



News & Press

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

DECEMBER 20, 2017

ESTABLISHED 1874

QUOTE

'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'

EDMUND BURKE

75¢

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Gammage welcomed to Hartsville City Council



Tre Gammage (center) was joined by his family as he took the oath of office on December 12 and became the newest member of Hartsville City Council. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
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Hartsville City Council welcomed their newest member as Tre Gammage was sworn in as the new District #1 representative. Gammage won the seat by defeating incumbent Adlena Graham by a vote count of 69 to 47 in the November 21 run-off election.

Mayor Mel Pennington, Gammage, and other members of Council offered words of appreciation about the departing Graham (who was unable to attend), noting her extensive familiarity with residents of her district and the unflagging energy she exhibited while serving as their Council representative for the past twenty-four and a half years.

"She's been serving as long as I've been alive – literally. She was elected in 1993 and I was born in '93. She held her hands out to me and showed me the ropes, gave me an hour-long tour of the district," said Gammage. "(Graham) stopped at every building that

was dilapidated and she knew the last person who lived there, knew if they had passed away. She knew something about every member of that community...and it's a humbling privilege to be able to sit in this seat after a woman like that."

Also, Council unanimously voted to re-appoint Johnny Andrews as Mayor Pro Tempore.

On the regular agenda, Council held a public hearing and final reading for Ordinance 4314, defining regulations and public areas where businesses can sell alcoholic beverages for open consumption. This ordinance legalizes the sale and consumption of beer, wine, and mixed drinks in open containers in a certain area of downtown Hartsville (the "open consumption area") with the goal of encouraging more downtown dining and activities in the city's growing commercial district.

Citizens Casey Hancock and Shelley Wilson spoke at

GAMMAGE ON 3A

Ghartey-Tagoe tells grads to avoid 'victim mentality'

Francis Marion University awarded degrees to 309 new graduates at its fall commencement ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The degrees included 231 baccalaureate degrees, and 78 graduate degrees.

Honorary doctorates of Humanities were conferred on Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Duke Energy's state president for South Carolina operations; and South Carolina Family Court bench judge Melissa J. Buckhannon, an FMU alum ('91). Ghartey-Tagoe, a native of Ghana, served as the commencement speaker.

Ghartey-Tagoe, whose own professional and academic career contained many ups and downs, told the newly minted graduates that, above all, they should avoid having "a victim mentality. "So what do you do when adversity strikes ... when it comes knocking on your door?" Ghartey-Tagoe asked the audience of almost 3,000. "Stay calm. Be poised. ... Have hope. Be thankful for you do have. Have faith. Understand your mission and create a plan to accomplish it. And persist until you break through. You will get through it."

FMU President Dr. Fred Carter told grads during his



welcoming remarks that they'll never receive more advice in their lives than at their collegiate graduation. Make the most of that, Carter said. And don't hesitate to continue to seek advice in the future, especially from FMU faculty members who relish the chance to assist former students.

Ghartey-Tagoe assumed his current position with Duke Energy in 2017 where he is responsible for maintaining the financial performance of Duke Energy's electric utilities in South Carolina and managing com-

munity, state and local affairs.

Judge Melissa J. Buckhannon was elected to the South Carolina Family Court Bench in 2014. Her election by the South Carolina Legislature followed a 19-year career as a lawyer in Horry County. While practicing law, Buckhannon served on a number of professional boards and in various volunteer posts related to the law.

Buckhannon also served on the Francis Marion University Board of Trustees from 1998 through 2013.

Among the graduates were 86 who earned degrees in the healthcare field, one of the university's largest classes in that growing field. Those grads included Nurses, Family Nurse Practitioners and graduates in FMU's relatively new MBA Healthcare Executive Management program. The high number of graduates illustrates Francis Marion's continued dedication to providing much-needed healthcare workers for the region and the state.

Six students graduated Summa Cum Laude

COMMENCEMENT ON 3A

New café opens doors in Darlington

By Samantha Lyles
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Darlington diners have a new option when planning for lunch or breakfast – or even Sunday dinner – since The Wash Pot Cafe opened for business in October. Owner/manager Nikena Quick invites you to stop by and enjoy a meal of classic southern favorites or popular grill items, all made with one goal in mind: to please your taste buds and keep you coming back for more.

Quick says The Wash Pot's name comes from the old south tradition of cooking big meals in a wash pot over an open fire, and she's decorated the restaurant with various images of old cooking pots to evoke this sense of history. While this is her first foray as a restaurateur, Quick is working hard and taking pains to ensure the food is top-notch and the business is solid.

"I was working at KJ's Deli in Florence, and a lady from Darlington encouraged me to do this. She said, 'I've tasted your cooking and you can do it.' So I started going to school," says Quick, who decided to study business in order to get grounded in the principles of success.

"I just graduated with my associate's degree and I'm going

to get my bachelor's and just keep on going. I'm not going to stop," she says. "I'm trying to get the book smarts while I'm learning all this chaotic stuff, so I'm doing it all at once."

Quick already learned one important lesson of the food business: sell what your customers enjoy eating. She says that while she enjoys cooking healthy dishes – salmon, spinach, mushrooms, etc., these items weren't exactly thrilling her Wash Pot patrons. So she switched up her game, refocused on soul food classics and hearty breakfast fare, and business began to pick up.

"We have an everyday meal that is a meat, two sides and a drink. We also have regular grill items like chicken wings, fries, hamburgers, and salads. In the mornings we cook breakfast and usually have grits, eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, salmon, toast and biscuits. On Sundays, we cook a special Sunday dinner," says Quick, adding that she takes requests into consideration when planning the menu.

For those planning holiday gatherings, let The Wash Pot Cafe relieve some of the cooking pressure by providing delicious favorites – like homestyle macaroni and cheese. Call to learn more about having The Wash Pot Cafe cater your next event.

Society Hill closes out 2016-2017 finances

By Melissa Rollins
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With a check for \$1,500 from the Rescue Squad in the bank, Society Hill can close the books on their 2016-2017 fiscal year. Mayor Tommy Bradshaw informed town council members Dec. 12 that the town had been paid back after the squad did not purchase the equipment it intended to.

The rescue squad requested money from the town and a check was issued in July 2016 for the purchase of a heart monitor. The equipment was not purchased because the squad said they were waiting on the ambulance that it would be placed in. Without a receipt to place in the town's records, the 2016-2017

books could not be closed out.

"You know from last month that we requested from the captain of the rescue squad that the \$1,500 be returned," Bradshaw said. "That has been recovered and is listed under miscellaneous receipts and miscellaneous revenues."

In other business, the council voted to amend the 2017-2018 budget to include the annual town employee end-of-the-year bonus, which had been overlooked when making the budget.

"It has been customary over the years for us to give our town employees a year-end or Holiday bonus. We've always stuck by the policy of roughly half of one week's pay. I've checked with other towns and that is a little less than what they do but roughly equivalent. We didn't include that in our budget when we were preparing our budget. I would entertain a motion from council to approve that expenditure."

SOCIETY HILL ON 3A

Search moves forward for next DCSD superintendent

By Melissa Rollins
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The search for Darlington County's next superintendent is well under way, according to consultant Dr. Rainey Knight. Results from the district's superintendent survey were presented by Knight during the school board meeting Dec. 11, as was an update on the timeline for the search. The survey was intended to find out what characteristics people in the district and in the community wanted to see in their next superintendent.

The survey was available on the district's website and was sent to all district staff, churches, barbershops, beauty parlors and chambers of commerce. The open period for responses was Oct. 23-Nov. 17. Though the survey was available for thousands of people, only 672 completed surveys were received.

Nearly 50 percent of the responses were from teachers. Less than 100 parents filled



Diane Sigmon speaks to DCSD board members about the completed one-to-one initiative. Photo by Melissa Rollins

out the survey; five students returned surveys.

The survey indicated that the top five characteristics that respondents wanted to see in

the next district leaders were Strong Communicator, Putting the Needs of Children First, Ability to Work with Diverse Groups, Know How to Plan

and Manager District Budgets, and Has Worked with Schools to Improve Test Scores.

The characteristics deemed least important by respondents were Has a Doctorate, Lives in Darlington County, and Has Worked as a superintendent/assistant superintendent.

Knight said that around a dozen applications had been submitted for the district's top spot.

"I will say that (potential applicants) are watching Darlington," Knight said. "I've had people say that they are reading the paper and they have contacts in Darlington. I say that just to say that this is a superintendent's market, meaning that they can pick and choose. There are more vacancies than there are really high caliber people that I would want to see in Darlington. Just like we tell principals to support their teachers...boards have to support superintendents."

DCSD ON 3A



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Word of the Week

orphic: 1 (capitalized) of or relating to Orpheus or the rites or doctrines ascribed to him
2 mystic, oracular 3 fascinating, entrancing
Merriam-Webster.com

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SHENEMAN/THORPE CONTEXT ARTS/REBY



OP-ED

That's The Way It Way! Christmas - 19?

By Bill Shepard

The place- the old cotton mill village in Darlington; more specific, that part of the village often specifically referred to as, "over the creek." The time- any one of the years of the mid twenties or early thirties, more the days just before Christmas! Reminiscence with me!

School was out and over with until next year! That is the way the principal had said it while addressing the students and faculty on that last day, before dismissing for the holidays. For some, that in itself would be considered the best part of Christmas. Of course, next year was only two weeks away, but the kind old school master had a way of making it sound like a much longer time.

So much could and would be done in those two weeks; the one before, and the one after Christmas.

The annual Christmas parade was over with. This much looked forward to event was the prelude to Santa's arrival and the official opening of the Christmas season. Pictures and posters of the jolly little man in his red and white suit could now be seen in all the store windows around the town square. The shopping area had been transformed over night into a holiday showcase. Strings of Christmas lights had been wrapped around the light posts along the streets and the huge Christmas tree that had been hauled to the town square was decorated with hundreds of brightly colored lights. This would be the busiest time of year for all the merchants in the small town.

McClellan's Dime Store, the only one in Darlington at that time, had its display of Christmas toys neatly arranged in the windows, with pictures of Santa conveniently stationed nearby. For the girls there were pretty porcelain dolls with long curls flowing down their backs, and with eyes that would open and close. Some would actually cry when they were turned over on their stomach! Unbelievable! Surely that was a miracle that only Santa could perform. There were tea sets and make-up kits with mirror, brush, and comb. There were jack-stones and small trinkets of all kinds, and much, much more.

For the boys, there were cap-pistols and holsters bearing the names of the most popular cowboys seen at the old Liberty Theater across the street. There was not a boy on the village that would not be proud to strap one around his waist and go strolling down the village street. Names like - Hoot Gibson, Time McCoy, Bob Steel, Ken Maynard, and no list of cowboys would be complete without the mention of Buck Jones and Hop-A-long Cassidy. Also among the enticements there were Red Ryder gloves, aviator caps with goggles and ear muffs, ric-rac, paddles, and two bladed pocket-knives. To cap it all off, for those who could afford one, there were Daisy Air Rifles that would hold a hundred B Bs at once! It was Christmas just to stand in front of the display window and dream!

Farther down the street other merchants had their windows filled also. At the Drug Store, one would see items such as cosmetics, perfume sets, and pretty boxes of candy. In the window at Coggshalls and Witcovers one would see display of fine furs and clothing. Mill village folk couldn't afford such expensive clothing, not even at Christmas. There were other stores of course and each in its own way was decorated to get the attention of the shoppers. No one had to guess that the Christmas Season had arrived and was on the minds of merchants and shoppers as well.

Back on the village, things were a-stir also. Money was needed to purchase the gifts that

Santa might not deliver. Every boy needed an arsenal of fireworks. They would be needed to awaken the sleeping villagers on Christmas morning. Wood had already been gathered for the large bon-fire that would bum all night on Christmas Eve. The fire would be built in the open field near the village. All night long there would be potato roasting, singing, story telling, just waiting for the break of dawn when sleepy-eyed boys would invade the village streets with their barrage of fireworks.

A number of things could be done to earn the money needed. It would not take much, but money was scarce! One might go from house to house inquiring about chores to be done in exchange for a small amount of cash. There were no lawns that needed mowing, but perhaps someone would pay to have their yard swept free from leaves that had fallen. Firewood might need cutting and stacking to dry; everyone on the village used firewood for cooking and heating in those times. As a last resort, one might go to the nearby woods in search of a small pine tree that could be cut and used for a Christmas tree. Surely someone would pay a quarter for a tree at Christmas time!

Where there is a will, there is a way, and speaking for myself, I could always come up with a way to earn enough money for my Christmas needs. A dollar would do! I could spend a dollar at the Dime Store and come away with a gift for everyone in the Shepard house and have a few pennies left for myself. The days before Christmas were filled with anticipation of Santa's arrival. The day would arrive with a bang, literally, and everyone would join in a day of celebrating and feasting on the best-prepared foods of the entire year.

SHEPARD ON 3A

Age discrimination can happen to anyone

I am a woman, age 75, and have been employed for over 35 years at one job. Needless to say, I have great pride in retiring from a professional life working at one job. Retiring in 2001 and returning to my birthplace, Darlington, I continue an active life of working and giving back to the community.

AGE DISCRIMINATION IS REAL AND HAPPENING DAILY. The major problem is if YOU live long enough and build a lengthy career, YOU could be subject to age discrimination as others. Many longtime, devoted employees, never thought their careers would end experiencing age discrimination. This grievance in the workplace is very hurtful, heartbreaking and a serious offence. Every worker deserves equal opportunity.

Most people believe age discrimination begins when the worker hit their 50s. However, according to an

OP-ED
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AARP research of workers between the ages of 45 and 74; 22 percent of people believe it starts earlier. And 17 percent believes it begins in one's 60s.

Studies show that there's also a gender difference in the perception of age discrimination. Seventy-two of women between the ages of 45 and 74 said they think people face age discrimination at work, only 57 percent of men in the same age range said so.

It is really frustrating, and very disappointing if you aren't appreciated and treated fairly by the company for whom you have worked for so long and so hard. AGE DISCRIMINATION CAN HAPPEN TO ANY OF US; IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Sincerely,
Hannah Dixon,
Vice President, Federally
Employed Women
Member, Advisory
Commission on the Status of
Women

Market on Darlington Square Committee contemplates future

In May of 2011, Darlington held the first Market on Darlington Square (MoDS). MoDS was always a fun way for Darlingtonians and visitors to spend Saturday morning once a month talking, listening and purchasing the products and produce of various vendors. It was never "wildly" successful by any standard, but in a modest way it accomplished some of its goals. The Committee anticipated from the beginning that the market would eventually run its course, but we didn't know it would last as long as it has. The Christmas Market on the 9th of December marked the end of the seventh year. We appreciate your support and that of all our vendors.

