



# News & Press

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

OCTOBER 30, 2019

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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## Rivals in mayor's race nearing the finish line

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor  
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At the intersection of Spring Street and Smith Avenue, across from Darlington High School, a small crop of signs has sprung up.

One supports Mayor Gloria Hines as she seeks a second

To our readers: Because the Nov. 6 edition of the News & Press has to be sent to the printers before the Nov. 5 election is held, there will be no election results in next Wednesday's newspaper. But election coverage will be posted on the newspaper's Facebook page and website (newsandpress.net).

Also: Watch video interviews with the mayoral candidates on the newspaper's Facebook page.

And on page A2 today: The mayor's race is a tale of two Darlings.

term. One supports businessman Curtis Boyd as he seeks to unseat her. One supports City Council member Carolyn Bruce as she goes for the mayor's job.

And one announces a pancake supper at Trinity United Methodist Church, but that's neither here nor there. At that intersection, someone supports all three of the candidates running in the Darlington mayoral election next week.

On Nov. 5, voters will be asked to choose one of those candidates to be the city's mayor for the next four years. Also up for city voters: Picking three at-large council members.

There are also council elections for Hartsville, Lamar and Society Hill, but no countywide elections or referendums are on the ballot.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voting will be done on new ExpressVote machines, which produce a paper ballot.

Hines, a cosmetologist who has been on City Council for

some 20 years, officially announced she would be running for a second term as mayor in March. Elected to her first term by a tiny margin four years ago, Hines became the city's first black and first female mayor.

Boyd owns Fitness World gyms, which now have 15,000 members in eight cities and 60 employees. He officially announced in April that he would run for mayor.

Bruce, a career specialist for the Darlington County School District, also serves as the city's mayor pro tem. She announced in March that she would challenge Hines for mayor. Bruce also is on the ballot for re-election to her City Council seat.

In the races for the at-large seats on Darlington City Council, there are three incumbents and three newcomers.

The incumbents are attorney John Milling, businessman Bryant Gardner and Bruce.

The newcomers are Ernest Boston Sr., who works in parts,



Mayor Gloria Hines



Curtis Boyd



Carolyn Bruce

service and sales for Generation 3 Powersports; Winfred Herrington Sr., a retired social worker and counselor; and Howard J. Nettles, director of community outreach and marketing for Genesis Health Care.

Voters can cast a ballot for up to three of those candidates, says Darlington County elections director Hoyt Campbell.

In addition to the Darlington city races, three other municipi-

palities in the county are holding elections Nov. 5:

**CITY OF HARTSVILLE:** Three district seats on City Council are on the ballot, but all candidates are unopposed. In council District 2, the sole candidate is Bryson Sparks Caldwell. In council District 4, the sole candidate is incumbent councilman Johnny Andrews. In council District 6, the sole candidate is incumbent Bobby

McGee.

**TOWN OF LAMAR:** Four candidates are running for two at-large seats on Town Council. They are incumbent Inez Bess Lee, Danielle Todd-Wilkes, incumbent Angele White-Bradley and Nat Williams.

**TOWN OF SOCIETY HILL:** Four candidates are running for two at-large seats on Town Council. They are incumbent Deborah Harrell, Chuck Baker, Melissa Burch and Scott Dixon.

## DHEC report puts a grim spotlight on county's poor health

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer  
slyles@newsandpress.net

The 2019 "county snapshot" for local health outcomes shows the current prognosis for Darlington County is not exactly rosy. In fact, it's pretty grim.

The annual Community Health Assessment from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reveals that Darlington County ranks 38th out of 46 counties for health outcomes, which measures length and quality of life.

The report includes a map breakdown of life expectancy across the county, and the results vary by several years depending on location.

The highest life expectancies were found in the Clyde community, with an average of 77 years, and the lowest expectancies were found in the city of Darlington, where the average lifespan is around 69.5 years.

Areas of Hartsville varied notably, with those living west of town near Bobo Newsome Highway averaging 76.8 years and South Hartsville residents averaging 70.1 years. Life expectancies in Lamar and Society Hill were 75.2 and 75 years, respectively.

The leading causes of death are familiar culprits: heart dis-

ease, cancer and stroke. Increased risk factors for these chronic diseases -- including obesity and smoking -- are keeping our numbers elevated. The report says that 39.1 percent of county adults are obese, and 21.8 percent still smoke cigarettes.

Locally, the 10-year stroke mortality rate is outpacing the South Carolina average. Statewide, only 22.2 people per 100,000 die within 10 years after a stroke; in Darlington County, 28.6 people per 100,000 die within a decade of their first stroke.

Countywide rates of cancer incidence per 100,000 people stands at 461.2, according to data compiled between 2012 and 2016.

According to the report, Darlington County ranks 31st for other health factors, including health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

Demographically, the county's population of 67,265 shows a 2.1 percent decrease from 2010. 55.2 percent of county residents are non-Hispanic white, 41.9 percent are non-Hispanic black, and 2.0 percent are Hispanic/Latino.

59 percent of residents are ages 18 to 64, 22 percent are under 18, and 19 percent are over 65.

87.5 percent of county residents had graduated high school as of 2018, and the median household income is \$36,217. The report adds that 20.3 percent of the population has some form of disability.

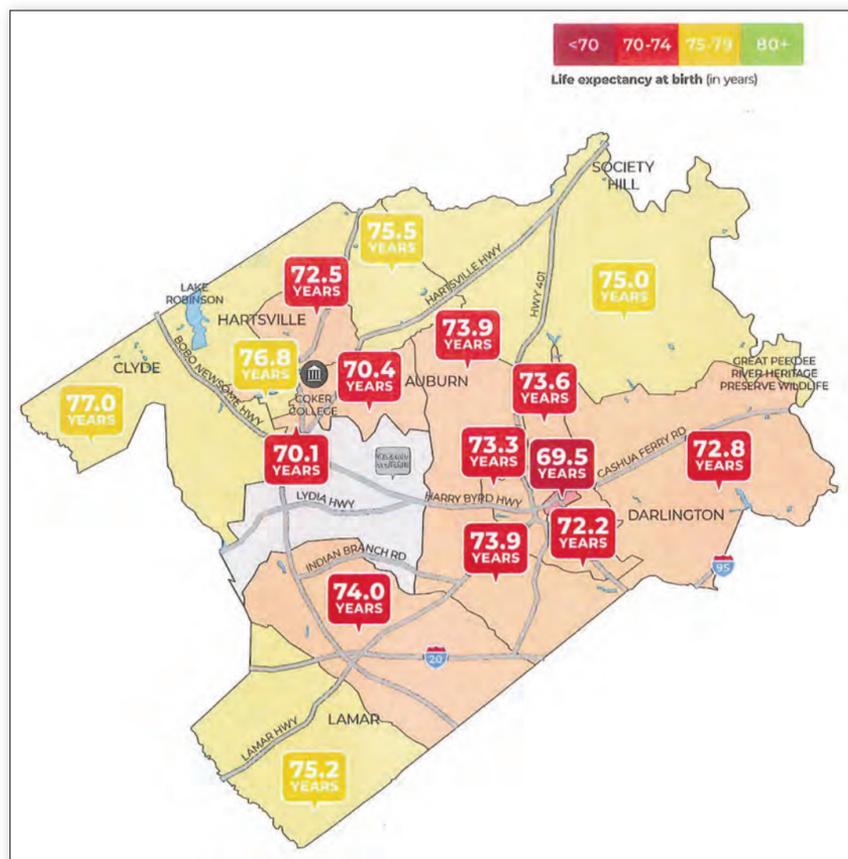
The report notes that countywide health outcomes are strongly influenced by economic concerns, and states that 15.2 percent of adults 18 to 64 are uninsured.

Those persons are more likely to delay seeking preventive medical care due to cost, and the report says that 17 percent of adults have put off doctor's visits and treatment because they lacked money. This resulted in 4,988 avoidable emergency room visits per 100,000 people, and 1,800 avoidable inpatient hospitalizations.

The issue of patients postponing or skipping medical visits disproportionately endangers infants and pregnant women.

The report states that between 2015 and 2017, 22.5 percent of South Carolina mothers received inadequate prenatal care. Perhaps as a result, 13.1 percent of babies were born prior to 37 weeks, and the infant mortality rate was 10 deaths per every 1,000 live births.

DHEC ON 3A



LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR DARLINGTON COUNTY

## Career Coach aims to drive down unemployment

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer  
slyles@newsandpress.net

Job-seekers in Darlington got a helping hand last Tuesday as the SC Works Career Coach pulled into the A.W. Stanley Gym and spent the morning connecting workers with prospective employers.

Area businesses set up information booths inside the gym so visitors could learn about careers in fields ranging from pest control to HVAC repair to firefighting and emergency medical care.

Employers included federal agencies like the U.S. Census Bureau, local organizations like PDRTA (Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority) and Darlington County Fire District, local businesses like Kentco Heating and Cooling and Terminix, and educational institutions like Florence-Darlington Technical College.

"This is our first event like this, and we're hoping to continue it and to bring more and more employers in to participate," said Vicky Tyner, Regional Manager for the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

"We're trying to assess people that are looking for jobs ... and we have lots of assorted employers here today. We also have our SC Works Career Coach here as well. Inside, there are 10 laptops with Wi-Fi accessibility. Folks can go in and do a resume, fill out applications online, or look for other available jobs."

The wheelchair-accessible Career Coach is equipped with 10 Internet-connected workstations, printers, and a job coach is on board to assist and answer questions. Onboard, job seekers can prepare or update their resumes, prep for interviews, and sharpen their computer skills.

For those in need of training, SC Works can help through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which aids dislocated workers -- both youths and adults -- who cannot



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES

find suitable employment.

"If people sign up with WIOA and their case worker finds that they need additional training for a particular job, they can send them back to school and then follow up with them to help them find a job when they complete their training," said Tyner.

Programs like the Career Coach and WIOA might help

South Carolina's record unemployment rate drop even lower. According to the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, our state's unemployment rate has fallen below 3 percent for the first time, dropping to 2.9 percent in September from 3.2 percent in August. The estimated number of unemployed South Carolina residents fell to 69,179 -- a drop

of 8,130 since August.

Tyner noted that events like this Darlington career fair are important because they help both active job seekers and those who might have given up the search due to frustration and a perceived lack of opportunities.

"There are so many good jobs out there that need to be filled," said Tyner. "That's why

we're trying to include a lot of the technical jobs and skilled jobs. They're not getting a lot of applications because often people aren't aware of (those openings) and we're trying to boost that."

