pairs to the learner, and then later the learner was to attempt to remember the word pairings when presented with the first word of the pair. When the “testing” of the learner’s memory was taking place, the learner was strapped into what the teacher believed was an electric chair. If the learner/actor answered incorrectly, the teacher was instructed by the experimenter to administer an electric shock to the learner. The teacher was given a “shock generator” that had a “voltage meter” on it along with verbal warnings that read: “Danger, Severe Shock.” The teacher was instructed to increase the severity of the shocks for each wrong answer given. The learner/actor would deliberately give wrong answers, to which they would then feign distress and pain at being given shocks. If and when the teacher expressed a desire to stop or asked questions about the experiment, the experimenter would prod them along in a variety of ways and tell them they must continue. The highest voltage of shock was 450 volts which was supposedly fatal, but no actual shocks were given.

Milgram believed the obedience of the Nazis in carrying out the genocide of the Holocaust was uniquely a German characteristic but found from the experiment, and others like it afterwards, that the majority of men will follow the orders of an authority figure to the point of killing others. Of the replicated studies, the average percentage of US men who would inflict supposedly fatal shocks to others was 61%, and the figure was 66% for non-US studies.

Milgram wrote in an article in 1974 entitled “The Perils of Obedience” the following: “The extreme willingness of adults to go to almost any lengths on the command of an authority figure constitutes the chief findings of the study and the fact most urgently demanding explanation. Ordinary people, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process. Moreover, even when the destructive effects of their work become patently clear, and they are asked to carry out actions incompatible with fundamental standards of morality, relatively few people have the resources needed to resist authority.”

This should stir the hearts and minds of people to the core. Something to note here is that in the Milgram experiment, there was no hostility

that had been fostered between the teacher and learner. How about when there is hostility fostered between groups of people? How about when a group of people is singled out by its respective government or governing body and the masses are told repeatedly such a group is bad for this or that reason, and something needs to be done with them? The Nazis are famous for using the defense that they were “just following orders” at the Nuremberg trials. History tells us that this defense was unacceptable and some of the Nazis were executed. However, this inexcusable defense was of no consequence to the burgeoning US intelligence apparatus at the time, and many Nazi scientists were incorporated into this network by way of a program called Operation Paperclip. The Nazi scientists went to work immediately for the OSS, which then became the CIA, on mind control experiments to be used on the American public and others

two brave men have come out and now speak openly about this. These agents are Kyle Seraphin and Steve Friend. Friend stated in an interview with investigative journalist and former CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson, on sharylattkisson.com, that the general mentality of FBI agents is that of being order followers, although they know that what they are doing is fraudulent and unconstitutional. Friend stated that he objected to participating in raids and arrests of people present at the Capitol on January 6th, 2021. The people in question were guilty of misdemeanors who simply walked into the Capitol after they were let in by Capitol police. Think about this for a moment... if the power structure didn’t want people entering the Capitol it would have easily been prevented. They were let in to later point the finger at these people and yell “insurrectionist” or “terrorist.” It was a trap, and FBI operatives were embedded in the crowd

to incite and provoke in order to further the narrative of domestic terrorism. This is an old FBI/intelligence tactic. Antifa and Black Lives Matter, on the other hand, are portrayed as victims when in fact they caused untold millions of dollars worth of damage to infrastructure in their 2020 riots. To say this is a double standard is an understatement.

Kyle Seraphin says the same things as Friend. Listen to ex-Secret Service agent Dan Bongino interview Seraphin on rumble.com. Seraphin states that many agents are disgusted with the way the FBI is going about being a politicized and weaponized agency to go after conservatives. As a new agent, he was sent to Alaska to surveil an alleged white supremacist. This target was described by Seraphin as a regular guy who spent time with his parents and then went camping, meeting with no one nefarious on the several week long stakeout. Seraphin states that cases are opened on people for little to no reason, they are then surveilled and followed, their civil and privacy rights encroached on, and all in the attempt to further the narrative of white supremacy/domestic extremism.

Preceding the Holocaust, the Jews were labeled as enemies of the state and incremental steps were taken with the culmination being their extermination. Today, the media, government, and FBI have nothing good to say about conservative values or those that adhere to them, to the point of falsely employing the label of domestic terrorist. They label and surveil parents as domestic extremists who speak at school board meetings in opposition to the sexualization of their children in the public schooling system, and waste our tax dollars on chasing phantoms rather than fighting the real crime the ruling class is deeply involved in, namely child trafficking.