As I mentioned, we recently had a Christmas Market in the Trinity UMC Fellowship Hall. A dozen or so vendors manned booths from 8:30 in the morning to 3:30. There was music.

Santa even showed up at 2:30, but sadly few shoppers came, maybe because of the cold, rainy weather

Moreover, throughout the summer we couldn't help but notice the dwindling numbers of shoppers. We had to cancel the once popular Chili Shootout this year for lack of interest.

So, it's appropriate to evaluate where we are and whether or not we should go forward. We started in 2011 with your positive words and encouragement in this newspaper. So we'd like to consider the end of the Market here as well. If you agree with our assessment that the Market has finally come to the end of its appeal, take no further action. We will simply not open in the spring.

If, however, you think we are misreading the tea leaves and acting prematurely, please contact our City Planner Lisa Chalian-Rock by e-mail at darlingtonplanner@gmail.com. And indicate, if you don't mind, whether you are a shopper or a vendor.

Thanks again.
MoDS Committee

OP-ED

Wreckage Along The Back Roads

By Tom Poland

I seek beautiful wreckage along the back roads. It's out there, a chest of tarnished treasure. The key is that red, white, and blue shield you see in the photograph. I know it is a place to avoid. Rather than speed from one destination to another, I follow old roads into the past. And it is there that I ramble, detouring and losing track of time. It's there that mysteries occur to me, something that never happens on a rough-surfaced interstate where road noise drowns out your thoughts.

Take the scene you witness here. It's the remains of an old store near Great Falls, South Carolina. Being between the forks of two roads did not save it. When the interstate came through, it sucked the life out of it and many more a business, a sad tale oft repeated. As you can see, not even the old tree survived. The stop sign seemed to be begging someone to stop at the old store, so I did.

I did not venture on to I-77. I stayed the course on Highway 97. With good reason. I speak to groups about my journeys into the countryside. I promise people that they will see nothing of interest along the interstates. You can be in Georgia, South Carolina, or North Carolina and the terrain will be remarkably similar, mountainous regions excluded. The Land of Monotony and its endless ribbons of asphalt and concrete make for a bland, sleep-inducing trip, albeit at timesaving speed. Think

about that. Sleep inducing and high speeds. And gridlock, which you won't suffer on back roads.

I seldom travel interstates. Only in dire circumstances do I take them—when no time to linger exists and when they can't be avoided. Whenever possible, I look at maps and plot alternate routes through the country. Sunday I got up at 5 o'clock and hit the road for Davidson, North Carolina to see my granddaughter, Katie, play in a volleyball tournament. I could have slept in till 8 a.m., hit I-26 to I-20, and then to I-77 and made the trip in two hours. Instead, I took Highway 321 as far as I could before the interstate system got me in its clutches north of Charlotte. My journey took three and a half hours but it was worth it.

Thanks to the unseasonably cool weather, I drifted through patches of fog and drove over corridors of billowing clouds called rivers and past streamers of mists that hung over ponds and lakes. Wildlife appeared out of the mists like phantoms. A wild turkey crossed the road in front of me. Later, two deer grazed along the shoulder only to spring up a shoulder into an avenue of oaks as I approached. A hawk perched on a powerline. A mockingbird chased a crow across a field. (Why the crow didn't turn and attack the much-smaller bird is something I cannot comprehend, some law of nature must be at work.)

I saw quaint churches up close. Morning sunlight struck

the white clapboard front of one with such force it blinded me, as if Jesus himself had just descended. Not far past there I saw an abandoned cemetery in a clearing, several stones leaning as if about to fall. I saw plenty of old homes, way too many adrift in weeds and vines. No one calls them home anymore, another mystery that confounds me.

One of the revelations driving the back roads always brings sadness. Back roads can

be melancholy places for wayfarers, for there they enter the resting place of dreams.

"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" comes to mind. I see many businesses that went bust. Gas stations ... tire stores ... hair salons ... and now and then an ill-fated nightclub. Along Highway 321 in the middle of nowhere I passed a cinder block structure with a faded sign, its ghostly blue letters paling white. "Nite Life."

POLAND ON 3A

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Legislators and officials meet with local farmers

By Samantha Lyles
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Members of the Pee Dee farming community met with government officials last week to share concerns and discuss issues facing the agriculture industry in South Carolina. The lunch meeting took place at the Mont Clare Baptist Church Community Center in Darlington County, and guests included State Representatives Robert Williams (District 62) and Richie Yow (District 53), Darlington County Elections director Hoyt Campbell, and representatives of Congressman Tom Rice and the SC Agriculture Commission.

Bob Robinson, representing the Fourth Judicial Circuit for the SC Ag Commission, gave an update on the state's first steps toward regulated hemp farming. He said the first 20 farmers for the hemp program have been selected and will be vetted by SLED. If these applicants clear the background check process, these farmers could begin producing and marketing hemp within the next four to five months.

Campbell brought several voting district maps and broke down which of Darlington County's six state legislators



Rep. Robert Williams spoke with local farmers at a meeting held at the Mont Clare Baptist Church Community Center. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

represent which communities. He encouraged all present to be sure they know who their elected officials are, just in case issues arise and they need to contact them for help, or to express their opinions on pending legislation.

Williams, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, expressed gratitude for the difficult and crucial work farmers do, and offered to hear their concerns and help them in any way possible.

"What you do is important

to the state and to the Pee Dee, keeping our land safe and feeding the masses," said Williams.

Williams voiced worry over the declining population in rural communities, which, in turn leads to loss of representation for small towns and greater concentration of political power in a few large cities. He told farmers the jobs they provide through agriculture are key to stemming the rural population decline.

Yow added that this perceived conflict of interest

between urban dwellers and rural towns could worsen in time. Further, Yow voiced concerns over the lack of people with farm experience working in regulatory positions with SC DHEC, which he called one of the most powerful agencies in the state.

"(Some people) don't understand the need for farms, or the needs of rural communities," said Yow. "They don't understand dirt roads. They don't care about anything but the asphalt."

DCSD

Continued from 1A

In other business, the board made a motion to approve requests for property from the City of Darlington. Boardmember Connell Delaine made the motions; they were approved unanimously.

"I move that we deed property on plat of survey prepared by Ryan R. Magnus dated September 29, 2017 containing 3.19 acres referred to in our discussions as the Swift Creek Property to the City of Darlington conditioned upon the city assuming any and all costs associated w/repairing of the waterline

extending from St. Johns to Brunson Dargan."

The second motion read: "I move that we transfer two tracts of land as shown on plat of survey prepared by Ryan R. Mangus dated November 14, 2017, said tracts being designated on said plat as tract one containing 10.50 acres and tract two containing 2.79 acres referred to in our discussions as BA Gary Property to the City of Darlington upon the City of Darlington's payment of the sum of \$150,000. This motion also to include a provision that if and when any portions of Magnolia Street are to close as a public street, the City will grant an easement to the Darlington County School

District for ingress and egress from the BA Gary School complex—said easement to be at least 30 feet in width and to lead from the point of closure of Magnolia Street to the parking areas located to the east of the BA Gary School Complex, additionally this easement will be used for access by emergency responders to the School. This motion also carries with it a provision that when the school is in session a portion of the parking area closest to the school property will be reserved for school use—the exact location and number of parking spaces to be agreed upon at such time as the parking lot has been constructed. Finally, this motion provides a provision

that the School District has final approval of where signage is to be erected by the City."

During the Digital Transformation update, Director of Technology Diane Sigmon told the board that on Nov. 30 the district had completed its one-to-one initiative, handing out its last devices to students. Sigmon said that the one-to-one initiative will change the way that students learn and teachers teach. She said that the technology department would have to keep an eye on their bandwidth going forward and determine what their needs are to accommodate all of the devices now on the network.

Gammage

Continued from 1

At the public hearing, and both offered their support for the ordinance, reasoning that responsible sales and consumption of alcohol at downtown events will help Hartsville draw more visitors

and will encourage patrons to visit more downtown venues. Hancock expressed confidence that anyone who abused the privilege and behaved poorly would be summarily dealt with by the Hartsville Police Department.

Andrews moved for approval of Ordinance 4314, and Council member Teresa Mack offered a second – with

the comment that other areas of town can hold events with public consumption / open container allowances provided they obtain special permits from the city. The measure passed by a vote of 5 to 2, with Council members William Shirley and Bernice Wilson voting against.

Council also approved the purchase of several parcels of

land located at 316 Reservoir Street (\$65,000), 313 Reservoir Street and the corner of Coker Street (\$110,000), 315 Chinaberry Drive and the corner of Reservoir Street (\$60,000), and 311 Reservoir Street (up to \$70,000). These purchases play into the city's plans to further develop the Fourth Street corridor.

Poland

Continued from 2A

"Nite Death." You get the feeling a lot of these business owners had little money to start with. What became of them? Picked up and moved on I suppose. But the beautiful, sad detritus aside, I love forgotten byways, sleepy lanes, gravel-dinging roads, and dusty roads where the residue of the past clings to a slender thread called existence. Here you enter the province of historical markers, rusty steel bridges, hand-lettered signs, old gas pumps, tin shops, old sheds, and fields rife with big round bales of hay.

Old stores, especially, catch my eye. Look closely at an old store's screen door and you just might see a rusty sign, "Colonial Is Good Bread." Peek inside and you'll see an authentic bead board ceiling. Stores with locks on their doors and stores with broken windows share one thing—abandonment.

You'll also come across burnt homes. Here and there only chimneys remain but in some places homes with gaping black holes in their roof—like a molar with a cavity—welcome rain and the elements. But delicious and colorful sights balance out dark moments. Come summertime you'll spot glistening patches

of blackberries or get a close look at a peach orchard or spot heirloom tomatoes. Sometimes, too, you'll spot a pole hung with white gourds imploring purple martins to nest. Good luck doing that from an interstate.

Driving in the country seems more natural and for sure it's more entertaining. Friendly fellows raise a finger from the steering wheel. "Hello." I like country folk. I sprang from their stock. I feel at home around them and I find their ways charming. Always worth a smile are the murals some local artist paints on the side of a store or shed. I saw one in a rural county on a cement block building ... "Murals by Martha." I saw no others. What became of Martha and her murals? Mysteries abound on the back roads. About the only mystery you'll see on an interstate is an empty billboard? What business did it hype?

Life in the slow lane ... that's where you find winsome ways and bucolic beauty. And wreckage. Lots of wreckage. It's all entertaining and thought provoking. I'll close with an observation. Something about the back roads brings me closer to nature. Patterns become apparent. Ever notice how many crows fly over the back roads? Seems they're always darting about or hopping across a road. I think it's

because they feel safer there. They seek food along the roads, places where they can land and dine on a scrap of food, even if it's flattened squirrel. I've seen it many times. They understand there's less chance of being killed on a sleepy lane than on an interstate slammed with cargo-carrying eighteen-wheelers.

Maybe there's a lesson in that for us. Something to think about should you decide to survey the wreckage along the back roads. Do it often enough, and like the crows and me you just might become a convert.

Tom Poland is the author of twelve books and more than

1,000 magazine features. A Southern writer, his work has appeared in magazines throughout the South. The University of South Carolina Press released his book, *Georgialina, A Southland As We Knew It*, in November 2015 and his and Robert Clark's *Reflections Of South Carolina, Vol. II in 2014*. The History Press of Charleston published *Classic Carolina Road Trips From Columbia in 2014*. He writes a weekly column for newspapers in Georgia and South Carolina about the South, its people, traditions, lifestyle, and changing culture and speaks often to groups across South Carolina and Georgia, "Georgialina." Email Tom about most anything. tom-pol@earthlink.net.

Coker Softball Team adopts Hartsville family

The holidays aren't just a time for receiving, but for giving as well. Rather than participating in a gift exchange, the Coker College softball team decided to adopt a Hartsville

family with six children. Many people prefer to adopt smaller families, so the Coker softball team decided to step up to the plate.

The team purchased gifts from each child's wish list and delivered the presents to the family on December 10.

Commencement

Continued from 1A

("with greatest praise") after completing degree requirements with a cumulative GPA of 3.9 or higher. They were Rachel Ankers of Elgin; Sierra Lind of Timmonsville; William Huntley of Florence; Catherine Hyman of Pamplico; Emily Lavender of Hartsville; and Shelly Smith of Pamplico.

Eight students graduated Magna Cum Laude ("with high praise") in recognition of a cumulative GPA between 3.75 and 3.89. They were Kaitlin Elmore of Dalzell; Rachel Fleschner of Florence; James Jepertinger of Florence; Tyler Matusiewicz of Florence; Miranda Miles of Coward; Devin Nelson of Bloomfield, Conn.; Garrett Rogers of Charlotte, N.C.; and Caroline Starling of Greer.

Eighteen students graduated cum laude ("with praise") after completing degree requirements with a grade point average between 3.5 and

3.74. They were Elliott Christmas of Hartsville; Jessica Elliott of Marion; Katelyn Elmore of Bishopville; Alexus Franklin of Georgetown; Grantham Heustess of Florence; Sarah Holladay of Florence; Hampton Johnson of Simpsonville; Stacey King of Pamplico; Chase Kirby of Effingham; Sidney Lawrimore of Florence; Juanita McLeod of Florence; Jessica Meggs of Effingham; Molly Packett of Pamplico; Amber Purvis of Effingham; Joshua Stalheim of Florence; Kimberly Vinson of Aiken; Cierra Weatherford of Hartsville; and Kendalyn Woodard of Longs.

Three students graduated with University Honors, which is awarded to students who achieve an overall grade point average of 3.25 or above and complete 21 hours in Honors courses with a grade point average of 3.25 in all Honors courses taken. They were Rachel Ankers of Elgin; Rachel Fleschner of Florence; and Kristin Ingram of Mullins.

Society Hill

Continued from 1A

The vote to approve the expense was unanimous.

Police Chief David Young reported that the Catfish Festival held last month had been a success. He said that there were no incidents that required law enforcement. He also proudly noted that the officers who provided support from other law enforcement agencies commented on how smoothly everything went considering the large crowd that was there to enjoy the festival.

In other business, councilwoman Carolyn Oliver announced the winners for the annual Christmas light contest.