To book the SC Career Coach for your next event, or to learn more about WIOA and other helpful programs, visit [www.scworks.org](http://www.scworks.org).





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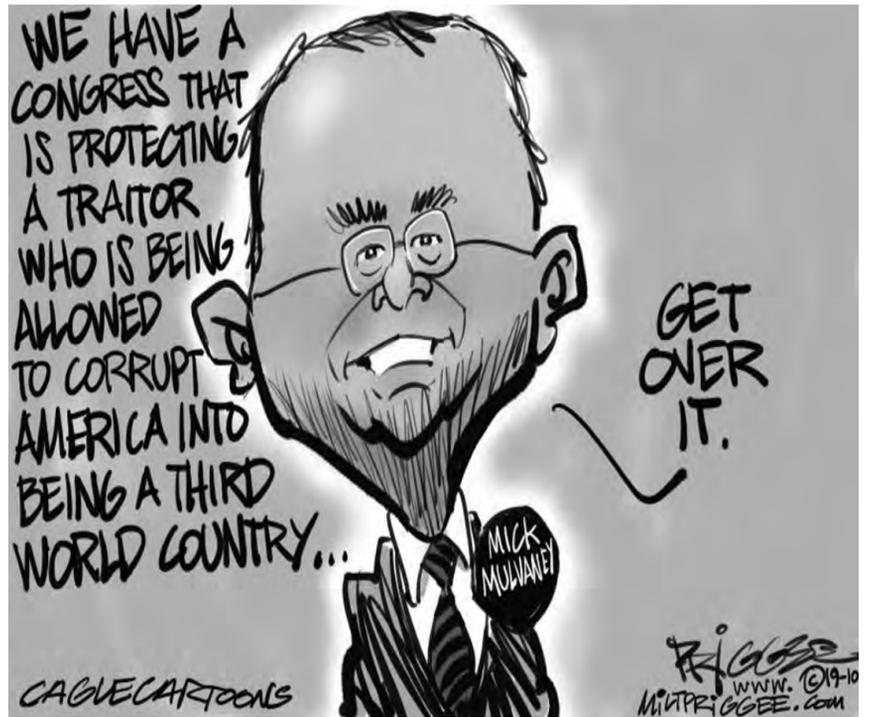
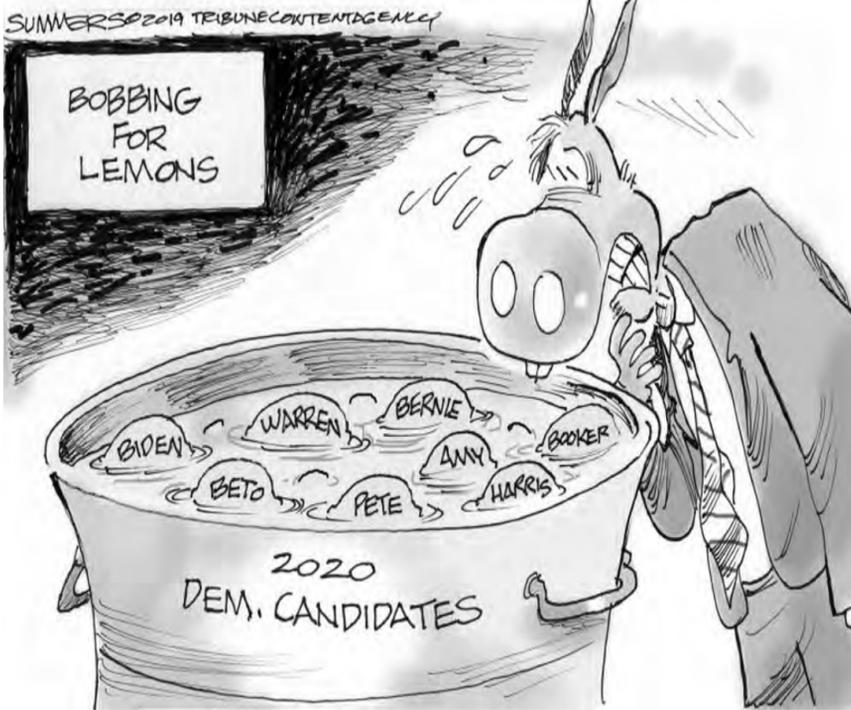
Word of the Week

undulate - to form or move in waves

Merriam-Webster.com

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THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### His vehicle flipped over, but help was quick to arrive

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to some very fine people.

On Monday, Oct. 14, at approximately 1 p.m., I was involved in a serious auto accident at the intersection of Highway 52 and South Main Street at the Bypass. I was driving my wife's Ford Escape.

After rolling a few times, I ended up with my vehicle upside-down and I was hanging by my seat belt.

I got my seat belt unbuckled and was able to crawl, on my back, to the passenger-side window, which was broken out. I removed as much glass as I could and pushed my head and shoulders out of the window and onto the pavement.

That's when I saw the first responders. Their words and actions calmed me down and made me realize I was in caring, responsible and professional hands.

Once again, let me say thank you to each and every one of you. Our city Police Department, county Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Highway Patrol and all others who helped, said prayers for me, or made phone calls. Also the ladies at Vaughn Insurance Agency who have been so caring and helpful during this difficult time.

I can't leave out the doctors, nurses and personnel in the emergency room at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center. All of you are great! You are our hometown hospital, and we are so proud

of you and thankful for all that you do for me, my family and our entire community.

We are so blessed to have each of you here in Darlington County to take good care of us, and I wanted to let you know that you are truly appreciated. By the way, I am 87 and, other than some general aches and pains, my worst injury from the accident is a badly scraped elbow.

My thanks and prayers to you all.

Burney R. Drew,  
Darlington

### Graham, lynching and our 'hate-filled past'

Can U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham have several seats, please?

It's bad enough that you are defending the once again insensitive and completely ludicrous comments of Donald Trump, but the fact that you represent South Carolina makes me cringe.

Trump's tweets are to be expected at this point, as sad as that is to say, but has Graham been paying attention? You are a senator from South Carolina; let's have a little geography lesson: South Carolina is a Southern state, meaning it is located in the southern part of the United States.

Now let's move on to our history lesson: After the Civil War and Reconstruction, lynching became synonymous with racial violence. This racial violence gave white Southerners a way to express and reaffirm their white

Southern identity at the expense and lives of African-Americans.

To equate an act that is synonymous with racial violence as a Southern senator with the current acts of Democrats with respect to pursuing impeachment is about as thought out as Trump's tweets.

Then to further say that this is un-American, Mr. Graham, I think retirement should be considered before you continue to fall down this rabbit hole. America stands for objectivity, fairness, equality, and so much more.

Americans don't stand for underhanded, sneaky and nefarious activities and when faced with such opposition, we pursue justice.

Is this not what the Democrats are doing? If there was nothing to investigate then there would be no call for impeachment. Again refer to your history; the causes for impeachment and the processes have been carried out before -- why is this situation any different?

I stand with Jamie Harrison wholeheartedly when he said that Graham's support of Trump's remarks "invokes our hate-filled past."

This is to be expected from Trump as he has used nothing but hate, derogatory remarks and ill-fitting analogies throughout his campaign and presidency, but Graham's endorsement of such a shameful remark casts a dark shadow on South Carolina and I am deeply upset, ashamed and embarrassed.

Kim Stapleton,  
Darlington

## OP-ED

### In mayor's race, a tale of 2 Darlingtons

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor  
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Last week, the News & Press published a 3,300-word Voters' Guide to the Nov. 5 city of Darlington elections (and a big tip of the hat to Dyan Cohen of the Darlington County League of Women Voters for pulling that together).

One of the League's questions submitted to all the candidates was: "To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Darlington is well-positioned for growth and prosperity."

That was the only "scale" question on the League's list, meaning each candidate was supposed to basically check a box:

Strongly disagree.

Disagree.

Neither agree nor disagree.

Agree.

Strongly agree.

In the mayor's race, Mayor Gloria Hines "strongly agreed" with that statement. "There is growth and prosperity for Darlington," she explained. "It's all about networking with other municipalities and hiring qualified people..."

Challenger Curtis Boyd, who has been Hines' most visible rival for the post, went as far as he could go in the opposite direction on that question. He "strongly disagreed." He explained: "Under the current

elected leadership, Darlington is destined to become a ghost town. Severe debt, lack of a clear plan to change and political inaction are all stifling opportunities for Darlington to prosper."

(Hines' other challenger, City Council member Carolyn Bruce, did not respond to that question or most other items on the League's questionnaire. But in public comments, she's seemed to take a sort of middle ground between Hines and Boyd -- more change-oriented than Hines, but less dramatic than Boyd.)

(In an interview with the News & Press last week, Bruce was nostalgic for the old Darlington: "I moved back home in 2015 after living in Atlanta for about 10 years. When I would come home and visit my family, I noticed that the city was at a standstill. ... I can remember as a child, going downtown with my grandmother, and you had the Larry's and the Coggeshall's and the Belk's and the B.C. Moore's, and there was just a lot of motion downtown, a lot of movement.")

So when Hines looks ahead, she sees "growth and prosperity" for "this great city." When Boyd looks ahead, he sees the specter of "a ghost town." They're both living in the same town, seeing the same people, driving the same streets. But they're seeing rad-

ically different futures, like characters in a science-fiction movie.

We're facing a dark fate, Boyd says, but elect me and I'll prevent that. No, we're doing pretty well, Hines says. Elect me and I'll stay the course.

Which one is right? Hines? Boyd? Neither? Both?

Most big elections -- and all presidential elections -- are referendums on how the voters feel about the direction we seem to be going in. If you feel pretty good about things, you tend to keep the current management. If not, you tend to hire new management.

You can point to things that seem to support Hines' view: We did get a Wal-Mart during her term as mayor, but the years of groundwork needed to bring that about took place under other leadership. We did complete a major piece of work to upgrade the city's stormwater system. "Project Peach" -- and no one will say exactly what that is -- promises to bring some kind of big expansion to Georgia-Pacific's facilities in town. The permitting fees alone should be a windfall for the city government. And we are in fact getting a Sonic drive-in restaurant, although work has been going agonizingly slowly if you're counting the days until Darlington gets super-milkshakes.

BRYANT ON 3A

## OP-ED

### The America I once knew

By Bill Shepard

I am not comfortable when I am writing about politics! I feel inadequate to do so. I am more comfortable when I am writing about Swift Creek, fishing, swimming and hunting for small game in the swamp lands that the small stream had created.

