



# News & Press

## QUOTE

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

EDMUND BURKE

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

DECEMBER 25, 2019

ESTABLISHED 1874

75¢

Vol. 145, No. 52  
Darlington, S.C.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

## 'I would like more stuff, but I don't want to stress you out'

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor  
editor@newsandpress.net

In today's issue of the News & Press, you'll find our annual Letters to Santa special section.

We received about 165 letters from Darlington-area elementary-school students telling the Jolly Old Elf what they wanted for Christmas – and in many letters, expressing concern for his health because he works so hard and asking about his finances.

Is he getting stressed out? Does he have enough money to do a worldwide gift-drop? Are the reindeer holding up OK? There's a tinge of worry in some students' letters – either about Santa or about a family member.

We collected memorable

quotes from this year's Letters to Santa:

"This is the busy time of the year for you and I hope you are doing okay. You are the awesome and best man."

"Are you tired of making toys yet?"

"Are your elves tiny, medium or big?"

"Where do you get all of that money from?"

"I would like more stuff, but I don't want to stress you out."

"I know that you are very busy but please get some rest."

"The elves are tired, I think. Santa, you are real, but

you don't have magic."

"I like technology. ... I would like an iPad Pro and clothes. If you can't make the presents, I could get a teddy bear or dairy." (Editor's note: We're unsure if the student meant he or she wanted a dairy to raise cows or a dairy to write in.)

"I love Santa! I want my family to get rich! I love Christmas!"

"I am smart and funny. ... I help people up if they fall and I ask them if they are okay."

"I did really bad things in the past, but I have turned it around."

"This year, I have been good some of the time."

"Please, please, whatever you do, please do not wake up Daddy."

"A Special Request: Please help my MOM with MS!!!!!!!"

"I also want to leave some books under the tree for the kids who are homeless."

"For Christmas, I would like for my mom to stop crying for my dad. I just want her to be happy."

"I would also like to give you some of my old toys to the children who don't have anything to play with."

"All I want for Christmas is my family."



## DCSD graduates primed to find success in the workplace

Data from the state's 2019 school district report cards indicate that most Darlington County School District (DCSD) graduates are prepared to find success in the workplace.

According to DCSD's report card issued by the S.C. Department of Education, 75.7 percent of 2018-19 graduates met the state's overall criteria to be deemed career-ready. The state average was 72.5 percent.

DCSD Superintendent Tim Newman attributed the success to an intensive districtwide focus on career readiness.

"We certainly concentrate on our academics, but we also place great importance on helping students in every way possible," he said. "That includes work-based learning experiences and professional certifications. We want our students to be able to transition directly into the workforce after high school if they so choose."

In DCSD, 21.4 percent of graduates completed Career and Technical Education with certification. That figure is double the state average of 10.9 percent.



Many Darlington County School District diploma earners completed a state-approved, work-based learning experience with businesses in the region. Austin Sturkie (right), a student at Hartsville High School and the Darlington County Institute of Technology, is completing an internship at Gibson's Wheel Alignment and Tire of Hartsville. PHOTO COURTESY DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DCSD ON 3A



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

## County airport reopens after \$4 million in upgrades

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer  
slyles@newsandpress.net

After being shuttered for three months during an ambitious runway improvement project, Darlington County Airport (DCA) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 18, to mark its official reopening.

DCA manager Barry Kennett told the News & Press that due to age and the regular traffic of heavy aircraft on hot asphalt, the 20-year-old main runway developed ruts. Engineers recommended an overlay to repair the surface, and DCA applied

for a federal grant to help cover the estimated cost of \$4 million to \$5 million.

Construction began in September, and crews milled down between 2 and 7 inches of asphalt and laid a thick pad of concrete along the 5,500-foot-long runway, providing a more durable surface.

This upgrade tripled the runway's weight capacity, and could lure larger, heavier aircraft in for a local landing – which could mean new economic development for the county.