Richard Gaaney won Best All Around

Nolan Keith won Best Imagination

Wilma Kinley won Southern Elegance

Clifton and Virginia Pickrel won Best Use of Lights

Kathy Turner earned an Honorable Mention

Oliver said that she was thrilled to have more people participating this year and that the judges had a hard decision to pick the winners. She also said that she would like to see more folks on Main Street participating so that when people travel through Society Hill it is lit up for the Christmas season. She encouraged everyone to drive around and look at all of the lights, saying it was "worth the drive."

Council bid farewell to member Denise Douglas who lost her bid for re-election during the November election. They thanked her for her service and she assured everyone she would still be around. Tammy Gandy will be sworn in to office during the January 9 meeting. As with all regular meetings, it starts at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Shepard

Continued from 2A

New Year's Eve would arrive under less fanfare; however, a day of feasting on the traditional black-eye peas, hog jowl, collard greens, and corn bread would be enjoyed by all. The old calendar on the wall would be replaced by a new one, and with memories of the year just ended tucked away, life would repeat itself on the village! The mill whistle would blow summoning the workers to their place of labor; the school bell would ring and the children would return wearing

the pretty new clothes they had received at Christmas. A new year had begun.

And that's the way that it was! I remember!

Bill Shepard

Mr. Shepard is a native of Darlington, S.C., and a current resident of Piedmont, S.C. He is the author of "Mill Town Boy" and "Bruised". He has been sharing his tales of growing up in Darlington for decades, and we are delighted to share them each week.

His mailing address for cards and letters is: Bill Shepard 324 Sunny Lane, Piedmont, S.C. 29673.

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QUOTE

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

Habakkuk 2:3

obituaries

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Lisa Knotts
Mary "Lisa" Britt Knotts, age 50, passed away Sunday, December 10, 2017. Funeral services were held 2 p.m. Thursday, December 14th in the chapel at Belk Funeral Home in Lamar, with burial following in Lamar Memorial Cemetery. A visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home in Lamar.



Born July 21, 1967, Lisa is the daughter of the late Ed Britt and Mary Jo Harrington Baker. She enjoyed listening to music and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Surviving are her sons, Jeryl W. (Meghan Dority) Knotts Jr. and Philip (LaTonya) Knotts, both of Lamar; her grandchildren, Jalyn Jeffords, Amiyah Knotts, Jason Knotts Jr., and Lauren Knotts; her brothers, Kent (Janice) Britt, and Eddie Britt, both of Darlington; her sisters, JoAnne (Fred) Miller of Florida and Teresa Amerson of Lamar; her half-sister, Cathy Kimmerlin; and her special friends, Melanie Lee and Robin Sutton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jeryl W. Knotts, and her half-brother, Tommy Britt.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Charlie H. Morse
Charlie "Chip" H. Morse, age 76, passed away Monday, December 11, 2017. A memorial service was held 4 p.m. Friday, December 15th at the home of his niece, 417 Pototo House Rd. Darlington, SC 29532. The family received friends from 3-4 p.m. Friday at the house.

Born September 23, 1941, Chip is the son of the late Harry Morse and Lois Player Morse. He served in the U.S. Air force, and then worked for Perfection Gear. He enjoyed playing guitar and watching NASCAR races. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 25 years, Lynn Morse; his children, Norma Broach and Terry Morse; one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter. Also surviving are his brothers, Donald (Carolyn) Morse, Leonard (Beth) Morse, Wayne (Marie) Morse, Robert Morse, and many nieces and nephews. Chip was preceded in death by his sister, Elaine Edwards; his brother, Kenny Morse, and his beloved dog, Roscoe.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Ethel Mae Rogers Mitchell

Funeral service for Mrs. Ethel Mae Rogers Mitchell were held 12 Noon Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Cecil L. Bromell, Pastor. Rev. Dr. Marvin Caldwell, Officiating. Burial followed in Faith Memorial Gardens directed by Mitchell-Josey Funeral Home, Inc.



Mrs. Mitchell died Wednesday, November 29th in a Florence hospital. She was born in Lamar, SC a daughter of the late Theodore Sr. and Ethel Ham Rogers. She was the widow of Callis M. Mitchell, Jr.

She was a 1950 graduate of Spaulding High School and a 1954 graduate of Claflin College, Orangeburg, SC. At an early age, she was a member of Sandy Grove United Methodist Church; later became a member of St. James United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Choir. She was employed as an insurance agent for Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Co, a Civics / History Teacher/Instructor at Rosenwald High School, a District Attendance Officer for Darlington County Schools and Co-owner/Licensed Funeral Director of Mitchell-Josey Funeral Home, Inc.

She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a member of the South Carolina Morticians Association, Inc., Sixth Congressional District Funeral Directors Association, and a commissioned Notary Public of SC. In the community she was a member of Les Amis Femmes.

Ethel departed this world on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence, SC.

She is preceded in death by her siblings: Frederick Rogers, Theodore Rogers, Jr., James Rogers, Herbert Rogers, Wendell Heyward Rogers, Annie Ruth Rogers and Arlene Rogers Williams.

Survivors includes: her son: Lloyd (Hallistine) Mitchell of Darlington; her daughter: Beverly Mitchell of Florence; her grandchildren: Derrick (A'Deijsha) Brown of Darlington, Latoya (Chris) Hodges of Hubert, NC and Kathryn Mitchell-Tyler of Norfolk, VA; great-grandson, Callen Mitchell Lee Hodges; her sister, Mary Rogers Mercy

of Philadelphia, PA; brothers: Marion Rogers of Brooklyn, NY, Michael (Mary) Rogers of Lexington and Ronald (Sherilynn) Rogers of Alabaster, AL; her step-mother, Mattie Rogers of Lamar; her step-sister, Helen Douglas of Hartsville; her god-daughter, Charmaine Warren-Ray; her special friends, Fredericka Simmons and Rosa Mae Scipio; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Wake service 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Services at St. James United Methodist Church, Darlington and at other times the family is receiving friends at the residence, 206 Pine Street, Darlington.

Schubert Page

Schubert "Sonny" McKeiver Page, age 93, passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2017. Funeral services were held 1 p.m. Saturday, December 16th at Red Hill Southern Methodist Church in Aynor. Burial followed in Zion Cemetery in Aynor, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends from 5-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.



Born January 20, 1924 in Horry County, Sonny is the son of the late McKeiver Page and Maude Dawsey Page. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War 2. Sonny worked at Dixie Cup for 20 years, and then for Steel Buildings of Darlington. Sonny was an avid fisherman, loved water-skiing, and playing many instruments. He will be remembered as a wonderful storyteller who was always ready with a good joke, and also for his love for his family and his country.

Surviving are his wife of 70 years, Lavinia Page; his children, Deborah Page Phillips (Jimmie), Iris P. Andrews (Dale), Della P. King (Henry), Elaine P. Harrelson (Tim), and Richard "Dickie" Page (Angie); his grandchildren, Jimmy L. Phillips (Fran), Page Willis (Scott), Joey Phillips (Julie), Stephen Andrews (Michelle), Stevette Young (Rick), Missy Monterosso (Vinnie), Sonny Stokes (Eddie), Chris Perkins (Tara), J.J. Stark (Martin), Lon Kirven (Sydney), Richard Page (Erwin), Andrew Page, and 26 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his siblings, Dan Page (Doris), Sam Page (Vivian), Ann Gore, Phillip Page (Mary), and Andy Page (Liz).

He was preceded in death by

his siblings, John Richard Page, Colonel Page, Betsy Gilliam, and Carolyn P. Eaton.

Memorials may be made to The Lord Cares, P.O. Box 1457, Darlington, SC 29540; or to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Marian Carter
Marian Elizabeth Wilson Carter, age 96, passed away Monday, December 11, 2017. A graveside service was held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 14th at Fair Hope Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

Born October 10, 1921, Marian is the daughter of the late Hartwell N. Wilson and Lillie Wilson Ward. She loved spending time in the mountains and watching birds, and she loved watching her game shows. Marian was a member of Fair Hope Church.

Surviving are her daughter-in-law, Jeannette R. Carter; her granddaughter, Amy (Dale) Law of Florence; her great-grandchild, Ashley Law. She was preceded in death by her husband, Durwood A. Carter Sr.; her son, Durwood A. Carter Jr.; her granddaughter, Amanda Carter; her sisters, Kathleen Moore, Norma Mathis, and Maydell Wells.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Fair Hope Church, 213 S. Cartersville Hwy. Timmonsville, SC 29161; or to Agape Hospice, 2182 W Evans St, Florence, SC 29501, or 115 N. 5th St. Hartsville, SC 29550.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Janice Stewart
Janice Wallace Stewart, age 59, died Monday, December 11, 2017. A memorial service was held in the chapel at Belk Funeral Home at 3 p.m. Saturday, December 16th. The family will receive friends from 2 until 3 p.m. Saturday at the Funeral Home.

Janice was born in Darlington, daughter of the late Paul and Janie Mae Wallace, and was raised up during her childhood by Rosie Lee Ard. She is survived by her children: Jeffrey (Nikki) Huggins of Florence, Shannon (Joe Wiggins) Wallace of Darlington and Scott Turner, six grandchildren and her siblings, Nancy Couch, Charles Wallace and Kenny Wayne Ard.

A Guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Facebook: St.Catherine's EC Vicar: The Rev. Jeffrey R. Richardson

Lawson Grove Baptist Church
3585 Lawson Grove Rd, Hartsville. Sunday-- Church School at 9:45a.m. and Worship Service at 10:45a.m. Wednesday-- Prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible study 7p.m.

Streaming Available at lawsongrovebaptistchurch.com

Black Creek Baptist Church
Black Creek Baptist Church, located 139 Mont Clare Road, Dovesville, announces their hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11a.m. Worship Services and 6 p.m. Evening Worship. Wednesday: 6:30 Adult Bible Study; Youth Bible Study, Children (Children In Action) 7:30 Adult Choir Practice

CHURCH NEWS

Please send your church news and photos to: editor@newsandpress.net

Christmas Concert
The Wesley Chapel Church Family will host their inaugural "Holiday Under The Stars" Christmas Program. The program will feature Wesley Chapel, Serene, Driven By Dance, Jerusalem Men's Ensemble, Jimmy "June" Bess, and special guests Boys Toooo Men. The event will take place on December 23 at 7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel UMC, 1421 East Lydia Hwy, Hartsville.

New Year's Eve Sing
Oates Baptist Church, 3569 Oates Highway Lamar, SC will have a New Year's Eve Sing on Sunday December 31st at 9 p.m. The Pine Ridge Singers from Hartsville SC, and

Southern Redeemed from Florence SC, will bring in the New Year with praise and worship music. Admission is free, and open to everyone. If you have any questions you may contact Pastor Gerald McAlister at 843-307-6203.

Choir Rehearsal
The Woman's Pee Dee District Department District Woman's Choir Winter Summit Choir Rehearsal will be held January 6. Practice will begin at 10 a.m. at the Savannah Grove Baptist Church Music Room, 2620 Alligator Road, Effingham.

The Upper Room Holy Ghost Mission
Sunday morning worship is at 11 a.m. Bible study Thursday night is at 7 p.m. at 109 Main St. in Darlington Come worship under the leadership of Pastor Warren D. Spearman. Call 843-250-0418 for prayer.

Bible Study
Bible study at Mt.Zion Tabernacle Believers Church 426 W. Broad St. Darlington, on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. Bible study led by Rev.Larry Scipio. Contact Deacon Z.Frierson at 843-992-3158 or church 843-992-8125. Come join us.

Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line
Anyone who needs prayer for healing and deliverance is welcome to call the Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line at 843-393-8555. The prayer line is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church
3123 W. Palmetto St., Florence. Worship Time: 11 a.m. (4th Sunday 8:30 a.m.) Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.Phone: 843-601-3672

LIVING ON PURPOSE Looking to God within a fallen world

By Dr. William Holland

One area of the vast unknown that has been the focus of speculation throughout the ages is why certain events happen that seem to be cruel and unfair. As a Christian minister and counselor, I am consistently either thinking, writing or being asked why tragedies happen when there is a God who can easily prevent them. How many times has someone said, "If He is all powerful, then why does He allow terrible things to happen?" This leaves His followers trying to explain what we understand very little about. Actually, the Christian worldview does not have answers to specific situations but there are general reasons why some things happen. Matthew 5:45 mentions that nature does not discriminate between good and bad or the atheist and the believer. Suffering can come to anyone and anytime without moral cause. There are several reasons why we are vulnerable to tragedy but we only have time to observe a couple. First, we are mortal and very vulnerable against an environment that is filled with danger and death. In the beginning, God established this world with natural laws in mankind's best interest but these laws can also cause us much harm. For example, fire can be a wonderful way to cook our food and generate heat to keep us warm but it can also be a destructive and devastating force. Likewise, gravity is a blessing as it keeps everything in place but if we are sky-diving and our parachute does not open, there will be tragic consequences. On the sixth day of creation, God said that everything was perfect and beautiful which many believe included a disease-free atmosphere without sickness, genetic defects or any other type of fear or danger. However, when Adam and Eve sinned against God and was cast out of the Garden of Eden, according to the Bible most everything changed. Unfortunately, physical and spiritual death became a part of our vocabulary.

My son and his wife are dog lovers and last year they chose to put two of their dogs down because of advanced cancer and of course they were very

upset. About 6 months ago they purchased an adorable puppy and she was such a loving and strikingly beautiful dog. This past week, they let her out in the backyard like usual and about a half-hour later called for her to come in. My son started searching and thought that maybe she had escaped. You can imagine the horror when he stepped up onto the deck of their pool and saw her resting on the bottom. He dove in and retrieved her but it was too late. The gates on the deck were locked and security cameras revealed that she had made an incredible leap into the pool from the yard. We've all made terrible judgments and this mistake became a tragic accident. They are devastated and in this time of being heart-broken again, it was mentioned about why God did not stop this from happening. What can we say? Without being disrespectful, there are many times in our journey when the sovereignty of the Almighty seems to not make sense.