I prefer writing about the little boy who skipped across open fields and pasture lands in pursuit of grasshoppers, wild crickets and mosquito hawks. I prefer to reminisce about going in search of wild berries, ripening along ditch-banks or for wild plums, along country roads or for hickory nuts and muscadines (wild grapes), hiding in the tops of the tallest trees in the forests.

I prefer to write about long days spent inside the large red-brick school building where I went to learn to read

and write. I had no fear of being a target for a wild terrorist. I prefer to write about men who made our country truly great -- Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt and others. Yes, I was proud of my homeland and I long for those days to return. I ask, "Are these days gone forever?" The answer comes back that time will tell!

Comfortable in doing so or not, it is hard to stay silent when so much is happening in the land that I have called "home" for all of my years. The things that I was taught early in life, while attending St. John's school in the big red brick building--as small children, we were taught of the hardships, sufferings and sacrifices of those who pioneered this great land at its early beginning.

I would be so proud when I would carry home pictures I had colored at school, depict-

ing some story out of history I had learned that day. I was made to feel the greatness of men like Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Eisenhower and others from both political parties. I was made to be proud of my country and the leaders who guided it through many troubled waters.

When I was old enough and our country was attacked by an enemy bent on robbing us of our freedom, I could not wait to enter the military and offer my services in defense of the land that I had been taught to love and respect. I did just that and when that war was ended and I returned home, I continued to hold my greatest respect for those at the helm of our government. I must admit that little by little and year by year, I watched the enemy of our beloved country eat away at the very foundation of our

democracy!

Other wars followed -- the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan and the skirmishes and uprisings in between. After each, instead of becoming more united, it seems we became more divided!

Today, after all that the nation has suffered, we have become more divided than any other time in our history. Disrespect among those elected to guide our nation is at a level never seen before! Quarreling back and forth between political parties is at a high never seen before. We seem to have lost the respect and trust of some of our allies around the world. In the eyes of many, the once beautiful America has become the Ugly Duckling, even here in our homeland.

SHEPARD ON 3A

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## DHEC

Continued from 1A

Behavioral health statistics show that 20.4 percent of adults report suffering from depression, and 13.6 percent of adults report binge drinking. The 5-year rate of drug overdose deaths for the county now stands at 11.6 deaths per 100,000 residents.

The presence of adverse childhood experiences can also negatively impact health outcomes, and the report notes that 49.6 percent of residents report some form of household dysfunction, 35.4 percent endured emotional or physical abuse, and 11 percent suffered sexual abuse as children.

In order to curb these negative trends, county residents can take the initiative and learn more about their options. Those dealing with chronic diseases can find information and support through organizations like the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) (843-669-6349) and the American Diabetes Association at [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) (843-665-0985).

County residents can seek medical care through resources like the Darlington County Free Medical Clinic, located at 203 Grove Street in Darlington and 500 W. Carolina Avenue in Hartsville (843-398-0060), and expectant parents can learn about resources and receive guidance and support through Darlington County First Steps (843-857-3148).

Those dealing with substance abuse or emotional issues can seek counseling through Pee Dee Mental Health (843-661-5407 and 843-332-4141), and the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault (1-800-273-1820) stands ready to aid those seeking a way out of abusive relationships.

## Shepard

Continued from 2A

We remember the phrase coined long ago – “United we stand, divided we fall.” Apply that age-old statement to most any situation you wish and its truth holds fast.

The battle being fought in the political halls of this nation cannot be won with the greatest Army and Navy we can boast of. No, not even when we add the strength of our Marines and the Air Force. The sooner our divided politicians learn that, the better our nation will be!

Read it again! “United we stand, divided we fall!”

## Bryant

Continued from 2A

Likewise, you can point to things that seem to support Boyd's view. No one who got stuck in floods this summer – floods that came from more or less typical hot-weather thunderstorms – can argue with Boyd when he says, “Our city's drainage and sewage services are woefully inadequate and in need of repair.” No one who's been to Hartsville lately would argue when Boyd says, “We are 40 years behind our neighboring cities in development of recreational facilities.” And as City Councilman Bryant Gardner noted in his League of Women Voters responses, Darlington has shrunk about 20 percent over the past two U.S. Census Bureau headcounts.

Two candidates, looking at the same town, but seeing a very different present and a totally different future. Next week, the voters get to say which viewpoints they “strongly agree” with.

## Make trick-or-treating fun in rural areas

Halloween is a day for ghouls and goblins, tricks and treats. Halloween is a child's dream, and some of the more indelible images associated with this beloved holiday feature neighborhood children ringing doors all across suburbia and urban centers. But country kids celebrate Halloween, too.

Did you know that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, urban areas make up just 3 percent of the land area of the United States? Twenty percent of the population calls the countryside home. The numbers are quite similar in Canada, where Statistics Canada indicates roughly 18 percent of the population resides in rural areas.

Children who live in rural areas can still experience the magic of Halloween. They just may need to be a little more creative in their pursuit of candy.

## Designate a driver

Many children in rural areas find the distances between two houses are simply too great to walk. As a result, youngsters need the help of a parent or older sibling to help them get around to various homes in the area. The process can be made even more festive by listening to spooky songs along the way and decorating the vehicle with some Halloween imagery.



## Head to town

Another work-around to rural Halloween celebrations is to move the trick-or-treating to an area where homes are closer together. It's not uncommon for children to trick-or-treat in their friends' or relatives' neighborhoods — even if they live in urban or suburban areas. Rural kids can

make plans with friends from school and traverse new neighborhoods for their candy.

## Gather at shopping centers

Shopping malls, strip malls, supermarkets, and other retailers often have candy on hand for trick-or-treaters who like the safety of being in high-

trafficked areas. These can be viable spots to meet up for trick-or-treating.

## Organize a meeting spot

Rural residents can coordinate a Halloween mixer at a community center, school or another building with a lot of space. The gathering also may

take place at a farm or corn maze. Each family can contribute a snack and/or some candy, and the children can have fun together.

Trick-or-treating can be enjoyable regardless of whether one lives in a rural area or close to a town.

## A long legislative tradition: Putting ex-colleagues, relatives in high-paying public jobs

By Rick Brundrett  
The Nerve

The possibility that two more ex-lawmakers could join the state Public Service Commission – with six-figure salaries – highlights a longstanding tradition of legislators giving well-paying jobs to their former colleagues, relatives and friends.

Recently, the six-legislator, 10-member State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC), which nominates PSC candidates for election in the General Assembly, announced candidates who applied for four of seven PSC seats to be filled next year.

As The Nerve has previously reported, the PURC exerts considerable control over the regulation of utilities in South Carolina. The PSC over the years approved nine rate hikes for South Carolina Electric & Gas customers under a quietly passed 2007 state law that provided steady funding for the failed \$9 billion V.C. Summer nuclear construction project in Fairfield County.

Of the 21 announced candidates for PSC seats next year, two are ex-lawmakers: Chip Limehouse, a Charleston Republican who was a House member from 1994-2016 and is running for the District 1 PSC seat; and Ted Vick, a Pawleys Island Democrat who served in the House from 2004-2014 and is seeking the District 7 seat. Both earlier made unsuccessful bids for the U.S. House.

“I don't think that because you're a former legislator that you're automatically zeroed out,” Limehouse told The Nerve. “I think the General Assembly is going to do its best to choose candidates who will do the job the best.”

Vick could not be reached immediately for comment.

State law allows ex-lawmakers to be elected to the PSC if they have been out of office for

at least four years after they left the Legislature or from the general election filing deadline in the year that they would have sought re-election. Limehouse announced in 2015 he would not seek another House term; the term of the PSC seat that he is seeking expires next June 30, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

The only ex-legislator currently on the PSC is Thomas Ervin, a former circuit court judge from Greenville who served in the House from 1980-84. Lawmakers last year easily elected Ervin over two other candidates for the District 4 PSC seat. They also selected Florence Belsler, a former attorney for the PSC and the state Office of Regulatory Staff, for the District 2 seat earlier this year after holding a “do-over” election.

Commissioners' pay might partly explain the interest in next year's elections: Lawmakers for this fiscal year, which started July 1, hiked their annual salary by more than 22 percent, from \$107,822 to \$132,071. The commission chairman's salary went from \$109,726 to \$133,982, according to the state salary database.

“I assure you I'm not doing this for the income,” Limehouse said.

PSC seats aren't the only full-time government jobs that lawmakers have given to their ex-colleagues or relatives in recent years. Senators at the end of a special legislative session in June, for example, confirmed former state Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, as a Laurens County magistrate – whose nomination was controlled by Sen. Danny Verdin, R-Laurens – after he resigned his House seat in January in an unsuccessful bid to become the next state Conservation Bank director.

In May, the Legislature elected Courtney Clyburn Pope, daughter of state Rep.

Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, as a circuit court judge.

Circuit court judges make \$191,954 annually – courtesy of a 33 percent base pay hike that lawmakers approved for this fiscal year, which The Nerve revealed last December.

Pitts' base salary this fiscal year is \$47,706. Because state law ties magistrates' pay to circuit judges' salaries, his base salary next fiscal year will jump to at least \$63,450 – not including possible additional pay from the county.

Last year, lawmakers elected Jennifer McCoy, wife of state Rep. Peter McCoy, R-Charleston, and Walt McLeod IV, son of ex-Democratic Rep. Walt McLeod of Newberry County, to circuit court seats.

And legislators elected Milton Kimpson, brother of state Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, and Bill Funderburk, husband of state Rep. Laurie Funderburk, D-Kershaw, to Administrative Law Court seats in 2017 and 2015, respectively.

Associate ALC judges receive an annual salary of \$153,563; the chief judge makes \$172,758, according to court clerk Jana Shealy.

There are no laws banning lawmakers' relatives from running for judgeships filled by the Legislature. South Carolina and Virginia are the only states where their legislatures play primary roles in electing judges.

In next year's PSC elections in the Legislature, tentatively

set for Feb. 5, there are eight candidates, including Limehouse and incumbent John “Butch” Howard, for the District 1 seat; four candidates, including PSC chairman Comer “Randy” Randall, for the District 3 seat; four candidates, including incumbent Swain Whitfield, for the District 5 seat; and five candidates, including Vick, for the District 7 seat. G. O'Neal Hamilton, the District 7 incumbent, decided not to run for another four-year term, according to PURC attorney Heather Anderson.

By law, the PURC can nominate no more than three candidates for each seat. Public screening hearings are tentatively set for the first week of January, according to a schedule provided by Anderson.