“And all the nations shall be gathered before Him, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:32-33)

Geoff Hult
nonwo222@gmail.com



worldwide, which continue to this day. Another government agency which is in the intelligence business is the FBI.

The FBI is a domestic intelligence agency and their primary function and role is in neutralizing elements that have been deemed enemies of the state, or “risks” to national security, while ostensibly being a law enforcement agency. The people or groups in question are not necessarily criminals or terrorists but are those in opposition to the political and social philosophy of the power structure. Today, the large group of Americans that have been deemed as enemies of the state by the FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are conservatives, and primarily white conservatives. The entire meme of “white supremacy” is a smoke-screen meant to vilify white conservatives as being bad people that need to be contained or jailed. In addition to the label of white supremacy, they are labeled as domestic extremists or terrorists. I state these matters because FBI agents themselves have testified and written about this over the decades. Generally, would be government whistleblowers are successfully intimidated into silence and into just following their orders, keeping their heads down, their mouths shut, and existing like little mice.

US representative from Ohio Jim Jordan has revealed that at least 14 whistleblowers from the FBI have recently come to him with information that the FBI brass encourages agents to manufacture cases of white supremacy and domestic violent extremism to justify the ongoing hoax that white conservatives are a threat to national security. Many of these whistleblowers remain anonymous and keep their jobs while

Scott Celebrates Passage of Bipartisan De-escalation Training Bill

U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.), along with Senators John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), released statements celebrating House passage of the bipartisan Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act. The bill, which now heads to President Biden’s desk for his signature, would equip law enforcement officers with the tools to effectively and safely respond to people in crisis.

“Equipping America’s law enforcement officers with resources and training to respond to all types of emergencies is critical for the safety of both the officers and the communities they serve,” said Senator Scott. “That’s why I’ve been calling for more resources for de-escalation training, as a part of my years-long efforts to pass comprehensive police funding and reform legislation. I was pleased that my colleagues in the House joined in our bipartisan push for more and better training by passing our bipartisan Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act last night. I urge President Biden to sign it into law as soon as possible.”

“By giving law enforcement the tools they need to help those experiencing mental health emergencies and other crises, we can help make communities safer by building a stronger bridge between the criminal justice system and mental health care,” said Sen. Cornyn. “I’m grateful to my colleagues in the House for passing this critical legislation, and I urge the President to promptly sign this bill into law.”

“I’m pleased to see the House pass the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act and send it to the President’s desk,” said Sen. Whitehouse. “Every day police officers are called on to respond to complex situations involving mental and behavioral health issues. I’m grateful for Sen-

ator Cornyn’s partnership on this bipartisan piece of legislation that will equip officers with the training and resources to handle those issues safely and appropriately. Many Rhode Island police departments have shown real leadership in this area and I’m grateful to them for their advice and support.”

Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-La.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Mont.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), and Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) also co-sponsored the bill, which would empower police and the mental health professionals working with them to link individuals to mental and behavioral health services in their community. Companion legislation in the House was led by Reps. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), David Trone (D-Md.), and Steve Chabot (R-Ohio).

Background:
In June 2020, Senator Scott introduced the JUSTICE Act, legislation to improve policing in America by giving law enforcement officers the training and resources necessary needed to improve safety in our neighborhoods. In the year after the bill was blocked, homicides in U.S. cities reached near record highs. Among other things, the JUSTICE Act would have implemented the same requirements for developing de-escalation training standards that the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act addresses.

Studies estimate that as many as six to ten percent of law enforcement encounters involve persons experiencing serious mental illnesses. People in crisis account for between 25-50% of fatalities during law enforcement encounters. Training in de-escalation tactics and other techniques can reduce excessive force complaints and fatalities during law enforcement encounters, and crisis intervention teams can improve outcomes.

The bill would build off the existing Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program to create a dedicated stream of funding to local and state law enforcement agencies to train officers, and mental health professionals who work with them, in de-escalation tactics, alternatives to use of force, safely responding to mental, behavioral, and suicidal crises, and more.

The bipartisan Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act would:

Require the Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to develop curricula in the training topics, or identify existing curricula, in consultation with law enforcement, mental health organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups, among other stakeholders;

Authorize \$124 million in grant funding over four years for training, including scenario-based exercises and evaluative assessments; and

Require the National Institute of Justice and the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the implementation of the program and the effect of the training, to ensure that the curricula have a tangible impact on law enforcement encounters with people in crisis, and identify possible changes that would further improve outcomes.