There are events and situations when miracles happen and we are convinced that God stepped into the situation. Then there are other times when crazy things occur that could have easily been prevented. We know that God is watching and is all-powerful but occasionally He decides to not intervene. Why? It's all a part of His perfect will, and for us to maintain a healthy spiritual attitude we are called to bow before Him in faith and submit as Jesus prayed in the garden, "not my will, but thine be done." As we are also reminded of the old saying, "we will not understand until we get to the other side" but this hardly helps in our time of sorrow. The second reason why bad things happen is called free-will and we can agree the most dangerous gift that God ever gave was our ability to choose. Like the puppy who made a bad decision to jump in the pool, a large part of suffering can be and often is self-inflicted. Reaping and sowing is associated with conditions and consequences and somewhere in the mix, we do the best we can and trust Him in everything.

Dr. Holland is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. Learn more at billyhollandministries.com

In Loving Memory
"Conza Mae Keith"

Sunrise 1-29-1945 Sunset 12-23-2010

Merry Christmas Momma,
it's been seven years since God called you home.
We know you are with Jesus, and never alone.

Love Always,
Kat, Tim, Shareka,
Jamarr, Ronnie,
Shamya & Greg

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PETS OF THE WEEK



I'm a compact cutie....tall, fun ears, a broad, contagious smile, more solid in stature and ALWAYS ready to go and do! Super playful, friendly and buoyant, I am always in the hunt to share my energy and affection with other dogs and humans. I love a good game of fetch and when I've had my fill I may recline in your lap. Never meeting a stranger, I'm a fantastic choice as YOUR next family pet! Ask for me Jack! 1 yr old; terrier mix; 24lbs; male



Pint size and really perfect! Miss Tanger is little lady who only tips the scales at 31lbs. A smiley, waggy tailed gal, Tanger is great choice if you are looking for someone to hang by your side. A bit shy when you first meet her, Tanger warms up nicely and can't wait to please you. Come on by soon and see how perfect she could be for you. Bully mix; 1 yr old; female

The Darlington County Humane Society is located 0.5 miles from Darlington Raceway off Highway 151 in Darlington.

Have you lost or found a pet?

If you have lost or found a pet, go online to www.darlingtonhumane.org and click on the link **Lost/ Found Pets**. You will be directed to the www.thelostpets.com Web site where you can register your missing pet.

You will be able to provide a detailed description of your missing pet, as well as attach a photo. Upon registering your lost pet, an e-mail alert will be sent to the Darlington Shelter's e-mail address. This will allow the Shelter staff to recognize your lost pet should it arrive at the facility.

Area Happenings

Weekly Events

Centennial Farmers Market

This market features fresh, organic gourmet foods, free-range eggs and homegrown, healthy foods including homemade breads and sweet treats and as always, live music and entertainment! Every Thursday from 4 - 7 p.m. Location: Corner of 5th St. and Carolina Ave. in Hartsville.

Darlington Elks Lodge

Tuesdays: Swing/Shag dance lessons, "New" line dance lessons from 8-10 p.m.
Wednesdays: Karaoke from 8-10 p.m.
Thursdays: Bingo at 7:30 p.m.

Darlington Elks Lodge is located at 836 Timmonsville Hwy. For more info: 843-393-1451

Paws to Read

Paws to Read is a literacy program where emerging and reluctant readers can create positive emotional connections with reading. Therapy Dogs International with their trainers come for one-on-one reading sessions on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm. and 3 p.m. respectively at the Darlington Library Branch.

Story Time

Darlington: Thursdays at 10 a.m. Info: 398-4940 ext. 305.
Hartsville: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 332-5115 ext. 7.
Society Hill: Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Info: 378-0026
Lamar: Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Info: 326-5524

Library Programs

Teen Program - Mon at 5pm
After School Club - Tues. at 4pm
Homeschool Hub - Wed. at 2pm
Family Movie - Thurs. at 4pm

Crochet & Knit Clubs

Lamar: each Monday at 4:30 p.m. 326-5524
Society Hill: each Friday from 2-4 pm 378-0026
Darlington: 2nd Friday of the month 10 a.m. - noon 398-4940
Hartsville: "The Stitchers" group meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays and 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 5 pm.

Pee Dee SCORE

Pee Dee SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers Free confidential counseling to America's small business, serving Darlington, Florence and surrounding areas. Existing and start-up businesses can schedule an appointment by calling the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce at 843-332-6401.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous will

hold an open meeting of big book and traditions studies weekly at 8 p.m. Monday nights at Trinity UMC on Pearl Street. Use Orange Street entrance. Info: 843-395-6897.

AA meets at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street: 12 noon and 6 p.m. Monday/Wednesday; 12 noon and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and 8pm Sunday.

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon is a fellowship of adult relatives and friends of alcoholics for mutual support. Visitors are welcome. Childcare is not available. Al-Anon meetings:

Thursdays at 8p.m. at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street. Info: 843-992-2981.

Free STEM Friday at Girls University

For girls grades 5K - 8th grade. The event is 100 percent free and will take place from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Girls University Lab, 1249 Celebration Blvd. in Florence. Girls will complete a variety of Girls U signature STEM and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) enrichment activities. Each month, there will be a different activity. Only 20 slots available so girls must be registered to attend. Register online at <https://free-fridays.eventbrite.com>.

Monthly Events

Darlington Library

Book Club - 3rd Sat. of each month
Needle Nuts - 2nd Fri. each month

Yoga for Beginners

Yoga will be held at the Darlington Library the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month from 12:30-2 p.m.

Darlington County Coordinating Council

The first Friday of every month at 11:30. February, April, June, September, and November at Carolina Pines; January, March, and May,

August, October, and December at Medford Nursing Center in Darlington.

Hartsville Pilot Club

Fourth Monday each month at 6 p.m. at their clubhouse across from the Lawton Park Tennis Courts

Hartsville Kiwanis Club

Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Hartsville Country Club

Hartsville Lions Club

Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at Mr. B's Restaurant

Hartsville Rotary Club

Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Hartsville Country Club

Hartsville Toastmasters

2nd and 4th Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Black Creek Arts Center

Book Club

The Darlington Library Book Club meets the 3rd Saturday of each month 12pm-1 p.m. Stop by the library to pick up each month's selection.

Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month. Additional meetings may be called for worksessions and information sessions. The meeting will begin at 6 pm for regularly scheduled meetings. The Darlington County Board of Education in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington, except where noted on the schedule.

Dec. 2017

Winter Ice Skating

Public ice skating at the Florence Civic Center is back through January 1, 2018! Just in time too for a wonderful winter season of family, friends, fun, and ice-skating. All public ice skating sessions are two hours. The cost for adults is \$9; children under 12 are \$7. Skate rental is \$3, but you are welcome to bring your own. Please visit www.florenceciviccenter.com for a

complete schedule of days and times.

St. Luke Grinch Day

St. Luke United Methodist Church, 302 Dunlap Dr, Hartsville, will host a Grinch Christmas Camp December 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The camp is \$12 and will feature the Grinch movie, Grinch activities and Grinch baking. Please call the church office, 843-383-5169, to sign up.

Christmas on Carolina

Join us in downtown Hartsville for Christmas on Carolina on Thursday evenings from November 30th-December 21st. You will find the holiday spirit in our storefronts as they welcome you to treasures waiting to be gifted to loved ones. During Christmas on Carolina evenings, Camden Carriage Company will pick up riders on East College Avenue and stroll them through our downtown on a 20-25 minute ride. Carriage rides will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Main Street Hartsville businesses will also stay open late for you to check those last minute gifts off your list. Hartsville's Te'Quan Coe and his violin will fill Carolina Avenue with the sounds of the holidays to top off these perfect holiday nights. For more information, call 843-917-0602 or visit www.HartsvilleForTheHoliday.com.

Saving Christmas Movie

Christian Fellowship Assembly of God will be offering a free showing of the Saving Christmas on Dec. 22. There is no admission fee. All are welcome to come. The church is located at 736 W Carolina Ave, Hartsville. For more information, call 843-383-6211.

Jan. 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting Jan. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting January 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

Free to Be Me Workshop

The Free to Be Me workshop, January 20, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. is a transition-focused workshop for young adults ages 12 and up with disabilities and their parents/guardians. The parents/guardians and young adult attend the learning sessions together to develop a transition plan, which includes the school transition process, life goals, employment goals, self-determination skills and self-advocacy development. Parents/guardians will also learn about alternatives to guardianship and how to

encourage and support their young adult's independence. A light lunch will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. To register, visit fs27.formsite.com/all4autism/form31/index.html.

Economic Development Update Luncheon

The Economic Development Update Luncheon will be held at the Hartsville Country Club on January 31. Lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m. with the program promptly beginning at 12:15 p.m. Frank Willis of Darlington County Economic Development and Ronald Carter of the North Eastern Strategic Alliance will update members on activity in our county and region. The SC Department of Commerce's Deputy Director for Global Business Development Mandy Brawley will deliver the keynote address.

Feb. 2018

Golden Readers at the Florence Little Theatre

A delightful afternoon of "readers theatre." Enjoy Wit and Wisdom - a collection of humorous stories plus the radio play Spring Cleaning from Our Miss Brooks on Feb. 4, 2018. This free show is directed by Rebecca Sowell. Tickets are required as seating is assigned. Recommended age for the show is 13 or older. Check their Facebook page or call 843-662-3731 for ticket availability.

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

Coker College Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert

The Coker College Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert is February 22 & 23 at 7:30 p.m. and February 24 at 3 p.m. in the Watson Theater of the Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Performing Arts Center. This performance features choreography of the Coker Dance Program faculty. Tickets are free with a Coker ID, \$5 for students/seniors, and \$10 for adults.

March 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting March 13

at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

Kalmia Gardens Oyster Roast

The annual Kalmia Gardens Oyster Roast will be held March 17 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Kalmia Gardens, 1624 W. Carolina Ave. Come enjoy SC Oysters, libations, appetizers, and music. This is a great event that supports the Gardens. For more information, visit Kalmiagardens.org or call 843-383-8145.

Apr. 2017

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting April 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

May 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting May 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

June 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting June 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting June 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

July 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting July 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting July 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

<h2>DARLINGTON</h2>  <p>207 S. Main St. • 393-0885</p>		<h2>Community CONNECTIONS</h2>	
<p>DARLINGTON PACKING COMPANY MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYEES 250 Old Society Hill Road Darlington, SC 29532</p>	<p>H&S Floors & Furnishings 393-0456 210 Russell St., Darlington</p>	<p>ADS THAT SELL Grow your business with a little help from your friends at the News & Press. Charlotte 393-3811</p>	<p>THAD WEINBERG'S SAUSAGE CO. You've tried the rest; now try the best! Whole Hog, Country Sausage, Fresh Pork Cuts 393-2544 1014 Pearl St., Darlington</p>
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DDRA awards two sign grants, announces additional funds for program

Christmas came to downtown this week as the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association (DDRA) awarded two grants through its Improvement Incentive Program in December, and the Board of Directors approved additional funds for the program for 2018.

"We are excited to see more businesses getting involved in improving their properties," said Lisa Chalian-Rock, executive director of the DDRA. "The concept of the grant program was to encourage all our businesses, new and existing, to update their signage and facades and make Darlington a more welcoming and attractive place for residents, customers, and businesses alike."

The first grant went to Lura Marsh and Palmetto Express Tax on South Main Street. The business has upgraded the exterior of the Darlington office with fresh paint and new signage, and she has plans for more landscaping to increase the welcoming atmosphere.

The other grant went to Bill Bryant and RV Boat LLC, also on South Main Street, to add signage announcing the business. The newly opened business repurposes the warehouse for RV, boat, and other storage needs. Mr. Bryant made those dollars flow through the community even more by purchasing

his signs from another recently opened downtown business, Out of This World Screen Printing.

The DDRA Board of Directors approved its 2018 Budget on December 5 and approved another \$5,000 to be used for improvement grants in the coming year.

"We want this momentum to continue and see more businesses open and more succeed," Rock said. "This grant gives owners a little more incentive to stay in Darlington or to locate in Darlington."

Since the program's inception, the DDRA has awarded \$3,500 in grants for improvements, meaning more than \$7,000 worth of upgrades have been made by local businesses due to our efforts.

To apply, download the application from www.buildupdarlington.org or www.darlingtonSConline.com or get a copy from the DDRA Office or Codes Enforcement Office at City Hall, 400 Pearl St.

Through the DDRA Improvement Incentive Program, the DDRA provides up to 50 percent of the cost of removing or installing an approved sign up to a maximum of \$1,000 or up to 50 percent of the cost of exterior painting up to a maximum of \$1,000.

The Board of Directors has \$5,000 available for the pro-



DDRA Board member Curtis Boyd, RV/Boat manager Kenneth Smith, RV/Boat owner Bill Bryant, DDRA executive director Lisa Chalian Rock, Tommy Hewitt of Palmetto Office Furniture. Photo by Samantha Lyles

gram in 2018. Applications should be submitted by the 24th day of the month for consideration.

What is encouraged:

- Replacement of wall-mounted signage with projecting signage.
- Replacement of several advertising signs at one location with a single advertising sign.
- Signs designed by a sign professional.
- Replacement of worn, weathered, discolored, or outdated signs and awnings.
- Repainting of exterior build-

ings which show paint chipping.

• Replacement or installation of awnings.

What will not be funded:

- Purchase of portable or temporary signs.
- Signs that do not conform to the City's sign regulations and which have not been approved.
- Signs and painting for businesses without current City of Darlington business licenses.
- Interior painting.
- Interior signage.

The Board will review applications on a monthly basis at its regular meetings until funds



Lura Marsh, of Palmetto Express Tax, with DDRA executive director Lisa Chalian-Rock. Photo by Melissa Rollins

allocated for the program are given to DDRA members and to exhausted. Preference will be local, non-chain businesses.

Clemson Extension, Thornwell School for the Arts team up for pollution education

Clemson Extension and Thornwell School for the Arts joined forces recently to provide engaging activities for fifth graders about the causes and effects of various types of environmental pollution.

The lessons focused on a three-dimensional map of a community that included homes, roads, businesses and waterways. Leigh Walker, the 4-H Extension Agent for Darlington County, helped organize the opportunities, while Katie Altman, the Clemson Extension Water Quality Agent for several counties in the Pee Dee, conducted the lessons.

Kristen Miller's class shouted answers to questions and watched the demonstration intently.

"My class and I have been so fortunate to have Mrs. Leigh Walker from Clemson Extension work with us this

year. The students have been able to work with interactive landscape models and a variety of materials that, without her help, would not have been possible," Miller said. "By using these materials, the students are able to see how their day-to-day activities affect the city that they live in. Although, we have watched videos and studied pollution in textbooks, nothing could have been more effective than using the landscape models. The models allow students to quickly see the results of pollution."