AIRPORT ON 3A



Darlington Raceway president Kerry Tharp (right) presents Allison Carraway with a \$5,000 donation to help build a memorial park for fallen police officers. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

## Raceway donates \$5,000 to fallen officers' memorial

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer  
slyles@newsandpress.net

The Darlington public park planned to memorialize Sgt. Terrence Carraway and all of his fellow law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty received another boost last week as Darlington Raceway donated \$5,000 to the cause.

"On Oct. 3, 2018, this community was rocked by a terrible

tragedy over in Florence. Seven police officers were shot, two lost their lives in the line of duty," said Darlington Raceway president Kerry Tharp. "One of those was Darlington's own Terrence Carraway."

RACEWAY ON 3A

Raceway



See more of the Christmas lights in Darlington on B1. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES





The Pee Dee's Oldest  
Independently  
Owned Newspaper

# opinion

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Word of the Week

xenophobia - fear of anything strange or foreign

Merriam-Webster.com

DECEMBER 25, 2019 | PAGE 2A

THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.

STAR TRIBUNE  
SACK

## THE SCARLET LETTER



OP-ED

## The star still shines

By Bill Shepard

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy!" – Matthew 2:10 JKV

More than 2,000 years later, the star that shone over Bethlehem still shines, and people still rejoice with great joy!

Over the region where the star first appeared, dark war clouds overshadow the land, while here in America, voices are being heard in protest to the word Christmas.

Thank God, the star still shines just as it did on that wintry night centuries ago.

It shines in spite of the skeptics and warmongers; it shines in spite of those who would snuff it out.

It shines to lighten the path that leads to peace on Earth and goodwill to all mankind.

Yes, it shines, and as long as there is a sky above us, the star will continue to shine.

Wise men shall see it and follow it and embrace it, and in the end it will lead to peace on Earth!

Only God can make a star, and only God can blot it out!

Evil men, since the days of Herod, have tried to erase God's star and all that it stands for, but all their evil schemes have failed and they shall continue to do so.

Men through the ages have mocked Christmas and crucified afresh the One for which it stands, but the Star of Bethlehem still shines!

Men may laugh at it, sneer at it, deny it, but it will be shining long after their efforts have ceased.

On this Christmas night, the star will shine over a darkened world, and a million children and old folk alike will gaze upon its light and rejoice.

Over a million housetops and a thousand dark streets, in villages, towns and hamlets, the star will shine.

Its light will be reflected in the eyes of little children, and its hope will still the fears in the hearts of the aged and lonely.

Let us all join with the songwriter R. Fisher Boyce, and sing: "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," shine on and on and on!

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shining afar through shadows dim  
Giving the light to those who long have gone  
Guiding the Wise Men on their way  
Unto the place where Jesus lay,  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on

Oh Beautiful Star (Beautiful, Beautiful Star)  
Of Bethlehem (Star of Bethlehem)  
Shine upon us until glory dawns  
Give us the light to light the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine on

Beautiful Star the hope of light  
Guiding the pilgrims though the night  
Over the mountains till the break of dawn  
Into the light of perfect day  
It will give out a perfect ray  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and we are come to worship Him."

OP-ED

## As newspapers struggle, local broadcast stations making money 'hand over fist'

By Rick Edmonds  
The Poynter Institute

As legacy print outlets and many digital startups struggle financially, another segment of the news industry is doing just fine, thanks.

Local broadcast, building on an already solid advertising and audience base, remains the most popular medium for political advertising. 2018 outpaced the last presidential cycle in 2016, and 2019-20 figures to be much better still.

That's the picture I gleaned from recent financial reports from the biggest companies and several consulting firms that offer industry projections.

A Sinclair Broadcast Group executive put it this way in an earnings conference call earlier this year: "In 2020 we are not going to be able to get out of the way of the money. It's literally going to be hand over fist."

And that was before Mike Bloomberg kicked off his Democratic primary bid, running \$30 million worth of ads in a single week.

From the viewpoint of print/digital journalists living with anxiety over layoffs and publishers trying to orchestrate new revenue streams, the advantaged local broad-

cast sector has two more noteworthy features.

Digital placements are gaining market share each election cycle, but the overall increases in what's spent ensure local broadcast revenues keep growing nonetheless.