The law requires candidates to have a “background of substantial duration and an expertise” in at least one of eight areas, including energy; telecommunications; consumer protection and advocacy; water and wastewater issues; finance, economics and statistics; accounting; engineering; or the law. Limehouse and Vick listed themselves as property business executives while they were lawmakers, according to their legislative biographies.

Limehouse contended he has a “longstanding and very public track record of trying to look out for the ratepayers of South Carolina,” noting that in the 1990s, he served on an ad-hoc committee that studied the

issue of “deregulating the power industry” in the state.

But the PURC by law can qualify candidates even if they have no background in any of the eight statutory areas as long as three-fourths of the committee agree to qualify them and provide “written justification of their decision.”

And, as The Nerve reported last year, the PURC has no written criteria in making its final choices. Rep. David Mack, D-Charleston and a PURC member, acknowledged then that the final decision-making process of the panel is largely subjective. The PURC chairman and vice chairman are Oconee County Republicans Sen. Thomas Alexander and Rep. Bill Sandifer, respectively.

Limehouse currently serves on the board of the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank (STIB), which over the years funneled several billion dollars to large transportation projects in select counties. His possible election to the PSC could violate the dual-office-holding ban under the state constitution unless he resigns his STIB position.

Limehouse told The Nerve he would resign from the STIB if elected to the PSC.

Brundrett is the news editor of The Nerve ([www.thenerve.org](http://www.thenerve.org)). Contact him at 803-254-4411 or [rick@thenerve.org](mailto:rick@thenerve.org). Follow him on Twitter @RickBrundrett. Follow The Nerve on Facebook and Twitter @thenervesc.

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD  
YOUTH GROUP YARD SALE

November 2, 2019 • 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

First Church of God • 620 N. Main Street • Darlington

Donations appreciated. We will also be renting spaces if you would like to have your own yard sale (2 spaces for \$15, 4 spaces for \$25). You will need to bring your own tables for set-up. Set-up will be 6:30 - 8 a.m. Please call the church office at (843) 393-7942 to save your space or if you have any questions. The youth group will be selling food items. Hope to see you there!



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QUOTE

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

MATTHEW 10:28

# obituaries

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 e-mail ads@newsandpress.net  
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 843-393-2824 843-326-5890

**Francis "Jim" R. Hardee**

LAMAR – Francis "Jim" R. Hardee, 82, passed away Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019. Funeral services were Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Lamar First Baptist Church with burial at Lamar Memorial Cemetery.

The family received friends Tuesday at the Lamar chapel at Belk Funeral Home.

Born Nov. 3, 1936, Jim was the son of the late Gaston Hardee and Goldie Mishoe Hardee. He served in the Air Force as a weapons specialist and retired after 20 years.

He worked as a gunsmith and he enjoyed fishing. Jim was a member of Lamar First Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Linda Wright Hardee of Lamar; children, Keith (Tina) Hardee of New Mexico, Phillip Hardee, Vicki Thomas and Bobbi (Adam) Grant, all of Lamar; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchild-

dren. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Pearlie Hardee, Alberta Cox, Gertrude Paul and Kathleen Bellamy.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, www.stjude.org.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

**Randy Humphries**

DARLINGTON – Randy David Humphries, 71, passed away Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. A graveside service was held Tuesday, Oct. 29, at Florence National Cemetery. The family received friends Monday at Belk Funeral Home, and other times at 1100 N. Main St. Darlington.

Born Aug. 27, 1948, Randy was the son of the late David M. Humphries and Eva Mae Adams Humphries. He was a combat veteran in the Army during the Vietnam War. He made his living as a welder

and he enjoyed watching NASCAR.

Surviving are his daughter, Candace "Candy" Humphries of Darlington and his brother, Tommy (Sandra) Humphries of Darlington.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James H. Humphries.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

**Dr. Arthur H. Smith**

DARLINGTON – Dr. Arthur H. Smith, 93, passed away Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. Funeral services were Monday, Oct. 28, at Cashua St. Church of God, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

The family received friends Monday at the church. The graveside service was Tuesday, Oct. 29, at Florence National Cemetery.

Born Sept. 17, 1926, in Glen Ridge, N.J., to the late Herbert L. Smith Sr. and Emily Smith,

he was a veteran of World War II.

Art became an ordained minister in 1962 and remained in full-time ministry for over 50 years.

He received an honorary doctorate from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Orlando, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 62 years, Bessie Smith; daughters, Debby Coker and Darlene Leakey.

He is survived by a son, Bruce (Jane) Smith of Norfolk, England; daughter, Tammy (David) Sweeney of Darlington; son, Chris Smith of Stanford, Ky.; brother, Walter (Eleanor) Martinson of Rock Hill; sister-in-law, Mary Lou Smith of Chapin; 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

Living on Purpose

## Do you believe in life after death?

By Bill Holland



One of the most profound questions humans desire to understand is what happens when our physical heart stops beating. Some say the spirit departs from our body and we are aware of what is going on as we continue to advance in the crossing-over process.

We've heard stories about individuals who have died for a short period of time and have been allowed to not only come back but they also retain some vivid memories of what happened while they were gone.

There will always be skeptics, but there is also not a shortage of people whom the medical world has no explanations and often certain descriptive details from these individuals can be proven.

Are these people just having visions and dreams, or do you believe there is a life after this one?

With the Bible as our main source for understanding the spiritual realm, I choose to accept that every physical body also has a spirit and there is definitely life after death.

First Corinthians 15:44 says, "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

The Christian faith teaches an eternal existence after this life and according to God's word, every person will someday face this reality as we leave this realm.

Many who tell about their after-death experiences claim to be greeted by an individual commonly assumed to be an angel who helps them in this transition.

I'm a chaplain for a health care facility and I've spoken to several hospice nurses who frequently observe patients reach up toward the ceiling as they take their last breath.

Every now and then a soul returns for reasons that only God knows and here are a couple of examples.

Anita Moorjani had been battling lymphatic cancer for several years, and one day she slipped into a coma.

Her doctors said she had no vital responses or outward signs of life; however, her spirit was alive and well.

She said in this conscious state, she was floating above her body and could see the entire room with complete peripheral vision.

Anita could also sense her late father's presence and could clearly hear him say that if she continued much further in being separated from her body, she would not be able to return.

She is quoted as saying, "But I felt I didn't want to turn back because it was so beautiful. It was just incredible because, for the first time in years, there

was no pain. All the discomfort and fear was gone. I cannot explain the feeling of being enveloped in unconditional love."

Gradually she came out of the coma and a couple of days later her organs began to function and the tumors started shrinking. She is now cancer-free.

Another amazing story comes from Annabel Beam, who was diagnosed with two chronic, life-threatening disorders at the age of 4.

When she was 8 and continuing to decline, she climbed a huge hollow tree out in her yard and was sitting on a branch when it broke, causing her to fall 30 feet where she landed at the bottom within the tree.

Anna is convinced she died and explains that at the moment of impact she was suddenly surrounded by intense bright light and found herself sitting on the lap of Jesus.

While being trapped for six hours, she is quoted as saying, "Jesus said, when you are rescued, there will be nothing wrong with you. I asked if I could stay, and he said no because he has plans that I need to fulfill on Earth."

She was rushed to a hospital where doctors could not find any injuries or even a trace of her previous illnesses.

How it inspires and builds our faith when we learn from those who have actually seen a glimpse of the next life.

We can embrace this reality and know this realm is not all there is.

God's promises are true and His presence is real not only in this temporal existence but also for all eternity.

Have you considered God that has a purpose and plan for your life and that how we live now is directly associated with our future?

There is no need to fear; you can reach out with faith today and ask the Lord to save you and give you eternal security. May we be encouraged to know that God wants us to live with Him forever.

## Jane Windham's recipe for Sweet Potato Pie Smoothie

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup sweet potatoes cooked, skin removed, and mashed
- 1 medium frozen banana
- 5 ice cubes
- 1 scoop vanilla protein powder
- 1/2 cup Truvia brown sugar blend
- 1 1/2 cups almond coconut milk blend
- 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger

For the garnish  
 whipped cream  
 chopped pecans  
 ground nutmeg

**Instructions**

- Wash and prick the skin of one medium sweet potato.
- Cook for 5 minutes in the microwave, turn over, and cook for an additional 5 minutes.
- Allow the sweet potato to cool and then peel.

Mash the cooked sweet potato.

Add the sweet potato and the rest of the ingredients to a blender and blend until smooth.

Pour into a glass and add the garnish.

See more from Jane Windham at [cottageatthecrossroads.com](http://cottageatthecrossroads.com).



**CHur CH neWs**  
 Please send your church news and photos to: editor@newsandpress.net

**Darlington Church of God of Prophecy**, 920 West Smith Ave., plans Trunk or Treat for Halloween. We will be handing out candy at the church Oct. 31 from first dark until.

**Yard sale for missions**  
 Southside Free Will Baptist Church, 153 W. McIver Road, Darlington, will have a yard sale for missions Nov. 2 from 7-12. On Nov. 3, Chris Smith, The One Man Quartet, will be with us at the 11 a.m. service.

**Mechanicsville Baptist Church**  
 2364 Cashua Ferry Rd., Darlington. 843-393-1029.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.-Worship Service

4 p.m.-Prayer Closet; 5:30 p.m.-Evening Worship Services

Monday: Monday Night Ministry (MNM)-Youth Fellowship & Meal

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. - Old Fashioned Chapel Service & Fellowship Meal; 6:30 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (all ages) and Youth Group Meeting.

**Savannah Grove A.M.E Church**  
 Savannah Grove A.M.E Church, 1401 Andrews Mill Road, Lamar, will have their annual Harvest Festival Program Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. Rev. Laddie N. Howard, pastor, and his church family of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E Church, Sumter, will be the guests.

**The Upper Room Holy Ghost Mission**  
 Sunday morning worship is at 11 a.m. Bible study Thursday at 7 p.m. at 109 Main St. in Darlington.

**Church Prayer Line**  
 Anyone who needs prayer is welcome to call Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line at 843-393-8555.

**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.

**Lawson Grove Baptist Church**  
 3585 Lawson Grove Rd., Hartsville. Sunday - Church School at 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Wednesday.

**Black Creek Baptist Church**

The church, 139 Mont Clare Road, Dovesville, announces hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.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

**Second Missionary Baptist Church**

Second Missionary Baptist Church, 212 W. Washington St., Hartsville, announces hours. 8 a.m. early morning worship service, 9 a.m. church school service, 10 a.m. morning worship.