Altman explained different types of point source and non-point source pollution and introduced examples those pollutants to the map. She then created a simulated "storm" – a spray bottle full of water – to show the students how pollution ends up in critical water sources.

Additionally, she discussed the impacts of erosion and how to help prevent erosion in important areas.

Walker said she and Altman enjoyed working with the students. She added they are excited to return next semester for a new lesson.

"I have enjoyed working at Thornwell this year with Mrs. Miller's Science class and with Mrs. Citronella Smith's guidance classes," Walker said. "We were delighted by the interest of the students and their thoughtful comments and questions. In February, we will be teaching the life cycle by incubating and hatching duck eggs."

For more information about Clemson Extension and 4-H, please visit <http://www.clemson.edu/ext> ension.



Katie Altman, a Clemson Extension Water Quality Agent in the Pee Dee, uses a spray bottle at Thornwell School for the Arts to simulate how storm water carries environmental pollution into critical community water sources. Photo Contributed

Grant allows FMU School of Biz student to research real world issues

What do the pickles in a Chick-Fil-A chicken sandwich cost and how does that affect the Atlanta-based fast food giant's logistics management and bottom line?

A group of upper division Business majors at Francis Marion University spent the past semester studying that problem – and others – as part of a new program funded by a grant from the South Carolina Research Authority.

The SCRA's grant helped FMU's School of Business acquire sophisticated computer modeling software. That, in turn, allowed teams of students in Dr. Hari Rajagopalan's Supply Chain Management class to research logistical issues related to chicken sandwiches, magnetic MRI machines, laptops and pharmaceuticals. The students used the software to create models that allowed them to forecast demand. Those forecasts allowed them to plot strategies for hiring and firing workers, managing inventory, satisfying customers, and – of course – increasing profits.

The students recently presented their findings to a panel of evaluators that included executives from local industries and FMU faculty. Among the panelists were representatives from Otis

Elevator, QVC, Sonoco Products, and GE Healthcare. Peter Straub of the SCRA, who managed the software grant, also served on the evaluation panel. The evaluations counted as a significant part of the student's grades.

Junior Gavin Hafey and senior Danika Guess worked on a project related to Magnetic Imaging Resonance machines, a complex medical scanning device produced by GE Healthcare at its Florence, S.C. plant. Hafey was also working at GE as an intern during the fall semester, so the project really brought supply chain theory to life for him.

"I'd go to work (at GE, for his internship) and then I'd go to class and something would come up in a lecture and I'd say, 'Hey, we were just talking about that it work today,'" says Hafey. "That's such a great addition. After working through a project like this, it's hard to imagine how you'd learn it any other way."

Other students who presented projects included Tyler Matusiewicz and Skyler Herba, who studied HP laptops; Kaitlyn Parada who studied a drug manufactured by Israeli pharmaceutical giant; and Noah Trammel and Anna Wintrich who studied Chick-Fil-A's chicken sandwich

(including the cost of pickles).

GE and Chick-Fil-A participated directly with students in this year's project, providing insight and detailed information. The other students used corporate reports and other sources to produce data. Dr. Rajagopalan says the program will continue and grow. Other local corporations have expressed interest in partnering with students in the future.

"It is a great way for students to really learn how this subject applies in the real world," says Rajagopalan. "The grant from SCRA made it possible for them to do some in-depth research, and the connection with local businesses helps in a number of ways, not the least of which is putting some of our students in front of people involved in the hiring process."

The South Carolina Research Authority is a public, non-profit corporation that fosters and enriches South Carolina's innovation economy. FMU's grant is a pilot project under a new SCRA initiative, created in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Commerce, to establish a South Carolina Applied Research Center for Supply Chain and Logistics within the state.

Controlled burn planned at Cheraw State Park

This winter and/or early spring, federally certified fire crews from The Nature Conservancy plan to treat up to 2,000 acres at Cheraw State Park with controlled burns. The park regularly performs controlled burning to reduce hazardous forest fuels that cause wildfires and to improve habi-

tat conditions.

Any closures will be temporary and clearly posted.

Safety is a primary concern during any controlled burn. The fire experts assigned to these burns are highly trained and have years of experience protecting communities, themselves and the land they are

working to restore. Experienced fire specialists will closely monitor local weather conditions, such as wind, temperature, and humidity, making adjustments in the schedule as needed. The burns will mimic historic, low intensity natural fires as much as possible.

Find complete rules at www.facebook.com/DarlingtonDowntown

@ddraSC
Darlington Downtown

Shop at Darlington Businesses between Thanksgiving & Christmas and Enter to Win One of Three \$100 Fuel Cards

#shopdarlington

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail with copies of five (5) receipts from Darlington businesses dated 11-23-2017 to 12-25-2017 to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.

This is a project of the **Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association.**

How It Works

- Shop at 5 different Darlington businesses
- Send copies of your receipts dated between Nov. 23 and Dec. 25 with this Entry Form to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.
- You may enter additional forms for each 5 businesses you frequent during the holidays for additional chances to win.
- Drawing will be held Dec. 31 and winners notified Jan. 5.

Falcons and Lady Falcons use strong second quarters to dominate on the scoreboard

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Darlington — Both the Darlington boys' and girls' basketball teams protected their home court this past Tuesday, December 12 as both dominated Lamar in the second quarter of each respective game, guiding both the Falcons and Lady Falcons to victory.

Darlington 90, Lamar 30

Darlington gave everyone a preview of just how dominate it can be with the 60-point dismantling of Lamar.

With 11 out Darlington's 12 dressed players for that night scoring, and four reaching double digits, the Falcons cruised to lopsided 90-30 win over the Silver Foxes.

"Everybody feels good about themselves when we leave even if they messed up out there," Darlington boys' head coach Ken Howle said. "We had a lot of people score, Donovan got some good blocks. We still need to be able to execute things in the half court set that we just don't get into real quick."

Jamean Muldrow led the way for the Falcons in scoring with 17 points and Javorius Williams had a double-double, scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

The Falcons jumped out to a quick start on Lamar taking an early 13-2 lead in the first quarter before things settled down

with both teams scoring seven points apiece to close out the opening period.

The second quarter is where things really started to get out of hand. Up by 12 with 4:25 left in the quarter before half, the Falcons went on 22-0 run to go into the half up 47-13.

With a 34 point lead to start the third quarter, Darlington was able to empty its bench and let the reserves gain some valuable experience all while letting the entire team play loose and have fun.

The win improves the Falcons to 5-2 overall.

Darlington 56, Lamar 29

The Lady Falcons gave everyone in attendance a prelude of what was about to transpire, defeating Lamar 56-29.

Up by just three points at the end of the first quarter, the Lady Falcons took control in the second quarter outscoring Lamar 27-3 all while playing some of their best defense of the year.

While it was peaches and crème for the Lady Silver Foxes. A combination of poor shot selection and poor defense, especially in the second quarter, was just too much to overcome.

Sitting back in a zone, Darlington was able to frustrate Simone Durant, one of the best players in all of 1A. She did not score a single point in the first half and finished with only nine for the entire game.



"We just didn't play aggressively," Lamar girls' head coach Randolph Scott said. "When you come to Darlington you have to be an aggressive basketball team, we didn't do that and it

ended up showing up in the second quarter."

A great thing for Darlington was the fact that this game was not just a win on the scoreboard, but it was a win with the roster

as well.

India Mack, an eighth grader, who was just pulled up, played substantial minutes, giving the Lady Falcons some much needed depth at the guard position.

"She came in and gave us a good lift off the bench," Darlington girls' head coach Brad Knox said.

The Lady Falcons record is now 5-2 on the year.



Lamar looks to continue to grow, has championship in sights

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Over the last six years there has been something special happening in the small town of Lamar.

Since taking over Lamar girls' basketball squad in 2011 after it had won just one game the season before, Randolph Scott has completely rebuilt a program from the ground up.

While coaching the Lamar boys' junior varsity basketball team, Scott began to take notice of the girls' program and it was at that point that he asked Principal Cathy Gainey for the job, which she in turn gave him.

"I told her there is something there and I see it and I think all it needs is just a little push to get the program going in the right direction," Scott said. "I could never foresee that it would be this early in the program since we've been here to get it up and running and be in the position that we are right now."

During the first season under Scott, Lamar won only three games but the following year, after switching from the lower state to the upper state, the Silver Foxes finished second in the region and they've never looked back.

This past season Lamar

advanced to the upper state championship for the second time in six years under Scott and, unlike the first time when the Lady Silver Foxes graduated a majority of the girls from that team after the season, this team returns a large nucleus from last year's squad.

"Coming back we have 10 girls that actually played last year on this basketball team," Scott said. "We are looking to grow and see if we can get back to the upper state championship this year and get it done."

Leading the charge of those 10 returning girls is senior Simone Durant. She enters the season recognized as one of the top five players in the entire state for 1A, a testament to how great she has been over her career.

From how great she is on the court, to how hard she works off of it in the classroom, to the drive she has to come to practice each and every day, Scott has thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to coach Durant.

"Simone is a worker, she is a quit leader, but she works hard," Scott said. "She is tough on herself. Sometimes I have to get on her for being so tough on herself. She wants to

make every play, make every shot and sometimes she beats herself up behind that, but that is just being an athlete, that's just being somebody that wants to be better, being competitive and wanting to be better than anybody else out there on the floor. I have enjoyed Simone, good kid, academics good, I have enjoyed her because she comes to practice. That is not one that you have to go look for. I mean she is here and she is working hard and that is the biggest thing for me. She has been with us for four and half years because I pulled her up in the eighth grade."

Durant, who has been on the varsity team since the ended of her eighth grade year, has made both of the trips to Greenville to compete for the upper state championship and with one last chance to cap off a marvelous career with a championship on the resume, Scott is pulling hard for his senior guard.

"I'm pulling for her; I'm one of her biggest fans," Scott said. "I want her to get to that state championship level and see what it is to run out in Columbia and see that you have arrived and win it. That is my goal for these ladies and I am hoping that will happen

at the end of the day."

Winning a state championship is obviously one of the top goals for this team and is how everyone from players to coaches are envisioning the season ending, but for Scott, while he acknowledges how important a championship would be for his program there is another aspect in which he takes great pride: the academic future of these young girls.

"It would be awesome to get to that level to where you can say that Lamar has a girls' state championship basketball team," Scott said. "It would mean a lot to the girls, to the school. As a coach, for me, it would mean a lot, but for me, my thing is trying to get these kids in college. That's my thing. I can go without winning a state championship as long as I can continue to get kids in school."

Since he has been at Lamar the Lady Silver Foxes have had four sign scholarships to play basketball, but he also preaches academics, preaches to the girls about doing their work and school lessons. That commitment to academics has resulted in 16 girls going to college along with a couple that went to the military.

Lamar enters this season as

Attack Leads Cobras Past Lions in Conference Play

The Coker College women's basketball team used a balanced attack to cruise to a 93-64 victory over the visiting Mars Hill University Lions Saturday (Dec. 16) afternoon in South Atlantic Conference action. Erin Houser (17 points), Sydney Shull (17 points), Janea Williams (12 points), and Hannah Stull (ten points) all reached double figures on the offensive end for the Cobras.

Both squads started the contest by exchanging scores and the Cobras held a tight 11-9 lead over the Lions at the 4:44 mark of the first quarter. However, the Cobras began to pull away from the Lions when Shull provided an offensive spark for the Navy and Gold by knocking down back-to-back three-pointers. Iresha Cooper added a jump shot at the end of the run to give Coker a 19-9 advantage over Mars Hill.

Coker held their lead through the rest of the first and second quarters, and took a 46-36 lead into half-time.

The third quarter began with the Navy and Gold jumping all over the Lions by securing 15 unanswered points. Shay Jackson, Hayley Kropp, Williams, Stull, and Houser all knocked down shots during the run for a 61-36 Coker lead at the 4:42 mark of the third quarter. The Cobras went on to outscore the Lions 22-15 in the final quarter of play for the dominating 93-64 victory.

As mentioned, the Cobras finished with four different players reaching double-digits on the offensive end. Houser finished the game with a double-double, tallying a team-best 17 points and securing a team-high 11 rebounds. In addition, Houser and Stull finished with six assists each. As a team, the Navy and Gold finished with 24 assists, their best mark of the season.

The Cobras will have little time off as they host Queens on Monday (Dec. 16). Opening tip is set for 6 p.m. in the DeLoach Center.

Do not be surprised if it is the first of many to come.

Darlington Falcons Basketball Team 2017



Brian Robinson



Chubby Williams



Jalian Smith



Donovan Bryant



De'Ondre Graham



Jamean Muldrow



Kenyon Scott



Kris'shawn Hickman



Malike Cooper



Rodney Goodman



Tre'Quan Scott



Tyler Coleman



Tyshaun Johnson



Assistant coach Anthony Heilbronn



Head coach Ken Howle

Local ministry puts Blessing Boxes throughout Darlington County

By Melissa Rollins
 Editor
 editor@newsandpress.net

The Bible talks a lot about taking care of others. The Gospel of Luke, chapter three verse eleven says, "If you have two shirts, share with someone who does not have one. If you have food, share that too."

The Family Mission Center, an outreach of Great Commission Ministries in Darlington, is doing just that with a series of Blessing Boxes, full of food and toiletries for those who may need them.

"I had originally seen it on Facebook and it was a ministry that was started from a little womens church in Oklahoma," said Tammy Robinson, Director of the Family Mission Center. "I contacted the original group and got permission to do it. I have served our community since 2009 with different non-profit organizations and one of the biggest things I've seen is that we have a lot of families

that are food poor. What I mean by that is that they are working families but, after they pay their bills, they don't have money to budget in for food."

Robinson said that children are affected the most during times when school is out.

"We were getting a lot of phone calls, especially on summer break and Christmas break when the kids were out of school and couldn't get those free breakfasts and lunches," Robinson said. "Most of the families that we were helping were working families who make too much to get help from the government, even if it is eleven or fourteen dollars over the limit."

The Mission Center volunteers saw a big need and decided to fill the void in a discrete way.

"We didn't want people to feel like they were begging; we wanted to be able to help them in a way that they can come and go as they need," Robinson said. "Before we knew it, we had peo-

ple asking us for other boxes, so we now have eight boxes up in the area and we are in the process of building 12 more. American Home Place donated the supplies for 12 more boxes and we are trying to have them in place by December 22 so we can make sure that they are there for the remainder of Christmas break. It has been a wonderful ministry for our area."