Local TV stands to get nearly half of a total \$6 billion spend for the cycle, according to consultants BIA and Kantar.

Even in the comparatively weaker odd-numbered years, local TV can tap into a reliable source of revenue growth: the fees cable networks pay to carry their programs. The trend in those fees has been reliably upward. As the big companies continue to acquire more stations, they have more bargaining power. Multi-year carriage contracts come due every year and reliably renew at a much higher level.

To newspaper executives of a certain age, this may sound like the good-old-days business model, where newspapers could raise ad rates every year because they were virtually the only game in town to penetrate the broadest audience in the market.

I have been curious whether the big local broadcast companies are applying this bounty to putting more

resources into journalism. The answer is equivocal. Total journalists employed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Radio and Television News Directors Association, have held steady at 27,000 to 29,000 for roughly a decade. That is not exactly expansion but a distinct contrast to the sharply declining news staff numbers at newspapers and magazines.

Beyond the raw numbers, every election cycle has its own dynamic. I spoke to two veteran forecasters — Steve Passwaiter of Kantar and Mark Fratrick of BIA — and gleaned these features of the 2020 presidential race:

The run-up to the first primaries in January and February has so far been a time of moderate spending — except for Tom Steyer, who led the rest of the field by a wide margin (even not counting his separate Need to Impeach PAC). Now Bloomberg has pulled even and will soon leap ahead.

Twists in the primary calendar will bring some states into play that typically have not been, notably California and Texas. Both get little spending in the general election because they are safe for one party or the other, but as Super Tuesday primaries, they will deliver many dele-

gates to both parties' nominating conventions.

Bloomberg, skipping the early primaries, is already making big buys in California. And he is saturating available ad slots in news programming in Virginia and my home state of Florida.

The growth of digital vs. traditional media has been in progress for some time. Digital share in 2019-2020 is expected to be \$1.6 billion.

The majority of that goes to Google and Facebook. "Targeting is of as much interest to Elizabeth Warren as it is to Unilever," Passwaiter said.

Another good share of the projected spending — about \$1 billion — will go to direct placements on cable systems (as opposed to the local broadcast feeds they carry). Radio gets a little; newspapers almost none.

No wonder the broadcast arms of Gannett (now TEGNA), E.W. Scripps, and Tribune (now part of Nexstar) got divorced from newspaper divisions earlier this decade. However good their journalism, in revenues and profits, they were not nearly equal contributors to the marriage.

OP-ED

## Oh, Christmas tree

By Tom Poland

Another Christmas has come and gone.

The trees that brought beauty to homes, stores, and more will soon come down. I've heard more than once that if you leave your tree up past New Year's Day, you're asking for bad luck.

Not sure about that but seeing all the trees this season brought back memories of a few special trees. How about you? I bet certain trees stand out more so than others.

I remember the first artificial tree I saw.

It was at my Grandmom Poland's home. Aunt Vivian put the tree up. It was an aluminum foil tree illuminated by a light shining through a transparent spinning tri-colored plastic wheel. The effect was colorful and kaleidoscopic.

It was also a sign of things to come. Forests upon forests of artificial trees would follow, and one would be a spinning tree with lights built in. Mom had one, and putting it together was harder than Chinese arithmetic. Getting all the lights to shine was tricky too.

Mom had another tree I recall with some degree of surprise. An eastern red cedar stood in the corner of what we refer to as the Christmas room.

My Grandmom Walker was sitting next to the tree, admiring it, when she got a much closer view than she expected. The tree toppled over falling right on her. I remember seeing her peer through the branches like a squirrel.

POLAND ON 3A

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage letters to the editor on any subject. Please include your name, location and phone number for verification.  
Mail to P.O. Box 513 Darlington SC 29540  
or e-mail editor@newsandpress.net.

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of the News and Press, and content may be edited prior to printing. Letters containing overtly malicious comments or personal attacks on your fellow citizens will not be printed.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

In-state subscriptions: One year \$30  
Out-of-state subscriptions: One year \$40.  
Sorry, but we cannot give refunds for canceled subscriptions.