**Covenant Baptist Church**

Covenant Baptist Church, 628 Pocket Road, announces hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m. Spoken Word Service. Wednesday: 6 p.m. Bible Study.

**Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries**

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries, 426 W. Broad St. in Darlington, announces hours: 1st/3rd Sunday Pastoral Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Church Services 11 Elder M. Frierson 2nd/4th Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30; Service at 11 a.m.

**The Lord Cares**

Please continue to assist The Lord Cares in caring for those in need in the Darlington area. T.L.C.'s food bank is at 201 Grove St. in Darlington.

*In loving memory of Deone Scott, an amazing husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend. We love & miss you. Your loving family. The family of the late Deone Scott is deeply grateful for your prayers, support, and compassion shown during this difficult time. May God bless you all for your kindness.*



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## PETS OF THE WEEK



Pretty and perky! Perhaps I sound like an appealing cappuccino in the morning, but trust me, I'll provide you with a full day of canine goodness. Folks are drawn to my broad grin, steady wagging tail and softly wiggly hips. I am a true friend to all! Nicely meeting both a male and female dog today on my walk, I comfortably mix and mingle with others and am fast to make myself at home! A pleasant and happy lady at heart, playing fetch with kids would surely make me smile and having them take me out for exploratory walks in the neighborhood would be on my list of fun things to do. Stop by today and ask for Alice! 1 year old; shep mix; 46 pounds



Easy does it! Bobo is the epitome of Mr. Manners all dressed in a stunning, shaggy two tone coat. Never in any real rush, Bobo is slow and methodical in his actions but gets the job done! Nicely walking on a leash, he is a very chill spirit and does an excellent job in meeting other dogs (both male and female). Calm people who approach him with care are at the top of his list of folks that will make him feel most at ease. Won't you ask for Bobo today? 3 years old; shep/lab; 54 pounds

## Have you lost or found a pet?

If you have lost or found a pet, go online to [www.darlingtonhumane.org](http://www.darlingtonhumane.org) and click on the link **Lost/ Found Pets**. You will be directed to the [www.thelostpets.com](http://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

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

#### Al-Anon Meetings

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#### Board of Zoning Appeals

5:30 p.m. on Mondays on an as-needed basis, coordinated through the Codes Enforcement Office.

#### Business Network International

BNI meets each Tuesday at from 7:30-9 a.m. at Black Creeks Art Council, 116 W College Ave in Hartsville

#### 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.

#### Crochet & Knit Clubs

Lamar: each Monday at 4:30 p.m. 326-5524  
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.

#### 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.

#### Darlington Library Programs

Summer Reading Program, Darlington Library, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.  
Family Movie - Thurs. at 4pm  
Accelerated Reader Testing, Available ALL Summer  
Potluck Club [What the Fork?], Monthly Event, 4th Wednesday at 5:30 pm, bring one dish and feast on many...theme changes monthly, call 843-398-4940 for more information.

#### 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

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

### Monthly Events

#### American Legion

American Legion Post 13 of Darlington meets second Thursday of each month at the Post on Harry Byrd Highway.

#### Darlington Branch NAACP

The Darlington Branch NAACP meets on the second Tuesday every month, 7 p.m. at 109 Pearl St. For more, please contact President Anthony Hall at 843-229-1274.

#### Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

The Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board will meet on the following dates and times in 2019. All meetings will begin at 2 p.m. The agenda and meeting location will be posted monthly.  
Meetings: April 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 26.  
No meeting in December.

#### Darlington County First Steps

2nd Tuesday each month at 5:30 pm in the Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 214 N 5th St., Hartsville.

#### Darlington County Historical Commission Meeting

Darlington County Historical Commission meets at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Darlington County Historical Commission at 204 Hewitt Street in Darlington.

#### Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

Darlington County Planning Commission meets 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building at 1625 Harry Byrd Highway in Darlington

#### Darlington County Humane Society Board of Directors

Darlington County Humane Society Board of Directors meet at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Hartsville Memorial Library at 147 W. College Avenue in Hartsville.

#### Darlington Downtown Development Association Board of Directors Meeting

The DDRA Board of Directors will meet at City Administration, 410 Pearl Street, at 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, except in July and September.

#### Free Vision Screenings

Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County and the Darlington Lions Club are sponsoring free vision screenings, third Wednesday of each month, 1-4 p.m. at Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County, 203 Grove St. You do not have to be an FMC patient.

#### Head Start

Darlington County Head Start program policy council meetings, fourth Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at Butler Head Start Center, 1103 S. 6th St., Hartsville. Darlington County Community Action Agency board meetings, 4th Thursday every month at 5:30 p.m., Butler Head Start Center.

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Darlington chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW "GREY/FARROW" Post 3609, meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Taki's Restaurant, 609 Pearl St. in Darlington

### Nov. 2019

#### Terrence Carraway Memorial 5k

On Friday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m., the track will host its second consecutive 5K event, but with a new name. The event will now be titled the Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K with proceeds from the event benefiting the Terrence F. Carraway Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, which is raising donations for a new South Carolina Fallen Officers Memorial Park in his honor on Main St. in Darlington.

#### Rusty Wallace Racing Experience

Get behind the wheel at Darlington Raceway on Nov. 2 and drive like the NASCAR Pros with the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience! For a limited time save 70% OFF ALL driving packages!  
Drive the race car by yourself, no instructor riding shotgun. All of your laps are hot laps and passing is allowed!  
Book your spot: [bit.ly/2kPf202](http://bit.ly/2kPf202)

#### Historic Landmarks Commission

5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4 at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street.

#### Darlington County Council Meeting

The Darlington County Council will hold their monthly meeting Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington. The Council encourages citizen participation and provides an opportunity for citizens to present their concerns at the beginning of each regular meeting. Those wishing to make a presentation should contact the Clerk to Council at 843-398-4100 or [jbishop@darcosc.com](mailto:jbishop@darcosc.com).

#### Pee Dee Workforce Development Board

Pee Dee Workforce Development Board will meet on Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Administrative Building at 2314 Pisgah Road in Florence.

#### Show Down in the Pee Dee IV

Saturday, Nov. 9 from 1-11 p.m. at the OMRBT at 107 Gary Street, Darlington.

#### Veterans Day Ceremony at Darlington Veterans Memorial

Monday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. on the courthouse grounds

#### Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County School District Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington.

#### Williamson Park Committee

Williamson Park Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington.

#### Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street, Darlington, SC.

#### The Toast of Darlington

Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Historic Edwards House. Enjoy live music, gourmet food, cash bar, and awards. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by contacting Harriet at the Darlington Chamber at (843) 393-2641 or [hhobbs@darlingtonchamber.com](mailto:hhobbs@darlingtonchamber.com).

tonchamber.com.

#### Darlington Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street, Darlington, SC.

#### Beautification Board

Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the City of Darlington Administrative Offices, located at 410 Pearl Street, Darlington.

#### Shop Small Downtown Open House

The Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association (DDRA) will hold a Shop Small Downtown Open House on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. in partnership with American Express and Darlington Area Recreation. We will have Pictures with Santa, Music, Vendors, and a Snow Machine on the Public Square. The first 200 guests will receive a Shop Small tote bag filled with goodies. Several shops around the Square will have refreshments, kids crafts, face painting, and special deals that night only!

#### Second Annual Lights of Love

The Auxiliary of Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center invites you to join our Second Annual Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Lights in honor/memory of a loved one can be purchased in the gift shop on the first floor of the hospital. Acknowledgement cards will be mailed to commemorate the honor, and all names will be published in the program. Proceeds from the event will fund special projects for the Auxiliary along with yearly scholarships awarded to students pursuing an education in the medical field. For more information, please call 843.878.1019.

### Dec. 2019

#### Darlington County Council Meeting

The Darlington County Council will hold their monthly meeting Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington. The Council encourages citizen participation and provides an opportunity for citizens to present their concerns at the beginning of each regular meeting. Those wishing to make a presentation should contact the Clerk to Council at 843-398-4100 or [jbishop@darcosc.com](mailto:jbishop@darcosc.com).

#### Darlington City Council Meeting

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

#### Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County School District Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington.

## DARLINGTON



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# COMMUNITY

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Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Hartsville Alumnae Chapter, went pink for the month of October. They honored breast cancer survivors. Above, left to right: Brenda Herrington, president, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Hartsville Alumnae Chapter; Harriet Bacote, a recent cancer survivor; and Rev. Blondell Miller, co-chaplain for the chapter. Herrington has been cancer free for 23 years and Miller has been cancer free 2½ years. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



On Oct. 13, Darlington Presbyterian Church, EPC, celebrated the completion of its newly renovated McCown Hall with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony. From left to right: Russell Davis, pipe drummer; Christian Markle, bagpiper; Rev. Kevin Cauley, pastor; Robert Goodson, architect. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Drought has been a major disruption for S.C. wildlife, natural resources, experts say

Clemson University

CLEMSON — Abnormally dry conditions like those experienced across three-quarters of South Carolina recently are a double whammy for the state's valuable forest resources: Drought puts stress on trees and, in turn, stress makes trees more vulnerable to threats such as native and invasive insects.

With 63 percent of the state in a moderate to exceptional drought and 37 percent experiencing at least severe drought conditions, according to the latest update from United States Drought Monitor, Clemson University experts say it could have both short- and long-term impacts on tree health.

"A lot of studies have looked at the impacts of drought on young and old trees and found that drought reduces radial growth and, in some cases, can lead to tree mortality," said Clemson assistant professor David Coyle, a forest health and invasive species specialist.

But Coyle said repeated cycles of drought over multiple years, such as those South Carolina and other Southeastern states have experienced recently, can be particularly bad news for trees.

"There are lasting impacts from drought. It takes a tree a while to regrow roots it might've lost, reflush leaves it might've lost; it just takes time to get a tree back to full health after a drought," Coyle said. "And we don't really have a good answer for how long is long enough to get a tree back to where it was. In the Southeast in the last few years we've had pretty common droughts, especially in the late summer or fall — it seems like every year we go through this — and I don't think there's evidence that some of these trees ever fully recover."

Coyle said repeated droughts can cause a gradual depletion of a tree's energy and resources, impacts that are exacerbated by the sandier soils common throughout much of South Carolina.

"The worst this year has been around the Edgefield/Aiken area and also on the north side of Columbia," he said. "Those soils are so sandy and they tend to get dry almost every summer."

Perhaps just as problematically, drought-stressed trees are an open invitation to insect species such as pine bark beetles, especially those in the Ips genus.