The eight boxes are located throughout the Pee Dee, including Darlington, Lamar, Society Hill and Hartsville.

"We picked areas that are easy to be seen, out of traffic way," Robinson said. "We have some that are by school bus stops that will have a breakfast bar or a snack for the afternoon for kids. We have some that are close to apartment complexes. We want the boxes, wherever they are, to serve the people in that area."

The boxes have remained filled thanks to members of the community, Robinson said.

"The awesome thing that is happening is that our community is taking care of our community," Robinson said. "People who do have extra are driving by and they are filling them up. It hasn't been a burden to one ministry because the community is stepping up and taking care of it; it has been a big blessing to a lot of people. I'm not sure who is being more blessed though, the giver or the receiver; it has been amazing to watch."

Anyone interested in making a donation can contact Tammy Robinson at 843-307-8876.

Blessing Box locations:

Darlington

757 Wire Road
 Darlington, SC
 (by the entrance off of Billy Farrow)

Lamar

304 West Jackson Street
 Lamar

3316 Oats Highway Lamar



His Hands and Feet Shelter
 34 Foundry Hill Road,
 Cheraw

Hartsville box
 1342 Old East Camden Road
 Hartsville

Society Hill
 Society Hill Church of God
 378 Pressley Ave, Society Hill

Santa visits Downtown Darlington for Shop Small Open House

Christmas shopping doesn't have to always mean running the gauntlet at the malls or big box stores, and the annual "Shop Small" event held December 7 on the Darlington Public Square reminded folks that good deals, friendly service, and unique gift items can be found at many local retail-

ers. Visitors to the Square on Thursday evening enjoyed holiday music, visits with Santa Claus and his elves, and received free canvas tote bags (donated by American Express) filled with sale flyers and coupons from Darlington area businesses.



Downtown Darlington merchants – like The Jeweler's Bench – provided shoppers with refreshments and free gifts



Tamia Hunter, age 4, shared her Christmas wish list with Santa Claus during the annual "Shop Small" event on the Darlington Public Square. Photo by Samantha Lyles



Christmas elf Riley Gibson, Santa Claus, entertainer Dan E. Lockemy, and elf Emily Weatherford



Regan McQueen, 8, talked tech with Santa, asking for an Apple iPhone X and a new iPad

61th Annual Men's Dance Club of Darlington Winter Debutante Ball



Kinsley Glenn Chestnut

Three young ladies were presented at the 61st Annual Men's Dance Club Winter Debutante Ball, on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the Darlington Country Club. The club president, Mr. George Wightman Whitaker III, and Mrs. Whitaker greeted members and guests. Debutantes introduced in the receiving line by their fathers, were Miss Kinsley Glenn Chestnut, Miss Laurel Ann Dennis, and Miss Bryant Sidney Flowers.

Miss Chestnut, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Glen Chestnut of Darlington, is a freshman at the University of South Carolina. She was presented by her father, Mr. Willie Glen Chestnut and escorted by Airman First Class, Nathanael Isaac Powers, United States Air Force. Miss Chesnut is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alston LeRoy Campbell of Darlington and Mrs. Agnes Johnson Chestnut and the late Mr. Marvin Benjamin Chestnut of Galivants Ferry.

Miss Dennis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward

Colgate Dennis IV of Darlington, and a freshman at the University of South Carolina. She was presented by her father, Mr. Edward Colgate Dennis IV, and escorted by Mr. William Christopher Moore of Darlington, a freshman at Clemson University. Miss Dennis is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Stout McCall, Jr. of Society Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Colgate Dennis III of Darlington.

Miss Flowers is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Brian Flowers of Darlington, and a freshman at Anderson University. She was presented by her father, Mr. Christopher Brian Flowers, and escorted by Mr. Joshua Max Ward of Darlington. Miss Flowers is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Digby Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Henry David Taylor, and the late Mr. Rivers Furman Flowers, all of Darlington.

Following the formal presentation of the debutantes and the Debutante Figure, members and their guests enjoyed a seated dinner and dance.



Laurel Ann Dennis



Bryant Sidney Flowers

Kaitlyn Hummel named NCCAA All-American

GREENVILLE, -- The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) has named Bob Jones University Bruins women's soccer player Kaitlyn Hummel to the All-American Teams for Division II.

"We have been blessed once again to be represented by some truly remarkable women," Bruins Head Coach Chris Carmichael said. "Hummel has been a key part of our program's success and we're proud to see each one honored as some of the best players in the nation. They each have worked so hard and they play for God's glory."

Katie Hummel, a resident of Florence, earned 2nd Team All-American for the Bruins. Hummel played nearly every minute for the Bruins this season while serving as one of the captains on the team. Hummel also earned All-American honors last spring in Track where she finished 3rd overall at the National Championships in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

"She is one of the hardest workers we've had in our program," Coach Carmichael said. "She continues to push herself and has evolved into an elite-level athlete during her career here."

The Lady Bruins battled through their toughest schedule to date to finish 11-9-1 on the season. The team battled back from a 1-0 deficit in the 2nd half of the NCCAA DII South Region



Championship to win the match 2-1. After earning the #1 seed for the national tournament, the Bruins defeated #4 Randall University in the semifinal before edging #3 Providence University

College 1-0 in overtime to capture their 3rd straight NCCAA DII National Championship.

Bob Jones University is a Division II institution in the South Region.

Darlington native seeks family connection

I am a native of Darlington, S.C. My Dad, Paul Lambert was also born in Darlington. The Lambert family lived on the mill village. We lived on the mill village when I was a child. Dad worked at the cotton mill.

The Lamberts were a large family. My Dad's brother was Clarence Lambert. Uncle Clarence founded and was Pastor of Southside Free Will Baptist Church.

I'm friends with Bill Shepard who writes an article for the News and Press.

Only 2 days ago after reading his book, Mill Village Boy, I picked up a connection between my family and Mr. Sam Anderson's family.

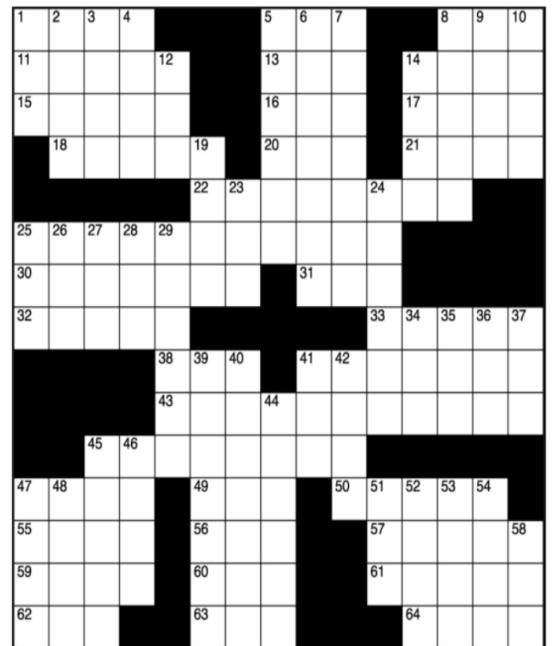
Mr. Sam Anderson married my Grandmother Nettie Lambert before my parents married, years before I was born.

Grandmother and all her children have passed and it's grandchildren that remain. I think it would be great to learn more about the Lambert/Anderson connection.

If any of the Anderson family read this paper, they can contact me via email at rwardph@tampabay.rr.com

Signed,
Paulette Lambert Herres

CROSSWORD



- CLUES ACROSS
- Member of a Semitic people
 - Certified public accountant
 - Residue
 - Sayings attributed to Christ
 - The products of human creativity
 - Listen to
 - Longed
 - No (Scottish)
 - Descriptor
 - Yankees' sensation Judge
 - Zero
 - Comics legend Lee
 - Honorary title holder
 - "Uncle Joey"
 - Graceful and stylish
 - Pitching term
 - Former Mets outfielder Jones
 - One who avoids animal products
 - Quick to learn
 - Mechanism in an organ
 - Redo with new materials
 - Epics
 - Wings
 - Extrasensory
- CLUES DOWN
- Pie ___ mode
 - Portuguese cape
 - Ottoman military title
 - Movable frame used in burials
 - Type of coal
 - A treeless grassy plain
 - Artist's workroom
 - Assists
 - Protein-rich liquids
 - A song of praise to God
 - Much ___ about nothing
 - Japanese city
19. Atomic number 10
23. Egyptian goddess
24. Go places
25. Having ten
26. Complete
27. Automotive belt
28. Psyche
29. Melodious bird
34. Medical personnel
35. Acquired
36. Type of beverage
37. Neither
39. Spanish monetary units
40. Small area of grass
41. Your
42. Diana __, singer
44. Salt's partner
45. Made of wood
46. No longer alive
47. Alaskan island
48. Wild animal's resting place
51. Swiss river
52. Partiality
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. UNLV's "Runnin' ___"
58. Criticize

WORD SEARCH

L G U G N E R U T N E V D A D Y R U O T
F E R U S I E L R E G N E S S A P C R A
A E T A I L I F F A A F N O I T A C A V
T D U H R O N M M E R C H A N T T V S I
N C D C A E G R E I C N O C S A M L P N
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I R P D R A C Y E K L C A A T K D T H T

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| ACCOMMODATION | COMMISSION | INDUSTRY |
| ADD-ON | CONCIERGE | INVOICE |
| ADVENTURE | CRUISE | KEYCARD |
| AFFILIATE | CURRENCY | LEISURE |
| AGENT | CUSTOMER | MERCHANT |
| AGGREGATOR | DEALS | OVERBOOKING |
| BARGAIN | DESTINATION | PASSENGER |
| BED AND BREAKFAST | ESTABLISHMENT | SIGHTSEE |
| BLACKOUT | EVENTS | SUITE |
| BOOKING | EXCURSION | TOUR |
| CHARTER | FARE | TRIP |
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Joint investigation leads to discovery of stolen weapons

MCBEE--The Darlington County Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Unit, in conjunction with the Hartsville Police Department, the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, served a search warrant at a residence in the 2200 block of Ashland Rd. in the McBee area of Darlington County on November 17.

Sheriff's Deputies recovered four stolen pistols, five rifles, various ammunition, 16 oxycodone pills and various stolen property. Larry Eugene Alford, 29, of McBee, was arrested and charged with two counts of possession

of a stolen pistol, two counts of receiving stolen goods, possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and simple possession of marijuana. Alford posted bond and was transferred to the Marlboro County Detention Center to face a charge of probation violation. April Mae Herring, 31, of Cheraw, was arrested and charged with two counts of possession of a stolen pistol, two counts of receiving stolen goods and simple possession of marijuana. Herring remains in custody at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center.

Sheriff's K9 bites victim during call

On December 9, a Darlington County Sheriff's K-9 unit was dispatched to Kingston Dr. in the McBee area of Darlington County to assist with the search of a burglary suspect. As the Deputy attempted to exit his vehicle, the K-9 assigned to him was able to unintentionally exit the vehicle. The Deputy attempted to re-kennel the K-9 as individuals began to approach the Deputy and the K-9. The K-9 viewed the individuals approaching and ran in their direction. The Deputy ordered everyone to stop in place. The K-9 ran past several individuals who stopped running. The victim continued to run and was bitten by the K-9. The Deputy was able to physically restrain the K-9 and re-kennel the K-9.

The incident remains under review and the K-9 was removed from active duty on December 9 until an evaluation by an independent outside agency can be conducted. All patrol vehicles equipped for the transportation of K-9s have been inspected by an independent outside agency. The K-9 is a trained apprehension K-9 and has apprehended noncompliant suspects in the past during the course of its duties. An incident of this nature has not occurred with this K-9 to the knowledge of the current administration.

Tips for keeping your Christmas tree healthy through the holidays

CLEMSON — With the countdown to Christmas upon us, don't let the clock run out on your tree before the big day arrives.

While traditions vary, no matter when or where your family gets its Christmas tree, there are tricks to ensure it stays fresh and green throughout the holiday season, Clemson University Extension Christmas tree agent Mark Arena says.

First, pay attention to the cut of the tree. Pre-cut trees need at least an inch cut off the base after purchase to create a fresh cut that will allow the tree to take water.

"When you get a fresh-cut tree, they're going to cut the tree fresh off the trunk and they're going to place it in your car," said Arena. "Within an hour, you should get the tree home, in the stand and fill the stand with water, and keep the water in the stand constantly full. The difference between getting a fresh-cut tree and a pre-cut tree is the length we cut off the base. With a pre-cut tree that you get at a large box store or a Christmas tree farm, you want to take at least an inch off the base and create a fresh cut that will be able to take up the water."

Next, make sure to have a stand large enough to hold at least a gallon of water and check the water level every 24 hours.

Many stores and tree farms, such as the one Clemson University emeritus faculty member George Kessler has operated near Six Mile since 1971, offer stands in one-, two- and three-gallon models, depending on the size of your tree.

"One of the things we emphasize is to make sure they get the tree promptly in water once they leave this place," Kessler said. "We tell them they have one hour to have the tree back in water, and if it's not back in water in that time, they need to re-cut it themselves."

Additives such as sugar, soda or baking soda don't enhance the life of a tree. Water is the key.

"The best thing you can do is keep the water base full and let the tree take that fresh water up and over time the tree is actually going to slow down on that water uptake," Arena said. "So just make sure you keep the water at the bottom of the base and that's the best thing you can do."

After buying a tree, take steps to make it as clean as possible prior to bringing it into

your house. Many farms offer a vibrating mechanism to remove dead needles. Too many dead needles, however, is a bad sign.

"A simple way to check and see how fresh the tree is, is to bump it on the ground or sidewalk," Kessler said. "If you get a bunch of needles shedding out of the tree when you do that, you probably better look for another tree."

Once a tree is cut, it will regulate the amount of water it can take up its base on its own. No need to worry about over-watering.

"The natural sap in the tree will start to close the cells that take up the water," Arena said. "So watering it through the base of the tree I don't see how one could overwater it. Some people do get out a misting bottle or a hose and they wet down the trees. There's not really much water uptake through the foliage once the tree is cut, so we don't recommend that method, especially if you have electrical cords or other electrical objects on the tree. It's just not really a safe thing to do: put water with electricity."

Make sure to keep the tree away from other heat sources, too.