#### PRESS RELEASE AND EVENT SUBMISSIONS

All press releases are welcome and will be considered, but the News & Press reserves the right to edit as necessary for space or other requirements. Please contact us by phone at (843) 393-3811, by fax at (843) 393-6811 or by e-mail at editor@newsandpress.net with your Darlington area news.



Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School has received a \$15,000 donation from Dan and Arlene McGinnis. The award will be administered by Head of School Ed Hoffman and is intended for tuition assistance/financial aid. "Dan and Arlene McGinnis have been tremendous assets to the Trinity-Byrnes community. The family has been champions of our school's excellent educational program for over eight years," stated Hoffman. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

## Airport

Continued from 1A

"Collectively, what happens when we see these projects take place is they ultimately add to the value of your community. Last year, we did an economic impact (study) of this airport and the whole statewide system of airports. This airport represents \$4.5 million annually in economic impact to this community," said James Stephens, executive director of South Carolina Aeronautics.

Airport Commission chairman Bobby Dempsey said he was thrilled and surprised that

the project came in on time. Dempsey added that if the airport could get a new sewer line, that could open up more possibilities for tenants and development.

"This is maybe the only small airport in South Carolina that has a concrete runway. All the big ones have them, but this is just excellent for us," said Dempsey.

Originally built in 1943 by the U.S. Army Air Force, Darlington County Airport's runway is typical for a general aviation airport used mainly by small passenger aircraft and single engine planes. Kennett noted that the new runway will allow visitors and

airport tenants like Sonoco to land heavier aircraft at DCA and feel confident that the surface is sturdy and pristine.

"That will be nice down the line, so we can try to get more corporate or business aircraft to come here. Not only that, but since concrete lasts longer than asphalt, we shouldn't have to worry about this runway for another 25 years," Kennett says.

As a general aviation airport, DCA receives a federal entitlement of \$150,000 each year. For any additional maintenance projects or upgrades, airports must submit detailed grant proposals to the FAA. DCA requested runway

upgrade money in 2018 when President Donald Trump's administration set aside \$1 billion for airport improvements, but they were not selected until the following year's grant cycle.

The FAA grant award covers just over \$4 million for project costs. Kennett said the FAA will pay 90 percent, with the other 10 percent split between the state and the county.

The Darlington County Airport is located at 313 G. Graham Segars Parkway in Darlington. For more information, call 843-393-9928.

## DCSD

Continued from 1A

More than 8 percent of DCSD diploma earners completed a state-approved work-based learning experience compared to the state average of 5.3 percent.

DCSD's diploma earners met the state average on the standard career readiness assessment by earning a platinum, gold or silver certificate at a rate of 66.8 percent.

According to the State Accountability Manual, a student can be designated as career ready by achieving one of several options: Earning a Career and Technical Education Completer with an Industry Credential, scoring a 31 or higher on the ASVAB,

achieving a designation of "Silver" or higher on the WIN assessment, or by completing a work-based learning experience.

Since March, 65 DCSD students participated in Internship Signing Day ceremonies to work as interns for local businesses.

Currently, the district has 31 business partners working closely with the Key to Career program to provide paid, work-based opportunities. Student interns from DCSD earned nearly \$100,000 in wages since March.

Businesses interested in partnering with DCSD's Key to Career program can contact Quinetta Buterbaugh, DCSD's business engagement coordinator, at 843-398-3520.

## Poland

Continued from 2A

We had another tree I remember because of its lights. I'm going way back now to the days of large glass lights with liquid-filled tubes of glass that bubbled.

The lights resembled some alien flower, and they got pretty hot, so you had to keep an eye on them. A dried out cedar can burn as if you've doused it with gas. These were the days of silver icicles too that we left on the tree when we returned it to the woods. Picking the icicles off one by one was labor.

I got to see my daughter, Beth, and her daughter, Katie, decorate their tree this Thanksgiving. It's a real tree, thankfully, with that fresh-cut fragrance artificial trees lack.

My daughter and her family have a tradition: each year after Thanksgiving they go to a big tree farm and pick a tree. It's not like we did growing up but it beats putting metal tubes and wires together. In my day, we'd venture into woods and fields looking for a red cedar. I'm certain my daughter's children will prefer real trees when they have families of their own.