"In 2016 there was a really bad drought — it was the year of the Great Smoky Mountains wildfire — and it didn't rain for about six weeks in Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia, and there were tree mortality spots from Ips beetles all over the place," he said. "So there is evidence that drought is really going to increase the trees' sus-

ceptibility to some of these common things, as well as having a negative impact on growth."

And that's a significant concern in a state where forestry ranks No. 1 among manufacturing industries in both jobs (90,624) and payroll (\$4.1 billion) and contributes around \$17 billion annually to the economy.

Extension assistant professor and state wildlife specialist Cory Heaton agreed with Coyle that the timber industry suffered during droughts.

"Forest health is a serious issue during drought periods," Heaton said. "Drought stresses trees and makes them vulnerable to insect and disease issues. Pine beetles are a good example where we see high tree mortality that under normal conditions would not happen, or at least not on a large scale."

Forestry is also part of the state's \$41.7 billion agribusiness industry, and negative impacts from the drought could affect agricultural crop yields across the state. But the impact of drought on natural resources also has a significant impact on the state's wildlife, as well.

"Wildlife species are subject to limited availability of palatable food sources," Heaton said. "We can see body weights decrease severely during drought periods for many species. Additionally, there may be losses in the juvenile populations due to malnutrition. When we experience high mortality in juveniles, recruitment rates drop and the population may start the following year with below-normal adult population numbers."

And because Southeastern ecosystems evolved under a paradigm where water was abundant and seasonal precipitation patterns tended to be predictable, ecosystems have to respond to those patterns being disrupted, according to Daniel Hanks, postdoctorate fellow in Clemson's department of forestry and environmental conservation.

"Whether that is a period of intense or prolonged precipitation events or, as we are now experiencing, prolonged drought and extreme heat, if events are extreme enough, either in intensity or longevity, they can be outside of the abilities of ecosystems or parts of ecosystems to respond, thereby potentially disrupt ecosystem services and create additional vulnerabilities," he said.

Hanks also noted the timing of prolonged weather events is important. For example, periods of drought have been shown to reduce trout population numbers and affect the condition of those surviving fish.

"Oftentimes, and understandably so, we welcome extended periods of rain after droughts; however, periods of high stream flows during peri-

ods when fish are not accustomed to such flows can also have detrimental effects," Hanks said.

"Brook trout, for example, reproduce during the fall when stream flow is typically low and their eggs need adequate winter flows to mature and allow the young to hatch in the late winter/early spring when adequate food resources are available. However, unseasonal heavy rains during the winter can cause scouring of the stream bed, thus killing the developing young fish."

While groundwater issues related to drought are having a widespread impact on South Carolina, dry weather also has an impact on municipal water that residents use for things like watering their lawns.

Clemson assistant professor Amy Scaroni said practicing water conservation at home — using less water for your daily needs — reduces the stress on municipal water supplies during droughts. And while it is too late for the current drought, Scaroni recommended planning ahead for future droughts during wetter periods to protect the water supply during dry times.

"Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater and use it to water your plants. Plants actually prefer rainwater to treated water, so it's a win-win for your landscape and our water resources," she said.

In terms of other things residents can do to proactively help alleviate the impacts of drought, Scaroni said there are many simple practices, such as disconnecting downspouts to let water drain into a landscaped bed or grassy area instead of routing it directly to a storm drain, creating a rain garden to help water infiltrate during storms and planting a low-maintenance landscape with native plants adapted to the South Carolina climate that require less watering and fare better during drought.

Scaroni also said turfgrass is the most irrigated "crop" in the U.S. and can require a great deal of water to remain healthy during dry periods. Thus, another drought defense option is to replace some areas of turfgrass with native plants, a pollinator garden or permeable hardscaping.

"By reducing impervious (hard) surfaces on your property, you will allow water to soak into the ground, which recharges the groundwater when rain is plentiful," she said. "These seem like small actions, but with widespread adoption across our communities, we can recharge the groundwater during wet conditions and reduce the strain on our water supply during dry conditions."

## #GrabABagSC challenge comes to Darlington with chance to win \$100

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette and PalmettoPride want South Carolinians to grab a bag and clean up our communities.

Grab A Bag SC is a statewide litter pickup challenge inspired by Evette's own experience picking up in her home community and even during her family vacations.

On Nov. 16, Evette will kick off Grab A Bag SC in Travelers Rest with a press conference followed by a litter pickup event in her hometown. Citizens across the state are encouraged to go out and do the same on that day — grab a bag and pick up litter.

"We are all blessed to live in South Carolina, a place filled with natural beauty and abundant resources," said Evette. "Just like all of you, I love this state, and I am confident that if we all do a little bit, together we can have a tremendous impact."

After you've picked up your bag, challenge three friends to do the same. Just tag them on your favorite social platform and use #GrabABagSC.

The City of Darlington Beautification Board will participate in the #GrabABagSC campaign with an event from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 16.

Volunteers should meet at the City Administration Building, 410 Pearl St., across from Rose's and Piggly Wiggly.

Individuals, or teams of four, can register to win \$100 in Walmart gift cards. Litter will be weighed in at the City Administration Building.

PalmettoPride is coordinating the event and has a signup page on [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org). They are asking for participants to sign up before Nov. 16 and to post a picture with the hashtag #GrabABagSC following your cleanup.

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**QUOTE**

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ANDY RODDICK

# sports

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## 'We missed a lot of opportunities': Marlboro County downs Darlington

By Drake Horton  
Contributing Writer

Despite a good first half, the Darlington Falcons were unable to match it with a solid second half, losing 28-6 to the Marlboro County Bulldogs at home Friday on senior night.

Coming off their first win in over two years last week, the Falcons rode that momentum into the first half with Marlboro County.

After a scoreless first quarter, Darlington struck first in the second quarter, going up 6-0.

While it was not obvious then, that was Darlington's only bright moment on offense.

Marlboro County answered the Falcons' score with one of its own on the following drive, going up 7-6 and the Bulldogs never looked back.

The switch of momentum in the second quarter was a result of missed opportunities and controversies that ended up playing into the hands of the Bulldogs, who were able to capitalize, and it turned into 28 unanswered points, 21 in the second half.

It started with controversy. After going up 6-0, the Darlington defense looked like it was about to force a turnover on downs on Marlboro County's ensuing drive after an incomplete pass on fourth and four, but a late flag for pass interference for what looked like a clean defensive play gave the Bulldogs a new life with a first down.

Following that new life, the Falcons defense had two missed opportunities, one resulting in a touchdown.

The first came when Darlington dropped a sure interception three plays later and the second came on the following play, a fourth and eight that Marlboro County converted into a 28-yard touchdown run to go up 7-6.

Darlington's offense went right back to work following

the Bulldogs' touchdown, marching right down the field, but a dropped touchdown pass cost the Falcons a chance to go into the half with the lead.

"Like I told them at half-time, we just felt like we missed a lot of opportunities, two picks on defense, in position to move the chains on offense and didn't, should have been 7-0, missed that opportunity and it's 6-0 and the dropped ball right before half," Darlington head coach Raymond Jennings said.

Coming out of the half, Darlington's offense went completely cold and the defense wore down as the unit stayed on the field for almost the entire third quarter as Marlboro County extended its lead to 21-6 by the end of the third quarter.

The Bulldogs scored one more touchdown early in the fourth quarter to go up 28-6 and from there they played defense and clock control.

"We felt lucky going into (the) half, making a lot of mistakes that maybe people didn't see defensively, too," Jennings said.

"We came out in the second half and they nicked and dined us.

"We couldn't get off the field as quickly as we did in the first half and when we (offensively) got back on, we didn't do anything with points. It was just wearing them same guys down."

The loss drops Darlington to 1-8 overall, 1-3 in the region.

The Falcons wrap up the season Friday night on the road as they take on their bitter rival, the Hartsville Red Foxes.



Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School announces the addition of Coach Gerald Wright as assistant boys basketball coach. Wright comes to Trinity-Byrnes with over 35 years of coaching experience. He has served as assistant football coach from 1982-2017, and head varsity boys basketball coach from 1995-2017 at Timmons High School. Wright has also coached in both The Shrine Bowl for football and the North/South All Star game for basketball.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K gets presenting sponsor

Darlington Raceway has announced that longtime partner Sam Carbis Solutions Group will be the presenting sponsor of the Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K on Nov. 1.

"We're extremely grateful to the Sam Carbis Solutions Group for sponsoring our Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K event," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp said.

"Sam Carbis Solutions Group is an outstanding community business located in Florence that has been a terrific longtime partner of the track. Sam Carbis is passionate and supportive of law enforcement and first responders, so it's very meaningful to see their name on this event."

The event will now be titled the Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group with proceeds from the event benefiting the Terrence F. Carraway Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, which is raising donations for a new South Carolina Fallen Officers

Memorial Park in his honor on South Main Street in Darlington.

The goal of the Memorial Park is to honor fallen South Carolina police officers and canines who lost their lives in the line of duty.

A year has now passed since the death of City of Florence Police Sgt. Terrence Carraway. Carraway, a lifelong resident of Darlington, was killed in the line of duty on Oct. 3, 2018, but his memory continues to live on at his hometown track. Darlington Raceway and Sam Carbis Solutions Group want to continue to honor him during this year's event.

The Terrence Carraway Memorial 5K presented by Sam Carbis Solutions Group is slated to begin at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 1 and run under the lights at Darlington Raceway for the second consecutive year.

Participants may pre-register online for the event for a fee of \$25 per participant by visiting

<https://DarlingtonRaceway5K.itsyourrace.com/register/>. Day-of registration will be \$30 per person.

Packet pickup for the 5K will be available Oct. 31 at the Darlington Raceway Museum, from 5-8 p.m. or on event day at the track beginning at 5 p.m.

The 5K course will start and end at the start-finish line of the race track. All participants will receive a T-shirt for running in



the event. Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are still available by contacting Tyler Grube, Director of Corporate Sales, at 843-395-8877 or [tgrube@darlingtonraceway.com](mailto:tgrube@darlingtonraceway.com).