"We also tell customers they need to keep it in a place in the

home that is away from ducts, fireplaces and wood stoves," Kessler said. "The other thing we tell them is to make sure they're using proper electrical equipment around the trees, something that doesn't have any shorts. I know a lot of people worry about fires with Christmas trees, but in reality, if you keep it fresh, you're not going to have a problem with fire."

If you've waited later in the season, trees growing in the ground are more likely to still be fresh; pre-cut trees may not take on water even after making a fresh cut.

"Look for a healthy tree; all the Christmas tree farmers in South Carolina are growing trees in the ground," Arena said. "That's my preference because it's a healthier tree and a local tree and they tend to do better. Just look at the tree and be happy with it. With a Christmas tree, everybody has a different taste and appeal about what they think is a pretty tree."

For those looking for a local farm, the South Carolina Christmas Tree Association offers a free search engine to find farms within a 50-mile radius by entering your zip code at www.schristmas-trees.org.

BOOKINGS REPORT

W. GLENN CAMPBELL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 11 THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2017

INMATE NAME/AGE/BOOKING OFFENSE

CHARGES

ABHAN: Assault and battery, high and aggravated nature
DUAC: Driving under unlawful alcohol concentration
DUI: Driving under the influence
DUS: Driving under suspension
CDV: Criminal domestic violence
CDVHAN: Criminal domestic violence, high and aggravated nature
PDC: Public disorderly conduct
PWID: Possession with intent to distribute
SPOM: Simple possession of marijuana

1st

•Paul Kentrell Garner, 27, of 425 Oriole Lane, Bennettsville, Resisting Arrest; Giving False Information; Public Disorderly Conduct

•Quinton Jevon Gattison, 34, of 3408 Wallflower Lane, Darlington, Probate Court

•Jada Timeyia Jackson, 17, of 1809 Hayfield Rd, Darlington, Public Disorderly Conduct

•Sylvia Jean James, 62, of 257 Hunter Farm Road, Chesterfield, Burglary First Degree; Assault/Battery High and Aggravated Nature

•Antwain Kentani Moses, 28, of 330 Bell Ave, Hartsville, Drugs/Man Dist Etc Cocaine Base 1st; Drugs/Dist Sell Manuf or PWID Near a School

•Frequez Zarease Stevenson, 23, of 314 Brewer Ave, Hartsville, Domestic/Domestic Violence 1st Degree

•Regina Lois Wallace, 36, of 906 Verlie Drive, Hartsville, Public Disorderly Conduct

•Danny Lee Allen, 51, of 110 Holloway Ln, Florence, Sex Offender Registry Violation 1st Offense

•Prevac Lamane Brown, 39, of 231 S Darlington St, Lamar, Giving False Information; Driving Without a License

•Shameka Reanda Delane, 37, of 300 Doneraile Street, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension

•Eric Sterling Dubose, 20, of 206 Ave E, Darlington, Driving Under the Influence

•Tabitha Griggs, 39, of 3084 Midway Road, Cheraw, Burglary First Degree; Assault/Battery High and Aggravated Nature

•Jeremiah Wardell Harriott, 26, of 549 Cedar Ridge Dr, Darlington, DUI <10 1st Offense

•Shauna Moore Jones, 31, of 5942 Liberty Chapel Rd Lot S, Florence, Shoplifting <\$2000

•Robert Earl Little, 51, of 3084 Midway Road, Cheraw, Burglary First Degree; Assault/Battery High and Aggravated Nature

•Maurice Cleveland Royster Jr., 33, of 690 Elm St, Yuba City CA, Non Support

•Trevin Denzel Singletary, 34, of 184 Winburn St, Patrick, Entering Premises After Warning; Violation of City Ordinance; Malicious Injury to Personal Property

•Donald Eugene Smith, 50, of 2338 Gardenic Dr, Hartsville, Petty Larceny <\$2000

•Christy Michelle Williamson, 30, of 106 4th St, Darlington, Theft of a Controlled Substance

•Terry Alron Burgess, 29, of 2620 Branham Meadow Lane, Charlotte NC, Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle 1st Off; Driving Under Suspension

•Jeffery Todd Byrd, 38, of 1022 Randolphs Landing, Manning, Non Support; Non Support

•John Henry Campbell, 46, of 905 Cedarwood Ct, Darlington, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree; Domestic Viol 2nd Degree

•Amy Ann Chaplin, 21, of 2681 Indian Branch Rd, Darlington, Petty Larceny <\$2000; Probation Violation; Non Support

•Greyson Webb Dowling, 22, of 2346 Oliver Road, Timmonsville, Driving Under

Suspension

•Terrence Cox Frazier, 27, of 205 Brockington Rd, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension

•Dorothy Ann Oliphant, 38, of 721 Rio Dr, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension; Use License Plates Other Than Vehicle Issued; Operating Vehicle Which is Not Registered/Lic

•John Wesley Outlaw, 51, of 348 Family Rd, McBee, Driving Under the Influence

•Willie Corneliuss Peterkin, 45, of 1723 Sidefield Drive, Lamar, Driving Under Suspension

•Maurice Cleveland Royster Jr., 33, of 690 Elm St, Yuba City CA, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

•Virginia Lee Berrien, 50, of 803 West Home Ave, Hartsville, Probation Violation

•Shirley Ann Capers, 63, of 100 Player Street Apt 6, Darlington, Shoplifting <\$2000

•Jerry Davis, 54, of 1309 Mt Sinai Drive, Darlington, General Sessions Bench Warrant; Littering; Speeding on a Moped; Moped Licensing Provisions Vio 1st Offense; Resisting Arrest; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; RSG Value \$2000 or Less

•Vinson Monray Ervin, 27, of 839 Bay Branch Rd, Lamar, Transp Alcohol in Motor Vehicle w/Seal Broken; Driving Under Suspension; Driving Under the Influence; Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st

•James Allen Harris, 68, of PO Box 814 Elgin, Public Drunk

•Janet Ikner, 54, of 2309 W Billy Farrow Hwy, Hartsville, Entering Premises After

Warning

•Quinton Sintelle Jacobs, 34, of 426 Brewer Ave, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000

•Darby Danielle James, 23, of 2964 Shadeland Circle, Florence, Driving Under the Influence

•Kenneth Mikael Karpuleon, 24, of 7323 East Kenmore Drive, Norfolk VA, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st

•Kearius Antwain McCoy, 20, of 824 Bassett Dr, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000

•Harry Ratliff, 57, of 337 Lotus Circle, Hartsville, Open Container of Beer/Wine; Driving Under the Influence

•Nasir Jeremiah Simmons, 20, of 101 Reservoir St, Darlington, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st

•Natashua Shavon Slater, 29, of 2512 Thousand Oaks Dr, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension

•William Thomas Warren, 34, of 229 Woodwind Drive, Hartsville, Public Disorderly Conduct

•Delia Shandrica Johnson, 28, of 2205 Sunnyfields Drive, Weekender

•Charles Edward Dubose, 23, of 116 Gandy St, Darlington, DUI 10 1st Offense; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st

•Jeremiah Reagan Neubauer, 17, of 1513 Bay Creek Road, Hartsville, Fail to Stop for Blue Light; Traffic/Too Fast for Conditions

•Ezra Franklin Wallace, 40, of 141 W Laurens St, Hartsville, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

•Tayler Renee Watson, 25, of 1825 Anderson Farm, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension

•Quentin Lamont Witherspoon, 31, of 117 Hunter St, Darlington, Open Container of Beer/Wine; Non Support

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McLeod Occupational Health welcomes new medical director

FLORENCE-- McLeod Occupational Health is pleased to welcome Stuart Sandler, DO, as the Medical Director of McLeod Occupational Health. In this role, Dr. Sandler oversees operations of the McLeod Employee and Occupational Health clinics across the McLeod Health system.

Dr. Sandler started his medical career in Family Medicine in 1986, and discovered his love for

Occupational Health in 1995. Since then, he has worked in the Occupational Health field for Medical Clinics, Hospitals, and Managed Care facilities.

Dr. Sandler is a certified Medical Review Officer and DOT Examiner. His professional affiliations include the American Osteopathic Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, American College of Osteopathic and Environmental

Medicine, and American Association of Medical Review Officers.

"We are excited about the addition of Dr. Stuart Sandler," said Octavia Williams-Blake, Vice President of Workplace Safety for McLeod Health. "We are truly dedicated to providing the best health care options for local industries and their employees, and Dr. Sandler brings many years of expertise to

our area".

About McLeod Occupational Health

McLeod Occupational Health Services works closely with area businesses and industries to ensure the overall health and well-being of their employees. Their goal is to ensure injured employees can remain at work and safely perform productive jobs.

Clemson Extension offers Waterfowl Management Workshop

Clemson Extension and the Kennedy Center for Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation will deliver a waterfowl habitat and hunt management workshop at The Catfish Farm at 1199 Terrells Bay Rd., Marion, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 7th, 2018.

Come join Clemson Extension and the Kennedy Waterfowl and Wetlands Center for an informative workshop and field tour for landowners, land managers, and residents interested in improving waterfowl conservation. Newly renovated and expanded, The Catfish Farm near Marion, SC contains world class managed wetlands featuring flooded crops such as rice and corn, moist soil management of native vegetation, green tree reservoirs, and deep ponds that provide a diverse array of habitat types for migrating waterfowl. This workshop provides an opportunity to interact with South Carolina's leading waterfowl and wetlands experts to discuss waterfowl biology, wetland design and management, crop planting and maintenance, controlling weeds and nuisance wildlife, as well as managing hunters and hunts to improve bird retention. Richardson Construction, the new owner of The Catfish

Farm, has made recent investments in building new wetlands and expanding habitat, and the field tour will give you an opportunity to see established wetlands that have been managed for many years with waterfowl in mind as well as visit newly constructed wetlands that were just completed in the last year or two.

The workshop is a one-day event, but there is an option for overnight lodging for those who would like to arrive for dinner and a social the evening before the workshop. Participants who attend the social will get to interact with students and researchers currently conducting waterfowl research at the Kennedy Center. When you register, please choose option 1 if you would like to attend just the workshop or option 2 if you would like to come the evening before.

Register for this workshop online at tinyurl.com/ycalcca. The event link also is posted to all county Clemson Extension web pages.

This program qualifies for continuing education credits for foresters and pesticide applicators. Foresters can earn 4.0 category 1 CFEs and 1.5 category 2 CFEs. Pesticide licensees can earn 1.5 hours of recertification credits in category 5.



Members of the Pilot Club of Darlington recently presented safety patrol belts and badges to the safety patrols at Pate Elementary. Peggy Ruthven, Co-Chair of the Health and Security Committee, made the

official presentation. Also present were Pate Elementary School Principal Emily Lunn and Pilots Nancy Lee, BJ Blackmon, Dawn Richardson, and Judy Langley.

SCFC protects water quality by offering BMP courtesy exams

COLUMBIA—Water quality was protected on 99.3 percent of the timber harvesting operations that the agency monitored through its courtesy exam program this year.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is charged with overseeing Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) across the state, among many other responsibilities. Forestry BMPs are a set of guidelines designed primarily to protect water quality while forest operations such as logging, road construction and site preparation are being performed.

One of the agency's most effective tools for monitoring compliance with these guidelines is conducting BMP courtesy exams, which consist of a series of checklists, measurements and observations

designed to assess the impact of forest operations on water quality. Offered to timber harvesters and other contractors who perform forestry activities, the exams are free and intended both to educate the contractors and prevent possible BMP violations.

Although the state's BMPs are non-regulatory, voluntary practices, they are designed to help landowners, loggers and forestry professionals prevent violations of the Clean Water Act, the South Carolina Pollution Control Act and other laws and regulations applicable to forestry. Please allow us to assist you with any pre-harvest planning or offer advice on regulatory issues. To request a courtesy exam or to ask questions about the BMP program, please contact Herb Nicholson at (803) 896-8803.

Darlington County School District announces December Teacher Feature winners

The Darlington County School District's Teacher Forum announced recently the Teacher Feature winners for December. The program recognizes one teacher from each school to honor excellence in education.

Teacher Feature is coordinated by the district's Teacher Forum, which is comprised of each school's Teacher of the Year. The purpose of the Teacher Forum is to foster professional growth and teacher leadership.

Honorees receive free meals at local restaurants and recogni-

tion in their schools.

The December honorees are:

- Melinda Hanna, Brockington Magnet Elementary School
- Kinsey Johnson, Brunson-Dargan Elementary School
- Alana Stokes, Cain Elementary School
- Meredith Hall, Carolina Elementary School
- Jennifer Cooper, Darlington High School
- Travis Byrd, Darlington Middle School
- Melia Carroll, Darlington County Intervention School

- Jesse Flowers, Darlington County Institute of Technology
- Yusuf English, Hartsville High School
- Lauren Judzis, Hartsville Middle School
- Tina McElveen, Lamar Elementary School
- Hattie Sanders, Lamar High School
- Kelly Long, Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology
- Leigh Lloyd, North Hartsville Elementary School
- Melissa Morris, Pate Elementary School

- Sydney Gordon, Rosenwald Elementary/Middle School
- Sheila Brodie, Southside Early Childhood Center
- Elizabeth Stokes, Spaulding Elementary School
- Abigail Towe, Spaulding Middle School
- Celina Epps, St. John's Elementary School
- Brandon Hutson, Thornwell School for the Arts
- Anna Moore, Washington Street Elementary School
- Tara Dempsey, West Hartsville Elementary School

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, 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 #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the 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: David W Byrd AKA David William Byrd
Date of Death: 11/2/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600562
Personal Representative: Cathleen Strickland Byrd
Address: 2529 Byrdtown Road, Hartsville, SC 29550
(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Estate: Robert H Byrd, Jr
Date of Death: 11/8/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600560
Personal Representative:

Brenda D Byrd
Address: 2801 Indian Branch Road, Hartsville, SC 29550
(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Estate: John David Grainger, Jr
Date of Death: 8/19/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600551
Personal Representative: John D Grainger
Address: PO Box 58, Darlington, SC 29540
Attorney: Gena Phillips Ervin
Address: PO Box 2527, Florence, SC 29503-2527
(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: George W Kornegay
Date of Death: 11/8/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600568
Personal Representative: Jeffrey Sean Kornegay
Address: 1471 Bethan Drive, Summerfield, NC 27358
(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: John E Ward
Date of Death: 11/1/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600564
Personal Representative: Martha D Ward
Address: 2181 High Hill Road, Darlington, SC 29540
Attorney: Albert L James, III
Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540
(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

SUMMONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2017-CV-16-10100558

Southern Lease Management Group, LLC, Plaintiff, v. Bobby Blakney, Defendant

TO THE DEFENDANT BOBBY BLAKNEY:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of

your answer to said Complaint upon the Hartsville Magistrate Court located at 404 South Fourth Street, Hartsville, SC 29824 within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Summons and Complaint were filed in the Hartsville Magistrate Court for Darlington County, South Carolina on June 9, 2017.