Yes, another Christmas has arrived and departed, leaving good memories in its wake.

Oh Christmas tree you have long been a part of my life. I recall you with strings of colored lights, which gave way to strings of white lights, which gave way to LEDs, which will give way to who knows what.

Maybe they will come out with a tree with laser lights. Well, hold onto your mistletoe, they already have. I'm sure a lot of people will go for that but not my daughter and not me. Give us a real tree with that pine fragrance, a tree that can return to the ground from whence it came, not into a box destined for another year in a dark, dusty attic.

## Raceway

Continued from 1A

Tharp said that even though he never met Terrence, he's heard so many stories about the man that he feels as though he knew him.

To honor Carraway and all law enforcement officers who've made the ultimate sacrifice, Darlington Raceway agreed to stage a 5K race at the track, with proceeds going to the registered non-profit Terrence Carraway Foundation

to build a park in their memory.

The Nov. 1 race drew over 100 participants who ran or walked around "The Track Too Tough To Tame" under the lights.

Darlington Mayor-elect Curtis Boyd purchased the park site at South Main Street and D Avenue and donated its use to the non-profit Terrence F. Carraway Foundation. The land has been cleared of trees and heavy equipment was onsite laying drainage pipes on Dec. 18 during the check presentation.

Plans for the park include a monument naming all fallen South Carolina officers and K-9 dogs, a statue of Terrence Carraway, a basketball court, and a picnic area.

Tax-deductible donations for the park are being collected through the Pee Dee Fraternal Order of Police.

"Thank you on behalf of the foundation. It is our mission to complete this project, which is the South Carolina Fallen Officers Memorial, because that's the least that we can do to

pay homage to my husband ... and to pay tribute to all of the officers that have laid down their lives in the line of duty," said Allison Carraway, Terrence's widow. "First responders are phenomenal people, and we don't give them

enough credit for what they do. When we run away from a tragedy or a traumatic experience, they run to (it)."

To learn more about donating to the Terrence F. Carraway Foundation, [www.peedeefop.org](http://www.peedeefop.org)

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

#### CLERK'S OFFICE

#### REVISED NOTICE OF HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES

DOCKET NO. 2020-1-E

#### Annual Review of Base Rates for Fuel Costs of Duke Energy Progress, LLC (For Potential Increase or Decrease in Fuel Adjustment or Gas Adjustment)

S.C. Code Ann. § 58-27-865 established a procedure for annual hearings to allow the Commission and all interested parties to review the fuel purchasing practices and policies of Duke Energy Progress, LLC and for the Commission to determine if any adjustment in the fuel cost recovery mechanism is necessary and reasonable. Section 58-27-865(B) states, in part, "Upon conducting public hearings in accordance with law, the Commission shall direct each company to place in effect in its base rate an amount designed to recover, during the succeeding twelve months, the fuel costs determined by the Commission to be appropriate for that period, adjusted for the over-recovery or under-recovery from the preceding twelve-month period."

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record, should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **March 23, 2020**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all parties of record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. **Please refer to Docket No. 2020-1-E and mail a copy to all other parties in this docket.** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and Heather S. Smith, Esquire, Duke Energy Progress, LLC, 40 W. Broad Street, Suite 690, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, on or before **March 23, 2020**. **Please refer to Docket No. 2020-1-E.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S.C. Code Ann. § 58-27-865, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Tuesday, June 09, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) and **Docket No. 2020-1-E.**

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicants, Petitioners, and Intervenor only):

All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony** Due: **4/27/2020**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony** Due: **5/18/2020**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony** Due: **5/26/2020**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony** Due: **6/2/2020**. All prefiled testimony deadlines are subject to the information as posted on [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under **Docket No. 2020-1-E.**

Please be advised that failure to comply with the instructions contained herein could result in your proposed witnesses' testimony and exhibits being excluded in the subject proceeding. Additionally, please note that failure to comply with the above on or before the dates indicated may result in the **DISMISSAL** of your pleading.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