## Join In Our Veterans Day Ceremony at Darlington's Veterans Memorial Park

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# Center Baptist Church of Timmonsville honors seniors



Oct. 19-20 was a weekend for honoring about 60 seniors of Center Baptist Church of Timmonsville. Activities, led by Mae Helen Burch, senior citizens chairwoman for the church, included brunch at Golden Corral in Florence, then a movie at the Julia IV theater ("Gemini Man"). At church services the next day, the winners for "money trees" were Deacon Odell Ham and Sister Hazel D. George; each winner had to give a senior citizen 10 percent of their winnings. Sponsors for the weekend's events included Curtis Boyd, Mayflower Seafood, Ricky James, Reggie Smith, High Point Furniture, A-1 Transmission, Jordan Funeral Home, Brent Mark, Dr. Charlotte Francis, Chapman's Bail Bonding, Judge Marvin Lawson, Margaret Rogers, Mae Helen Burch, Vincent Coe, Derrick Williamson, Darlington IGA, Darlington Food Lion, Darlington Bi-Lo, Darlington Piggly Wiggly, Mr. and Mrs. Wade White, Kenneth Cain. Jackson Travel and Tours provided the bus. PHOTOS BY BOBBY BRYANT

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## Scare on the Square 2019



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



## Spaulding Elementary student wins Holiday Card Art Contest

The title of 2019 DCSD Holiday Card Contest winner will take a trip down the road to Spaulding Elementary in Lamar. Fifth grader Mia Braddock's painting earned the most votes and will grace the cover of the district's official holiday card.

Braddock's painting portrays a family vehicle in a snowy scene returning home with a Christmas tree for the holidays.

This year, the Holiday Card Art Contest included Darlington County School District students in grades 3-5.

The contest rotates grade levels each year and will include grades 6-8 in 2020. Employees in DCSD's Administrative Offices chose Braddock's painting as the winner from amongst nine finalists submitted by the students' art teachers.

Braddock will receive a certificate, \$50 and a packet of holiday cards featuring her painting.

She will also be invited to visit the Darlington County Institute of Technology to learn about graphic design

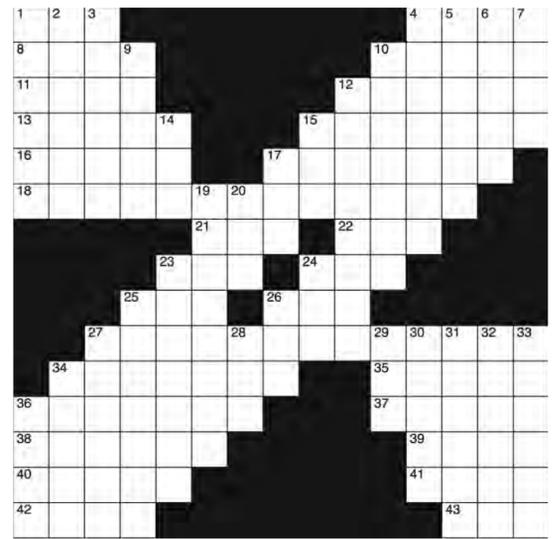
and printing processes. The Darlington County Board of Education will recognize Braddock at a future meeting. Her art teacher, Dee Driggers, will receive \$100 for art supplies for Spaulding Elementary School.

Eight other finalists were selected for this year's competition:

- Ty'zere Brown, Fifth Grade, Rosenwald Elementary/Middle School
- Alex Gaston, Fifth Grade, St. John's Elementary School
- Harley Holley, Third Grade, North Hartsville Elementary School
- Caleb Jackson, Fifth Grade, Brunson-Dargan Elementary School
- Logan Jordan, Fifth Grade, Carolina Elementary School
- Noah Carmichael Lynch, Third Grade, West Hartsville Elementary School
- Jorleny Rivera-Lopez, Third Grade, Brockington Elementary Magnet School
- Daniela Vega Rogue, Third Grade, Thornwell School for the Arts



## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Third-party access (abbr.)
- This (Spanish)
- Goals
- Something to do lightly
- "Great" North Sea Empire legend
- Iced or chilled drink
- Weight units
- Immune system response
- Groundbreaking German pharmacologist
- Milk-supplying companies
- Enjoyable distraction
- Doctor of Education
- Type of submarine gun (abbr.)
- Curved shape
- Brew
- The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Advanced degree

### DOWN

- Gear
- Outer part of a bird's wing
- Good luck charm
- Removing from memory
- Group of seven people
- Records
- German river
- "Last of the Mohicans" actress Madeleine
- Ancient Greek war galley

- Nonsensical speak
- Title of respect
- Cast out
- Have already done
- Wood-loving insects
- Analog conversion system (abbr.)
- Pokes holes in
- Waiver of liability (abbr.)
- Sea cow
- Protein coding gene
- Where boats park
- The top of a jar
- Fitting
- German city
- Martens
- They're all over the planet
- One that nests
- Coming at the end
- Croatian coastal city

## Trinity-Byrnes hosts College Night

Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School hosted nearly 100 students and parents who came to the campus to participate in the school's annual College Night.

The event hosted admissions representatives from 15 colleges and universities in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

"We were really pleased to have so many diverse pro-

grams represented at College Night," says Weston Nunn, director of college placement. "We wanted to showcase bigger state schools and smaller private colleges so our families can make informed college choices."

In addition to providing a space for students and parents to talk with representatives about their respective programs, College Night also featured informational break-out

sessions on various aspects of the college application process.

Session topics included financial aid, writing effective essays and personal statements, navigating the requirements of selective colleges, and managing the stress and anxiety of the application process.

Attending colleges and universities featured at College Night were Clemson

University, Coastal Carolina University, Francis Marion University, Winthrop University, Coker University, the University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee, the University of South Carolina, Davidson College, Presbyterian College, Mercer University, Samford University, Erskine College, Hampden-Sydney College and Wofford College.

## CareSouth offering veterans free health screenings

CareSouth Carolina will show appreciation to veterans by offering free health and dental screenings to military veterans Nov. 16.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., veterans can bring their Current Veterans Card or DD-214 discharge papers (DD-256 for reserve members and NGB22 for National Guard members) to CareSouth Carolina's Hartsville Medical office located at 1268 South Fourth St. and receive free health screenings.

Lynn Lane, a Chesterfield native, served as a Casualty Clerk in the Army for a little more than three years at Fort

Stewart, Ga., before electing to retire. Lane lived in Florida for several years, but made the decision to move back home in 2017.

She was in the midst of transitioning her documents from the Veterans Affairs office in Florida to Columbia when she heard about CareSouth Carolina's Veterans Appreciation Day event in 2018.

"I saw something in the Chesterfield County Shopper and I felt like I needed to get some stuff checked out," Lane said. "CareSouth did screenings, blood tests and it went rather smoothly. I was really

impressed and it helped provide that gap care that I needed."

Lane said she enjoyed the vendors on-site and appreciated the help she received. She said she would recommend it to any veteran looking for health screenings or an opportunity to gain needed assistance. "There was a representative from the VA there," Lane said. "He was available for people to sit with him and help you figure out the next steps."

This year, services provided at the event will include medical examinations, ear and retinal eye exams, blood

sugar testing, oxygen levels, blood pressure and Hemoglobin (HA1C) screenings, dental screenings and more.

Welvista, SC Thrive, Veteran Advisors and VA Card Assistance will also be in attendance.

To sign up, call 843-332-3422. Appointments and walk-ins will be accepted until the schedule is full. The event is sponsored by the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation, CareSouth Carolina and the United Way of Hartsville.

## Backyard Stargazer

### What to see in the sky in November

By Francis Parnell



For November, there are a number of neat naked-eye or binocular sights for us to observe.

On the 1st, one hour after sunset, spot the waxing lunar crescent 4 degrees lower right of the ringed planet Saturn. On the 2nd, look for the Moon about 8 degrees left of Saturn.

The Moon is just past full on the 13th and is less than 2 degrees from Aldebaran, the glowing red eye of Taurus, the

Bull. Aldebaran is 67 light-years away, 44 times the Sun's diameter, and 160 times the luminosity.

On the morning of the 20th, a thick lunar crescent is about 6 degrees left or lower left of Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, the Lion. Regulus is 79 light-years away, 5 times the diameter, and 150 times the Sun's luminosity.

Look southwest along the horizon at dusk on the 22nd to find bright white Venus with yellow Jupiter about 5 degrees above it.

About 45 minutes after sunset on the 27th, look low in the southwest to see the line-

up of Venus, Jupiter and a very low, very thin crescent Moon. Try to find a clear horizon to get a good view.

At sunset on the 28th, look low in the southwest to find the slim crescent Moon about 2 degrees above Venus with Jupiter 6 degrees lower right of the pair.

On the 29th, a very close pairing, a little more than 1 degree, of the crescent Moon to the lower left of Saturn.

FAST FACT: This time of year you may be thinking about buying a telescope for Christmas. If so, you'll want a scope that's not too heavy or difficult to use. If it's too

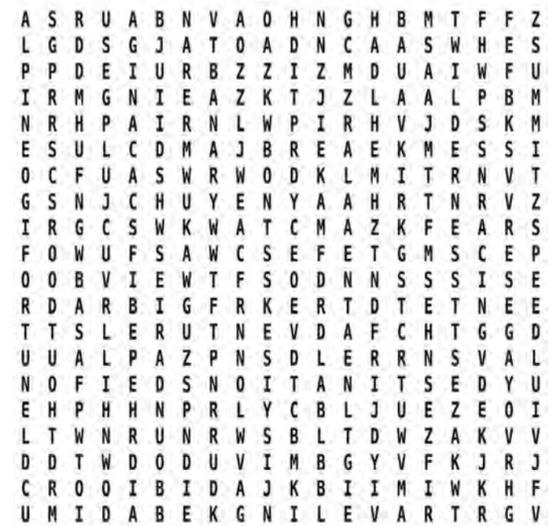
heavy, you'll use it once or twice and it ends up in the closet.

My advice: visit the ORION Telescope website at [www.telescope.com](http://www.telescope.com) and click on "How To Choose a Telescope," then check out the small, portable, easy-to-use telescopes with affordable prices.

Some are computerized and some even have Wi-Fi connections!

With or without a telescope or binoculars, "Keep looking up!"