The Abbeville County Chamber of Commerce presented "Breakfast with Santa" recently at the Belmont Inn in Abbeville. Three-year-old Isla Jensen of Greenwood was one of those celebrating a visit from Mr. Claus. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Grand opening held for new business

By Henry E. Green

A grand opening was held in the old Adams Building Supply building on Marshall Avenue in Abbeville for a business new to Abbeville Friday night, according to Robert D. Harmon, PE, Senior Project Engineer with Quality "Plus" Services, Inc. The building will house an office for a general contracting company that is based in Virginia--Quality "Plus" Services, Inc. "We do industrial, mechanical and electrical

construction and retrofit," Harmon said.

The home office is located in Petersburg, VA. "We've been in business for more than 25 years," he said.

The Abbeville office was established in the spring of this year.

Quality Plus Services purchased the old Adams Building Supply building and restored it earlier this year.

There is also an office in New Ellenton, South Carolina, and there is one in Rocky Mount, N.C., too.

There is also a sister company called B & K Grading and Paving, LLC, which will have an office in the Abbeville building as well

"We're excited to be a part of the growing Abbeville community, and look forward to building relationships with businesses in the area," he said.

A number of dignitaries were present Friday night. "I really do feel like this is a boon for our community," said Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone.



A grand opening celebration was held Friday night in Abbeville for Quality "Plus" Services, Inc. The business, new to Abbeville, is based in the old Adams Building Supply building on Marshall Avenue. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



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To our readers and community, we want to express our deep gratitude for your essential support through the events of 2022. We're committed to keeping you connected and informed, and we appreciate your continued trust in us.

We hope you have a healthy and happy holiday season, and we wish you all the best in the new year!

The Press and Banner

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County receives state allocation money

By Henry E. Green
 Abbeville County government has received the money allocated to it in the state budget as an "earmarked appropriation" earlier this year for Abbeville County Sheriff's Office needs, Abbeville County Director David Garner said Friday. The County recently received a check from the state for over \$500,000 for repairs to the Abbeville County detention center, as

well as for the acquisition of at least five vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. The renovations being planned include replacing some of the flooring, repairing the plumbing, and replacing some of the lighting with LED lights, and replacing some of the HVAC units. "We've already ordered some of the vehicles," said Garner.

The next step will be to bid out the renovation and construction work at the detention center, and the renovation work should be completed by July. No disruptions to operations at the detention center are anticipated from the renovation and construction work, said Garner, adding that he hopes the vehicles will arrive in January or February.



Due West Fire Chief Roy McClain (far right) was named Fire Chief of the Year during the County fire chiefs and fire commission Christmas dinner held recently at the Abbeville Civic Center. Helping recognize him were (from left) County fire administrative assistant Hunter Hazel, maintenance chief Paul Parnell, and Abbeville County Fire Marshal Tim Williams. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



These kids are having all kinds of fun on a float in the recent Abbeville Christmas parade. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED VEHICLE/PUBLIC SALE

The following vehicle is subject to repair and storage liens, and declared to be Abandoned pursuant to Section 56-5-5810, 56-5-5636, and 29-15-10 SC Code of Laws as Amended, and is in the custody of **Emmanuel Donaldson**, Abbeville, SC 29620
Phone 864-940-7142
1998 Bell Crest Mobile Home
Serial GBHML51172AB
Amt. owed ED \$22,500;
Title holder: India MacGreg Clinkscales
 The owner and/or lien holder may reclaim this vehicle within (15) fifteen days of this notice by paying to the custodian all charges authorized by law. The failure of the owner/lien holder to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided may be deemed a waiver of all right, title and interest in and to the vehicle and their consent to sale of the vehicle at public auction. Sale will take place at 11:00 AM, 1257 Bell Rd. Iva, SC 29655 on the first Monday of the month following the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date of this notice.

12/21;1tc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Friday, December 30, 2022, at 10:00am the City of Abbeville will hold a close out public hearing concerning the activities and accomplishments of CDBG-CV1-002 Grant, City of Abbeville Civic Center HVAC Upgrades & UVC Air Filtration Installation, and Opera House UVC Air Filtration Installation. Due to Covid-19 health and safety concerns, a virtual close-out hearing will be held for the safety of the public. The virtual hearing will be held through Zoom, a virtual platform accessible through your computer or mobile device. The virtual meeting can be accessed directly through Zoom ID 716 583 3562, password CDBG.