12/10/19

**In observance of the Christmas Holiday and New Year's Day, City Offices will be closed Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1. Residential city trash collection will run on its normal schedule.**

**The Wednesday commercial city trash collection for Dec. 25 will run on Dec. 26 and the collection for Jan. 1 will run on Jan. 2.**

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QUOTE

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Lu Ke 1:30-31

# obituaries

FRIDAY DEADLINE FOR OBITUARIES  
 e mail ads@newsandpress.net  
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DECEMBER 25, 2019 | PAGE 4A

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 229 W. Broad St., Darlington 843-393-2824  
 217 W. Main St., Lamar 843-326-5890

**Geraldine Waldron Fischer**  
 LAMAR - Geraldine Waldron Fischer, 94, passed away Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. A memorial service was held Thursday, Dec. 19, at Lamar United Methodist Church, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends at the church. A graveside service was held Friday at Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church, 1184 N. Shiloh Road, York. Born Oct. 30, 1925, in Dodge County, Georgia, Geraldine was the daughter of the late David Hill Waldron and Nora Mae Gaster Waldron. She retired from Homelite in Gastonia, N.C. Geraldine was a member of Lamar United Methodist

Church. Surviving are her three daughters, Hilda (Ernie) Meadows, Clarice Wenz, and Mary Lou (Bobby) Plummer; four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; sister, Margaret Mullis of Chester, Ga. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Clarence Jones, and her second husband, Fred Fischer. Memorials may be made to Lamar United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 555, Lamar, SC 29069; the ASPCA, www.aspc.org; or to the Darlington County Humane Society, P.O. Box 503 Darlington, SC 29540. A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

**Jerry Lee Eckhardt**  
 Jerry Lee Eckhardt, husband of Rhonda Gregg Eckhardt, died on Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, at the age of 78 in Florence. Born in Anderson, Ind., to Carl and Wilma Eckhardt, he became a math teacher and real estate broker in Indiana and S.C. He was also a member of Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Joel Eckhardt; stepson, Larry Ashley; brother, Keith Eckhardt, and sister, MabelRose Geizer. In addition to his wife, he is also survived by children and stepchildren he loved as his own, Cosima Vehring of Maryland, Angela Crum (David) of Greenville, and

Cara Chavez (Everett) of Denver; 11 grandchildren; as well as two brothers, Rex Eckhardt (Pat) of Indiana and Larry Eckhardt (Marka) of Darlington. His extended family of many nephews and nieces and their children were extremely dear to him. Visitation was Dec. 19 at Stoudenmire-Dowling Funeral Home. Funeral services were Friday at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, followed by burial at Hopewell Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hopewell Cemetery Association, to Hopewell Presbyterian Church or to Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Please send messages to the family at the obit section of www.stoudenmiredowling.com.

## Living on Purpose

# What can we give Christ for Christmas?

By Bill Holland



Another year has flown by and Christmas is here. Many are excited with the holiday season while others are struggling and feel overwhelmed for many different reasons. Most people love the magical stories and traditions that we are accustomed to, while a few of us have researched and discovered that much of our festivities and rituals have nothing to do with Christ at all. For those who would rather focus on a more spiritual meaning, we can look to the Old Testament, which prophesied that a child would be born of a virgin and was sent by our Heavenly Father to provide salvation for those who would believe. The New Testament tells about the Messiah's ministry and how He was born to die, however He raises from the dead three days later and returns to Heaven as His sacrificial mission was accomplished. We rejoice in Luke 2:14 that proclaims, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men" but I'm apprehensive when Santa is promoted as having similar supernatural abilities as God and competes for all the attention. If there was ever a reason to decorate the house and celebrate, it would be to tell the world that Jesus Christ is the Savior who wants to deliver us and set us free from sin. He is the Master of the universe, the Creator of all things and is forever the way, the truth, and the life. You see, it would have been much easier for God to send us a Hallmark card saying, "I care about you" but instead He demonstrated and proved how much He loved us and is now patiently waiting for whosoever to decide if they will live for Him or someone else. I'm personally convinced the temptation of commercialism distracts the world from the true reason for the season, and I guess this reveals I'm one of those grumpy Grinches who are commonly referred to as a party pooper. If you've read "The Gift of the Magi," we see there is a difference between wisdom and being impulsive and that love is more important than things. Anyway, for those who feel more comfortable following the Bible account of why we celebrate Christmas, there is peace and comfort in knowing that Christ is filled with endless mercy and compassion for all people. His humble entrance into this realm, which is referred to