## WORD SEARCH



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2043 Longleaf Drive - 2 bedroom, 1 bath singlewide approximately 10 minutes from town, stove & refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook up, central heat & air, \$400/deposit, \$400/rent, call (843) 393-8084. 13ctfn

674 Stanley Circle - 1 room efficiency, includes utilities, \$425/month, (843) 393-7545. 15ctfn

110 S. Twitty Street - 2 bedroom house, \$450/month, (843) 393-7545. 16ctfn

## YARD SALE

Yard Sale - Saturday November 2, 2019 - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - First Church of God Youth Group, 620 N. Main St., Darlington - Donations Appreciated - Spaces are available for your own yard sale. Bring your own tables. (2

spaces - \$15.00, 4 spaces - \$25.00). Set-up will be 6:30 am - 8:00 am. Please call the church office at 843-393-7942 to save your space or if you have any questions. Food items will be sold by the youth group. Hope to see you there! 15c2

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VACATION RENTALS

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**AUCTION:**  
Nov. 12 at 2 pm  
1009 N. Main Street

**KATIE BALLINGER**  
Storage #57  
Household items  
Total due: \$297.00

**MARY SIMON**  
Storage #54  
Household items  
Total due: \$347.00

**SHARON SMITH**  
Storage #76  
Household items  
Total due: \$267.00

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.

# The \$4 billion piggy bank hidden from South Carolinians

By Rick Brundrett  
The Nerve

As state agencies prepare their proposed fiscal 2020-21 budgets, what they likely won't reveal is the amount of "other" fund surpluses carried over year after year - collectively billions of dollars.

As of June 30 - the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year - state agencies and divisions, plus several major state funds, had a total of nearly \$3.9 billion in other-fund cash balances, according to S.C. Department of Administration records released to The Nerve under the Freedom of Information Act.

That amount works to be roughly \$752 for every man, woman and child in South Carolina.

Since the end of fiscal year 2015, the total amount of year-end, other-fund surpluses has grown by more than \$1.1 billion, or 43 percent, The Nerve's review found.

"Other" funds include such things as fees and fines, college tuition, lottery proceeds, state gasoline taxes and a portion of the state sales tax earmarked for K-12 education. That money makes up nearly \$12 billion, or about 40 percent, of the state's total \$30 billion state budget for

this fiscal year, which includes state (\$9.2 billion) and federal (\$8.8 billion) funds.

The Nerve over the years has reported about massive other-fund surpluses. And that doesn't include state agency general-fund reserves.

The Nerve last month reported that state agencies had a collective \$431.9 million in general fund reserves at the start of this fiscal year, according to state Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom's 2018-19 year-end report.

That amount was nearly \$53 million more and \$280.3 million more than the balances of the state's general and capital reserve funds, respectively - the two big "rainy day" funds required by the S.C. Constitution - as of June 30.

Lawmakers also have been squirreling away plenty of money for their respective legislative chambers. The Senate and House chambers had other fund reserves of \$726,713 and \$247,024, respectively, at the end of last fiscal year, Department of Administration records show - on top of massive general-fund surpluses - \$23.4 million for the House and \$5.2 million for the Senate - as The Nerve reported last month.

Few surplus funds are ever refunded to S.C. taxpayers, however. For this fiscal year, lawmakers designated \$61.4 million generated by a one-time lottery jackpot to be returned to eligible taxpayers; \$50 refund checks are scheduled to be mailed on Dec. 2, according to Eckstrom's report.

As for other fund surpluses, the state Department of Transportation easily led all state agencies in The Nerve's latest review with a collective \$1 billion in reserves at the end of last fiscal year - a hike of \$685.3 million since the end of fiscal 2015.

It's not clear whether the \$1 billion surplus included reserves in a special state fund created with the gas-tax-hike law that took effect July 1, 2017. DOT spokesman Pete Poore did not respond to written questions from The Nerve.

The Nerve has repeatedly pointed out that DOT has spent relatively little from the special fund, known as the "Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund." As of Aug. 31, the cash balance in the fund stood at \$451.7 million, or 54.5 percent of the \$828.1 million in collected revenues under the gas-tax-hike law, which raised the state gas

tax 12 cents per gallon over six years, and increased other vehicle taxes and fees.

In passing the law, legislators promised that the revenues would be used to fix the state's crumbling roads and bridges. But relatively few major road repair or reconstruction projects have been completed, as The Nerve has reported since the law took effect.

Besides state agency surpluses, Department of Administration records recently released to The Nerve also show large other-fund reserves in several major funds, including country transportation funds. Under state law, county legislative delegations appoint County Transportation Committees (CTCs) that approve local road projects with "C" funds, which come from part of the state gas tax.

The statewide surplus in those funds totaled \$165.1 million at the end of last fiscal year.

Following is a list of the top-10 largest other-fund reserves as of June 30, according to Department of Administration records:

Department of Transportation: \$1 billion  
Department of Health and

Human Services: \$478.6 million

Medical University of South Carolina: \$318.7 million

USC - Columbia campus: \$181.5 million

County transportation funds: \$165.1 million

Department of Mental Health: \$149.9 million

Clemson University: \$149.7 million

Department of Health and Environment Control: \$105.8 million

Department of Commerce: \$103.8 million

State Transportation Infrastructure Bank (STIB): \$91.7 million.

Besides DOT, The Nerve sent written questions to the Department of Administration, STIB, Commerce, Clemson and USC about their other fund surpluses. Commerce, Clemson and USC spokespersons didn't reply immediately.

In an email response, STIB spokeswoman Tami Reed said the \$91.7 million other-fund surplus for the agency as of June 30 included the "balance in the Act 98 account for Act 98 projects (until balance is exhausted), and our operating fund for payments on all other projects and the administration of the Bank."

Under Act 98 of 2013, \$50 million was transferred annually from the DOT to the STIB to "finance bridge replacements, and rehabilitation projects, and expansion and improvement projects for existing mainline interstates," according to STIB's website. Over the years, the STIB funneled several billion dollars to large construction projects in select counties.

The Department of Administration had an \$84.5 million cash balance at the end of fiscal 2019, the majority of which, according to agency spokeswoman Kelly Coakley, is designated for improving K-12 school technology and other technology programs, replacing state vehicles, and distributing funds from the sale of surplus state property.

Still, the department's other fund reserves grew by nearly 19 percent since the end of fiscal year 2016 - a trend shared by most state agencies, The Nerve's review found.

Brundrett is the news editor of The Nerve (www.thenerve.org). Contact him at 803-254-4411 or rick@thenerve.org. Follow him on Twitter @RickBrundrett. Follow The Nerve on Facebook and Twitter @thenervesc.

## Legals

Continued from 4B

**SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT**  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOCKET NO. 2019-CP-34-00188 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF MARLBORO Lynn Y. McKay, Plaintiff vs. Flossie Mae Wilson, Defendant.

TO DEFENDANT: Flossie Mae Wilson, Defendant above Named: You are hereby given notice that a Summons and Complaint in this action, the original of which is available to you at the Marlboro County Clerk of Court, Bennettsville, South Carolina, has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Marlboro County, State of South Carolina, on the 28th day of June, 2019, a copy of which will be delivered to you upon request; and to serve a copy of your answer to the complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff at PO Box 1686, 204 North First Avenue, Dillon, SC 29536 (843) 627-4235 within thirty (30) days following the date of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time stated, the plaintiff will apply for judgment by default against the defendant for the relief demanded in the complaint, which is an action for damages.

E. Leary McKenzie, Attorney for Plaintiff McKenzie Law Firm PC

204 North First Avenue, Dillon, SC 29536 S.C. Bar No. 101808 Phone (843) 627-4235; Fax (843) 773-2179.

Dillon, South Carolina October 14, 2019

(15c3 leave in thru 11-6-19) **SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT Case No. 2019-CP-16-00986

Founders Federal Credit Union, Plaintiff, vs. Ervin C. James, Jr., Defendant.

TO: DEFENDANT ERVIN C. JAMES, JR.:

SUMMONS YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the subscribers at their offices located at 1230 Main Street, Suite 700, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 within thirty (30) days after the date of such service, exclusive of the day of service; and if you fail to answer the said Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Summons and Complaint in the above-entitled action were filed in the Office of the Clerk of

Court for Darlington County, South Carolina on the 10th day of September 2019, at 4:23 p.m.

Suzanne Taylor Graham Grigg, Esquire NEXSEN PRUET, LLC 1230 Main Street, Suite 700 (29201)

Columbia, SC 29202 Phone: (803) 540-2114 Fax: (803) 727-1440

Attorneys for the Plaintiff October 15, 2019

(15c3 leave in thru 11-6-19) **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: Crystal Dawn Happ Date of Death: 9/13/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600504

Request for Proposal Darlington County is accept-

ing proposals for the following: 1. RFQ Stone Various 01-11-21-2019 (16c1 leave in thru 10-30-19)

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
BY VIRTUE OF a decree heretofore granted in the case of The Citizens Bank, Plaintiff, vs. Benjamin Lee Brown, Michael Ray Poston, Jr., individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Cecelia Conyers Mathis, Denise Mathis, Cassandra Lovelace, individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of David Paul Mathis, McLeod Health, and any other person claiming any right, title or interest in the real estate, and John Doe and Richard Roe; any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe, and any unknown minors or person under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe representing any unknown heirs of, or claimants against the property described in the Complaint, Defendants., CA# 2019-CP-16-00639, I, the undersigned, will sell on December 2, 2019 at 12:00 o'clock, p.m., at the Darlington County Courthouse, Courthouse Square, Darlington, South Carolina, to the highest bidder the following property:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with the buildings and improvements

thereon, situate, lying and being in the Town of Hartsville, County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, being designated as Lot No. 99 on a plat entitled property owned by the Hartsville Cotton Mill, made by T. E. Wilson, C.E. dated April 16, 1947, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County, SC in Plat Book 13 at Page 143; said lot being bounded and measuring as follows:

NORTH: By Lot No. 98 on said plat, a distance of 91.1 feet, more or less;

EAST: By Lot No. 103 on said plat, a distance of 100 feet;

SOUTH: By Lot No. 100 on said plat, a distance of 90.6 feet; and,

WEST: By Mill Avenue, a distance of 100 feet. This being the same property conveyed to Cecelia C. Mathis by deed of Robert C.

Conyers dated August 31, 2005, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County in Book 1040 at Page 3329. Address: 509 Mill Avenue, Hartsville, SC TMS# 056-11-04-032

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit, at the conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of the bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the property will be resold on the same terms and condi-

tions on some subsequent Sales Day at the risk of the said highest bidder. Personal or deficiency judgment having been waived, the bidding will not remain open, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately after the sale. Purchaser to pay for preparation of the deed, documentary stamps on the deed, and recording fees. SUBJECT TO DARLINGTON COUNTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS, EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, ANY OTHER MATTERS OF RECORD

s/ Haigh Porter October 22, 2019 Special Referee for Darlington County Ray Coit Yarbrough, Jr. Attorney for Plaintiff (16c3 leave in thru 11-13-19)

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
Darlington County is accept-

# Scare on the Square 2019



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



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