This public hearing and the project activities to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Citizens Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of the City of Abbeville in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will include CDBG funds. The Citizens Participation Plan and the application are available for review at the City Manager's Office in City Hall.

Persons with questions or comments concerning the hearing, Citizens Participation Plan or the project may contact Cason Wright, Government Services Project Manager, Upper Savannah Council of Governments, 430 Helix Road, Greenwood, SC 29646, telephone 864-941-8065.

The City of Abbeville does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Michael Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer, 100 Court Square, Abbeville, SC 29620, telephone: 864-366-5017, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations.

12/21;1tc

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During a recent Abbeville City Council meeting, Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards (left) presented a proclamation to Lori Glace (right) in recognition of the Christmas Angel Tree, which Glace directs. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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12/21;1tc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Friday, December 30, 2022, at 10:00am the City of Abbeville will hold a close out public hearing concerning the activities and accomplishments of CDBG-CV1-002 Grant, City of Abbeville Civic Center HVAC Upgrades & UVF Air Filtration Installation, and Opera House UVF Air Filtration Installation. Due to Covid-19 health and safety concerns, a virtual close-out hearing will be held for the safety of the public. The virtual hearing will be held through Zoom, a virtual platform accessible through your computer or mobile device. The virtual meeting can be accessed directly through Zoom ID 716 583 3562, password CDBG.

This public hearing and the project activities to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Citizens Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of the City of Abbeville in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will include CDBG funds. The Citizens Participation Plan and the application are available for review at the City Manager's Office in City Hall.

Persons with questions or comments concerning the hearing, Citizens Participation Plan or the project may contact Cason Wright, Government Services Project Manager, Upper Savannah Council of Governments, 430 Helix Road, Greenwood, SC 29646, telephone 864-941-8065.

The City of Abbeville does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Michael Clary, Deputy Administrative Officer, 100 Court Square, Abbeville, SC 29620, telephone: 864-366-5017, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations.

12/21;1tc



These kids are having all kinds of fun on a float in the recent Abbeville Christmas parade. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Merry Christmas
 Happy New Year!

Serving you this year has been a real treat for us. Thank you for your business. We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

We have Fresh Collards, Fireworks and Spirits for New Years.

Ferguson's Produce & Flowers
 Highway 72 West • Abbeville, SC 29620
366-8574

A Potato

Has Eyes,
 but it doesn't read this paper. You ought to be different. Don't be a potato. Subscribe now.

With Well Wishes At The Holidays

Wishing all our customers, a happy and safe Christmas holiday filled with a large measure of peace, joy and merriment.

It's an honor to serve you, and for your faith in us, we are truly grateful.

SAVITZ Drug Store, Inc.
 Your Home Town Pharmacy since 1959
(864) 366-2165
 815 West Greenwood St. • Abbeville, SC



During a recent Abbeville City Council meeting, Abbeville Mayor Trey Edwards (left) presented a proclamation to Lori Glace (right) in recognition of the Christmas Angel Tree, which Glace directs. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Place your ad here!

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500⁰⁰

American Standard Walk-In Tubs

- ✓ **EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST**
 Only American Standard has **OVER 150 years** of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub
- ✓ **SUPERIOR DESIGN**
 Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar & textured floor provides a safer bathing experience
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- ✓ **LIFETIME WARRANTY**
 The **ONLY** Lifetime Warranty on the bath **AND** installation, **INCLUDING** labor backed by American Standard
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 More than any other tub we've seen

Lifetime Warranty | Finance Options Available

Limited Time Offer—Call Today!
833-408-2899

FREE Savings include our own American Standard Right Height Toilet (\$500 VALUE)

Designed for pain relief & easy use

Greetings OF THE SEASON

Many thanks to our neighbors and friends for your valued patronage.

We look forward to serving you again next year.

Hite Stone ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 E. Pickens St. | Abbeville, SC
 864.326.4620



Rylan Durbin (right) won honors as the top male finisher, and Neely Bell (left) as the top female finisher in the Reindeer Run, a 5K event presented by the Abbeville Rotary Club recently. Club president Lou Paradis (center) presented them with cash prizes. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Area teams launch basketball seasons

By Henry E. Green
Move over, football! It's time for a little round ball action.