as the incarnation and along with His glorious resurrection, are the two most pre-eminent events in the history of the world. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come." I was driving the other day and noticed a person up ahead holding a sign. The first thing that came to my mind was that someone is being paid to advertise for a Christmas sales event or maybe it was a plea from someone needing financial help. As I came closer, I noticed the sign said, "Jesus loves you." I respect anyone who would stand on the side of the road on a cold and windy Saturday morning and fearlessly relay a message about the love of God. This simple act of evangelism touches the deepest part of my heart and as I drove by I waved and smiled attempting to encourage and show my support all the while wondering why my burden for the lost is not this heavy. This brings to mind just how significant Jesus being born really is. We assume that everyone already knows who He is, but the idea of us becoming a catalyst for God's kingdom includes spiritual sensitivity and not being embarrassed to share this gospel of His amazing grace. Since Christmas is generally associated with giving presents, may we remember there could be no greater gift to mankind than Immanuel (God with us). "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" -- I John 5:11. It's difficult to imagine anyone walking away from this priceless offering of redemption, but sadly it happens much too often. I think about the precious gifts the wise men brought to the Christ child and wonder what can I give to the one who created everything? Among the lighted trees, packages, and delicious meals, let us consider the true meaning of Christmas as we humbly realize that all the Lord has ever wanted is our heart.

## Jane Windham's recipe for No Bake Blueberry Cheesecake in Jars

- Ingredients**
- 1 cup crushed graham crackers
  - 2 tbsp melted butter
  - 1 tsp cinnamon
  - 1 box Cheesecake instant pudding
  - 2 cups fresh blueberries
  - 1 cup water and an additional 2 tablespoons water divided
  - 1 cup sugar and an additional 4 tablespoons sugar divided
  - 2 tsp cornstarch
  - 1 tsp almond extract or Amaretto
  - 8 oz. heavy cream
  - sliced almonds for garnish
  - 1 sliced kiwi for garnish

- Instructions**
- For the graham cracker layer*  
 Mix together the cracker crumbs with 2 tablespoons melted butter, 2 tablespoons sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Spoon into the bottom of 4 pint jars.
- For the cheesecake layer*  
 Follow the directions on the box of the cheesecake pudding and add on top of the graham cracker crumbs.
- For the blueberry sauce*  
 In a saucepan over medium heat, combine 2 cups fresh blueberries, 1 cup water, and 1 cup sugar.

- Bring to a boil, stirring gently, and then reduce heat. In a small bowl, mix together 2 tablespoons cornstarch and 2 tablespoons water. Gently stir the cornstarch mixture into the blueberry mixture. Simmer gently until thickened enough to coat the back of a metal spoon. Remove from heat and stir in the almond extract or Amaretto. Allow to cool completely and then layer on top of the cheesecake pudding in the jars.
- For the whipped cream layer*  
 Whip together 8 ounces of

- heavy cream with 2 tablespoons sugar. Add the whipped cream on top of the blueberry sauce in the jars. Garnish with sliced almonds and sliced kiwi and refrigerate until ready to serve.
- Recipe Notes**
- The jars may be assembled up to 1 day ahead and refrigerated.
- 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](mailto:editor@newsandpress.net)

**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.

**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.

**New pastor at Cherry Grove church**  
 Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Darlington invites you to celebrate the installation of pastor-elect Rev. M. Dewayne Mack on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at the SiMT Building, Florence. Cost is \$25 per adult, \$15 per youth 12 and under. Contact Janice Floyd, 843-621-7056; Brenda Goodson, 843-393-0261; Rebecca Hudson, 843-601-5230 by Feb. 7.