Drew B. Walker
Attorney for Plaintiff
Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn, LLC
1901 Main Street, Suite 1200
Post Office Box 11803
(29211)
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 978-2836
email: dwalker@rogers-lewis.com
(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Maruti Skand, Inc. intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and off premises consumption of Beer and Wine at 1102 S. Main Street, Darlington, SC 29532. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than Dec. 28, 2017. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, Attn: ABL, PO Box 125, Columbia, S.C. 29214; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110.
(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, 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 #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the 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: Betty McCaskill Kirven AKA Betty M Kirven
Date of Death: 11/7/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600572
Personal Representative: Sarah K Garland
Address: 127 Alabama Drive, Darlington, SC 29532
(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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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: Ann Poston Jordan
Date of Death: 10/17/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600578
Personal Representative: Lide Kadell Jordan
Address: 900 E Saint Paul Road, Timmonsville, SC 29161
(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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Estate: Joyce Ann McKenzie
Date of Death: 11/6/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600575
Personal Representative: Penny McKenzie Hall
Address: 1961 Tomahawk Road, Lamar, SC 29069
(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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Estate: Joseph L Howle
Date of Death: 10/26/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600561
Personal Representative: Rhonda M Howle
Address: PO Box 1996, Darlington, SC 29540
Attorney: John Jay James, II
Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540
(22c3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Laurie Coke Lawson
Date of Death: 12/2/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600584
Personal Representative: William E Lawson
Address: PO Box 518, Darlington, SC 29540
Co-Personal Representative: James H Lawson
Address: PO Box 518, Darlington, SC 29540
(23p3 leave in thru 1-3-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington

County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, 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 #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the 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: Joy S Shumate, Jr
Date of Death: 11/19/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600583
Personal Representative: Christopher Plyler Ridenhour
Address: 536 W Home Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550
(23p3 leave in thru 1-3-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Richard M Smalls
Date of Death: 7/26/2017
Case No: 2017ES1600573
Personal Representative: Elena Whitaker
Address: 1290 SE 66th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34472
Attorney: Gena Phillips Ervin
Address: PO Box 2527, Florence, SC 29503-2527
(23p3 leave in thru 1-3-17)



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customerservice@newsandpress.net.

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DECEMBER 20, 2017 | PAGE 5B
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393-1327 or 393-9071

Public Auction
12/21/2017 @ 9:30 am
2013 Honda Accord
Last 6 of Vin 151538
Regional Acceptance
Corporation
Greenville NC
Location: Manheim
1111 Harry Byrd Hwy
Darlington SC 29532
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RESIDENTIAL

2200 Lides Springs Rd — 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, 3,485 sq ft — **\$249,900**

4818 Lullwater Drive — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,066 sq ft — **\$209,900**

122 Columbian St — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,608 sq ft — **\$174,900**

121 Woodcreek Rd — 3 bedrooms, 1/2 bath, 2,000 sq ft — **\$174,900**

485 Anderson Drive — 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,967 sq ft, inground pool — **\$159,900**

4854 Lullwater Dr — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,460 sq ft — **\$139,900**

1700 Cashua Ferry Rd — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,350 sq ft with pond — **\$129,900**

3217 Winding Way Dr, Florence — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,248 sq ft — **\$116,900**

3221 Winding Way Dr, Florence — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,248 sq ft — **\$116,900**

1197-G Waxwing Drive, Florence — 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,450 sq ft — **\$112,000**

1613 Lamar Hwy — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,466 sq ft — **\$109,900**

205 Woodhaver Drive — 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath, 1,248 sq ft — **\$104,900**

421 Spring St — 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 964 sq ft — **\$62,900**

2381 Green Street Road — 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,937 sq ft — **\$59,900**

YARD SALE

Yard Sale, Dec. 21&22 9am -3pm
130 Tallulah St., Hartsville,
Christmas decorations, Men's
clothes, sizes 36-40 and up to 4x
shirts, Women's and Children's
clothing. Many items will be
\$1.00. Across from the
Hartsville Oil Mill. 23p1

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Struggling with DRUGS or ALCOHOL? Addicted to PILLS? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope & Help Line for a free assessment. 866-604-6857
SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! We have recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 855-669-2515

HOMES FOR RENT

Micro Home, 674 Stanley Circle, 1 BD Furnished w/utilities included, \$450/mo., 843-393-7545 6ctfn
409 Eastburn Ct., 2 BD, 2 BA Brick home, \$625.00/mo., 843-393-7545 22ctfn

Lung Cancer? And Age 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. Call 855-664-5681 for information. No Risk. No money out-of-pocket.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

1309 Myrtlewood Drive - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment approximately 10 minutes from town, stove & refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook up, \$450.00/deposit, \$450.00/rent, call (843)393-8084 21ctfn
1230 Myrtlewood Dr. - Large 4 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide approx. 10 minutes from town, stove & refrigerator provided, central heat & air, laundry area, handicap ramp (nice,) outside storage, \$600.00/deposit, \$600.00/rent, call (843)393-8084 17ctfn
646 Red Tip Lane - 3 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide in country setting approx. 5 minutes from town, stove & refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook up, central heat & air, \$550.00/deposit, \$550.00/rent, call (843) 393-8084 22ctfn

Wednesday, December 27, 2017 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games: (SC874) \$250,000 STACKS, (SC931) DOUBLE DIAMOND EXTRA PLAY

HELP WANTED - CONSTRUCTION
CARPENTERS (& Helpers, Form Crews and Laborers) needed - in Charleston, SC area. MUST have experience in forming walls, slabs, suspended slabs/columns. Call (770) 761-5578, (470) 241-3481 or (843) 990-9710 and leave message. Crowder Construction: E-verify, drug testing.

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS
J. GRADY RANDOLPH - Now hiring company drivers and owner operators. Company drivers pay 50 cents per mile for oversize loads. Owner operators pay 1.40 per mile. Call today (864) 761-0992 or apply online drive4jgr.com.

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 Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

HELP WANTED - SALES
EARN \$500 A DAY: Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Wants Insurance Agents • Leads, No Cold Calls • Commissions Paid Daily • Agency Training • Life License Required. Call 1-888-713-6020

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NEW AT&T INTERNET OFFER. \$20 and \$30/mo. plans available when you bundle. 99% Reliable 100% Affordable. HURRY, OFFER ENDS SOON. New Customers Only. CALL NOW 1-855-825-2669

EDUCATION
AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING - Get FAA certification to fix planes. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-367-2513

FARM EQUIPMENT
GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ To hunt your land. Call for a Free info packet & Quote. 1-866-

309-1507
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HELP WANTED
INSTRUCTORS NEEDED - Northeastern Technical College, Cheraw S.C. has immediate openings for faculty in various areas of expertise. Teach online, via distance learning, or on-site. Apply online: www.netc.edu

HELP WANTED - CONSTRUCTION
CARPENTERS (& Helpers, Form Crews and Laborers) needed - in Charleston, SC area. MUST have experience in forming walls, slabs, suspended slabs/columns. Call (770) 761-5578, (470) 241-3481 or (843) 990-9710 and leave message. Crowder Construction: E-verify, drug testing.

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS
J. GRADY RANDOLPH - Now hiring company drivers and owner operators. Company drivers pay 50 cents per mile for oversize loads. Owner operators pay 1.40 per mile. Call today (864) 761-0992 or apply online drive4jgr.com.

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 Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

HELP WANTED - SALES
EARN \$500 A DAY: Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Wants Insurance Agents • Leads, No Cold Calls • Commissions Paid Daily • Agency Training • Life License Required. Call 1-888-713-6020

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 844-597-6582

TELEVISION & INTERNET SERVICES
NEW AT&T INTERNET OFFER. \$20 and \$30/mo. plans available when you bundle. 99% Reliable 100% Affordable. HURRY, OFFER ENDS SOON. New Customers Only. CALL NOW 1-855-825-2669

EDUCATION
AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING - Get FAA certification to fix planes. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-367-2513

FARM EQUIPMENT
GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ To hunt your land. Call for a Free info packet & Quote. 1-866-

ODOM'S MINI STORAGE
1009 N. Main St., Darlington
(843) 393-1327
AUCTION: Tuesday, December 26 at 2 p.m.

TYRELL BESS
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Total Due: \$150.00

TERMS: Cash Day of Sale
No Partial Payments NO CHECKS

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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 Alanna Ritchie at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

LAND AND LOTS

Bobo Newsome Hwy (Hwy 101) 22.93 Acres of wooded land. \$66,700

Lot K Jeffords Hill - 1.07 Acres - \$12,000

621 Delaware River Rd. - .47 acre lot, fenced with septic tank \$13,500

Redwood Drive - Nice lot located off of McIver Road. 92 acres - **\$13,500.00**

West Melver Rd. - 1.14 Acres - \$5,000

COMMERCIAL

2244 Harry Byrd Hwy - Commercial bld. 11,684 sq ft metal building. Sits on 4+ acres of land. 6 ft fence around perimeter of property. Currently used as an office, warehouse, & Restaurant/ lounge. Plenty of office area. 5 restrooms. Lots of potential uses. Conveniently located 4 miles from Darlington Raceway. Close to Hartsville and I-20. Owner will finance with a \$150,000 down payment. Call today to see this property. **Priced at \$750,000 REDUCED - Motivated seller, bring all offers**

911 N. Governor Williams Hwy - 30 X 60 commercial metal bld with 12 ft ceilings. Building sits on a 1 acre lot. Nice office area with half bath. Large work space in rear with half bath and 2 roll up doors. The whole building is heated and cooled. Would make a great mechanic shop, car lot or small church. Lots of possibilities with this property. **Priced at \$110,000.00**

1110 Lamar Hwy - 2,299 sq ft bld currently used as a barber shop. Separate office and workshop with roll up door in rear of bld. **\$60,000**

To view these properties visit www.pamsherrill.net

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CHARLES WATSON
Appraiser CR-2868
Cell: 245-3103

JENNIFER BYRD
Realtor
843-495-3630

What are the differences between sparkling wines?

As midnight approaches on New Year's Eve, revelers anxiously anticipate toasting the arrival of a new year with a glass of something bubbly. Once the cork is popped and the drinks are poured, the party can truly begin. Although revelers may assume any fizzy beverage they are served is champagne, by the true definition of the word, they actually may be drinking something else — one of many varieties of sparkling wine.

True champagne
Authentic champagne is named after Champagne, France, the region where the grapes used to make it are grown, fermented and bottled. According to European law, the only labels that are allowed to include the name

"Champagne" must be bottled within 100 miles of this region, which is close to Paris.

The taste of champagne is unique thanks to the soil in which the grapes are grown. It is a mineral-rich soil and imparts that flavor into the beverage. Champagne is made from a unique base of grapes that include Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay grapes. Experts with Wine Country also say that roughly 90 percent of all blended champagnes use a ratio of 2/3 red and 1/3 Chardonnay mixes.

Another component that sets champagne apart is the process by which it is made. It is strictly controlled by the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée. This certification

dictates how a producer may grow the grapes and how the grapes can be harvested and processed. Champagne is produced by méthode champenoise, a process that is said to have been invented by a monk named Dom Perignon. This procedure involves double fermentation in bottles and creates an earthy, yeasty flavor.

Sparkling wines
Champagne is sparkling wine, but not all sparkling wines are champagne. Other notable types of sparkling wine include Italian Prosecco and Spanish Cava. Sparkling wine is produced in regions of France as well as in the United States and Canada. But sparkling wine can be made just about anywhere grapes are grown. Sparkling wines

are often double-fermented in steel containers instead of bottles.

People are drawn to other sparkling wines besides champagne for various reasons. For some, cost is a heavy consideration, as authentic champagne can be considerably more expensive than sparkling wine. In addition, some people find less expensive champagnes are not as palate-pleasing as sparkling wines.

Few things are more universally associated with celebrations than a bottle of bubbly. Subtle differences set sparkling wines apart from champagne, but personal preference is oftentimes the deciding factor when choosing which beverage to choose for a special occasion.

Answers from 2B

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Sonoco FRESH partnership with Clemson University to develop new technologies, package formats

Sonoco, one of the largest global diversified packaging companies, has announced a new research partnership with Clemson University. The Sonoco FRESH (Food Research Excellence for Safety and Health) initiative will develop new technologies and new forms of packaging to optimize the fresh food lifecycle.

"Sonoco is committed to serving fresh brands, using packaging to tackle the challenges they face," said Sonoco President and CEO Jack

Sanders. "Optimizing fresh food packaging to extend shelf life and maintain quality makes fresh produce more accessible to communities, and helps brands and retailers extend sales opportunities and eliminate food waste."

"Each year, the food industry loses \$15.6 billion due to food spoilage at retail. Modifying packaging design to extend shelf life by even one day can recover \$1.8 billion of that loss — while feeding more people and reducing waste to landfills."

To establish the multi-disciplinary hub for innovation and research to advance fresh food packaging and distribution, Sonoco will contribute \$1.725 million over 5 years. The Company will also sponsor business-driven research projects totaling \$1 million over that period. Sonoco FRESH is an extension of the partnership that created the Sonoco Institute of Packaging Design and Graphics at Clemson.

"Working with outstanding industry partners like Sonoco

allows us to do more to develop solutions for the grand challenges facing the world, and it helps us to prepare our students to become future leaders," said Clemson University President James P. Clements. "Leveraging the expertise of our faculty, Sonoco FRESH will play a key role in exposing our undergraduate and graduate students to issues related to the crisis of food waste and sustainability so that they will be informed and responsible decision makers as they enter the workforce."

Trinity-Byrnes students host families through Angel Tree Program

The National Honor Society of Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School hosted an Angel Tree for the Florence DSS Foster care program for the holiday season. This year we hosted 49 children who are currently in foster care. Over 300 gifts were purchased, beautifully wrapped and placed under our Angel Tree.

The Florence DSS director and her assistants came to TBCS with several vehicles to pick up the gifts and were overwhelmed with the generosity of our students and families. This is the third consecutive year we have participated in this community service project.