Yes, with football season over, area high school basketball have launched their seasons.

McCormick defeated Abbeville in boys basketball action Thursday night at McCormick.

Abbeville got back on the winning track Friday night,

when the Panthers hosted Emerald and defeated the Vikings 61-55.

Abbeville got another turn at the Vikings Monday night, when AHS traveled to Greenwood to take on Emerald, and emerged triumphant, 68-45.

One Panther fan who watched the game said that Abbeville established a commanding lead early and never trailed. A number

of the Panther points came through steals that turned into easy layups.

Abbeville, according to a basketball schedule provided by AHS principal Scott White, is now slated to participate in a Lincoln County (GA) tournament Dec. 28-Dec. 30.

Meanwhile, the Dixie boys defeated Ninety Six and the Dixie girls lost to Ninety Six recently.



Abbeville (in white) defeated Emerald in varsity boys basketball action recently at the AHS gym. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Simpsonville woman arrested at AHS event

A Simpsonville woman was arrested recently at an AHS sporting event in connection with her alleged possession of a pistol, according to an Abbeville County Sheriff's Office incident report.

Shykelia Brenee Smith, 26, of Simpsonville, was arrested Friday night at a basketball game at AHS, according to reports.

"The offender was in violation of the clear bag policy and was asking District staff to hold the bag at the table," according to the report.

A deputy approached the offender and "could smell the distinct smell of marijuana coming from her person," according to the report.

The offender and her belongings were moved in the hallway for further investigation, and in this area the confirmed that the smell was coming from the individual.

"A probable cause search was conducted of the offender and bag," the report continued.

The investigation yielded the discovery of a pistol

inside the bag and the marijuana in Smith's cargo pants pocket, according to the incident report.

Smith was charged with the simple possession of marijuana, unlawful carry of pistol, and carrying weapon on school ground, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Smith's bond hearing was Dec. 17, and, she was released on a \$10,000 surety bond, according to the Sheriff's Office.

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Only \$120 for both
Call Lamar T. West
864-366-5461 (o)
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ABBEVILLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ROADS AND BRIDGES

Holiday Hours for Abbeville County Public Works:

The Abbeville County Landfill will be closed on Friday December 23, 2022.
The Abbeville County Convenience Centers will be closing at 11:30 am on Saturday December 24, 2022 and will be closed Sunday December 25, 2022.
The Convenience Centers will be closed Sunday January 1, 2023.

12/14;2tc

Classifieds & Legals

BID REQUEST

Abbeville Area Medical Center

Installation and paving of a new entrance near
420 Thomson Circle, Abbeville

- Must be insured and bonded
- To request a bid package, contact James Wilson, AAMC Director of Engineering, at 864-366-3378
- Bid deadline: 5:00pm January 16, 2023

12/21;2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Estate: Rebecca H. Harvey
Date of Death: 11/20/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100302
Personal Representative: Alicia J. Harvey
Address: P.O. Box 181 Lowndesville, SC 29659 12/7;3tc

Estate: Jerald Waymon Burdette
Date of Death: 11/08/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100308
Personal Representative: Lynne Chambers Burdette
Address: 6658 Hwy 81 N Iva, SC 29655 12/14;3tc

Estate: Robert Andrew Todd
Date of Death: 11/17/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100310
Personal Representative: Audrey J. Rosenberg
Address: 207 Marshall Ave, Abbeville, SC 29620 12/14;3tc

Estate: Frances Lucille Major Young
Date of Death: 11/28/2022
Case Number: 2022ES0100312
Personal Representative: Robert Stacey Young
Address: 308 Old Douglas Mill Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 12/14;3tc

PATIENT SITTING

I am a patient sitter. Will sit part-time. Just give me a call. 446-3676 4/27;ftc

AUCTIONS

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377. 12/21;sw

28th Annual Construction-Truck Auction. Tue, Dec. 27th at 8AM. See meekinsauktion.com. NCLN 858. 10% BP-onsite; 12%-online 12/21;sw

GOLD/SILVER

Cash Paid for Gold and Silver - Silver coins 1964 and earlier. We also pay cash for Sterling Silverware. Call 864-378-7420. 7/4ftc

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377. 12/21;sw

Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church is in search of a secretary. The hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Mail resume to Edna Faggart; PO Box 893, Abbeville, SC 29620. 12/7;2tc

PETS

Cute and spunky Male & female Yorkshire Terrier puppies in need of a new home. What a wonderful and great companion! If interested, contact: jala8532@gmail.com 12/21;1tc

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: American Advisors Group vs. Joseph Allen Gambrell; Michael Stephen Gambrell; The United States of America acting by and through its agency The Department of Housing and Urban Development; , C/A No. 2015CP0100261, The following property will be sold on January 3, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the Abbeville County Courthouse to the highest bidder.

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of

Abbeville, being shown and designated as 15.22 acres, more or less, as shown on a survey entitled "James Allen Gambrell" prepared by Farmer & Simpson Engineers, and being dated July 12, 1972 of record in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Abbeville County, SC in Plat Book 45 at Page 34; and having the metes and bounds, courses and distances as upon said plat appear. Reference being invited to heretofore referenced plat for a more particular description of the above 15.22 acres, more or less.

AND

All that certain piece, parcel

or tract of land situate, lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Abbeville, being shown and designated as 0.17 acre, more or less, as shown on a Plat prepared for American Advisors Group, prepared by Chao & Associates, and being dated April 28, 2020 of record in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Abbeville County, SC in Plat Book 79 at Page 88; and having the metes and bounds, courses and distances as upon said plat appear. Said plat is incorporated herein by this reference for a more complete and accurate description, all measurements being a little more or less.

Derivation: Book 322 Page 574
405 Horse Farm Road, Iva, SC 29655-8136

TMS/PIN# 032-00-00-061

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, ABBEVILLE COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EASEMENTS AND/OR, RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: A 5% deposit in certified funds is required. The deposit will be applied towards the purchase price unless the bidder defaults, in which case the deposit will be forfeited.

If the successful bidder fails, or refuses, to make the required deposit, or comply with his bid within 30 days, then the property will be resold at his risk. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 5.06% per annum. For complete terms of sale, see Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed with the Abbeville County Clerk of Court at C/A #2015CP0100261.

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.

John J. Hearn
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 100200
Columbia, SC 29202-3200
(803) 744-4444
017108-00104
Website: www.rogerstownsends.com (see link to Resources/Foreclosure Sales)

Roy R. Hemphill
Master in Equity for
Abbeville County

12/14, 12/21, 12/28

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Trucks, Motorcycles & RVs, too! Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Call (888) 515-3810

12/28:sw

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12/28:sw

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-397-7030 www.dental50plus.com/60 #6258

12/28:sw

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

12/28:sw

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games: (SC1357) CROSSWORD BONUS CASH; (SC1351) HIT \$100

12/28:sw

TURNIPS & COLLARDS

Turnip greens and Collards for sale - Edgewood Community. Aaron 956-245-0568 or Wanda 956-200-8735

11/9:7tp

INTERNET/TV

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the Most Local MLB Games! CHOICE Package, \$89.99/mo for 12 months. Stream on 20 devices in your home at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741

12/21:sw

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-542-0759

12/21:sw

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-851-8201

12/21:sw

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DIRECTV for \$64.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Save an additional \$120 over 1st year. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-844-624-1107

12/21:sw

PECANS FOR SALE

New crop in shell for \$5.00/lb Clean halves for \$10.00/lb plus pieces for \$8.00/lb. If interested, call 864-379-4456

12/21:4tc



FOR SALE

Never clean your gutters again! Affordable, professionally installed gutter guards protect your gutters and home from debris and leaves forever! For a FREE Quote call: 877-324-3132

12/21:sw

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12/21:sw

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12/21:sw

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-775-0366

12/21:sw

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer - get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-866-275-0142.

12/21:sw

BUSINESS

Business for Sale - Aiken/N. Augusta. High income potential. Recoup investment in 2 years with existing clients. Owner financing available, 615-406-2605.

3/23:fncc

REAL ESTATE

For Sale - We Buy Houses and Land. Need to sell fast? Cash paid. 864-378-0308.

7/2:ttc

ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 2.1 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Randall Savely at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

12/21:sw



EDUCATION

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-602-1453. (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

12/21:sw

FOOD KITS FOR SALE

Need a last minute gift? 72 Hr Emergency Food Kits. 32 servings - 25 yr shelf life. \$40 each. Call 864-378-7420

12/21:1tc

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