**Cherry Grove Christmas services**  
 Cherry Grove Missionary

Baptist Church on 552 East Billy Farrow Highway in Darlington will have Christmas Day Service on Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. Watch Night Service will be on Dec. 31 at 10 p.m.

**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.

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## PETS OF THE WEEK



Your sunshine on a cloudy day! Maggie is pure joy! This sunny faced girl has never met a stranger and is such a good natured, happy, friendly lady! Nicely meeting other dogs and quickly making her new humans feel like they are a long lost friend, Maggie is approachable, loving and ready to serve a family with other dogs and kids (no cats please). Maggie's walker described her as having "kind eyes," and they really are. Maggie lights up whatever space she might be in and is such a terrific companion-pet. Stop on by and see for yourself! 1 year old; 45 pounds; hound mix; female

Sweet, soft, soul! Martha is a petite, super polite, cuddly, loving little lady.



Miss Manners is also a great tag line for her as she is calm and considerate as she meets others (humans and other dogs) and she's never pushy or in anyone's face. Nicely strolling over to ask for a back scratch or to simply be near you, surprisingly little Miss Martha loves a good game of fetch. Martha would be an excellent choice for just about any home -- kids would make her smile, older folks could easily manage her and a home with or without dogs would be just fine so long as she had a nice poofy bed to curl up in and take a deep snooze. 36 pounds; 6-7 years old; bull mix

### 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.

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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.

#### Darlington Kiwanis Club

Every other Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Darlington Country Club. Members often come a little early for fellowship.

#### 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.

#### City of Darlington Board of Zoning Appeals

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

#### 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.

#### City of Darlington Design Review Board

Meets on an as-needed basis, coordinated through the Codes Enforcement Office

#### 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 Kiwanis Club Board Meeting

The Board of Directors for the Darlington Kiwanis Club will meet at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Taki's Diner or a board member's home.

#### 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.

#### Small Business Professionals Roundtable

These monthly Roundtable sessions, held on the second Tuesday of every month from 8-9 a.m. at the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, will give small business professionals an opportunity to explore best practices for tackling day-to-day issues and achieving long-term business goals. The ses-

sions will be facilitated by Coker University's Business Administration Department Chair Melinda Norris.

#### 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

### Jan. 2020

#### Prestwood Polar Bear Plunge

Take the plunge in the Prestwood Pool at the Prestwood Country Club in Hartsville on Jan. 1, 2020 to benefit the Pee Dee Coalition and Darlington County Dancing with the Starts Team #1 Matt & Tracee! \$20 entry fee gets you an AWESOME t-shirt and bragging rights!

#### Blood Drive at Carolina Pines

Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center in Hartsville. Give blood. Help save lives!

#### Darlington City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Williamson Park Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington

#### Beautification Board

Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Connections at Breakfast - Habitat for Humanity

Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:30-9 a.m. at the Darlington County Habitat for Humanity at 120 W. Washington Street in Hartsville. Connections events are held monthly. Chamber members host these events in their place of business so they can promote their products/services. Business cards are also collected from those in attendance and given to the host at the end of the event. Members who attend have an opportunity to be drawn to give a 60-second infomercial about their business.

#### Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

### Feb. 2020

#### Darlington County Historic Landmarks Commission

Monday, Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Darlington City Council

Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Williamson Park Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington

#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### City of Darlington Tree Board

Monday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Inside GSSM

INSIDE GSSM is a day of imagination, inspiration, innovation, and fun for the whole family on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville.

### March 2020

#### Darlington City Council

Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Williamson Park Committee

Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington

#### Speed & Feed BBQ Festival

It's back and better than before! Our annual Speed and Feed BBQ Festival has gotten an upgrade (with a new Spring date) and now has become a two-day festival filled with live music, a car cruise-in, entertainment, amusement rides, food trucks, and - the obvious - a BBQ cook-off! Join us Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at the Darlington Raceway.

#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

Wednesday, March 18 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Joint Meeting of All City of Darlington Boards

Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m., scheduled by the Planning Commission

### April 2020

#### Darlington City Council

Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

#### Williamson Park Committee

Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington

#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

Wednesday, April 15 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

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# Florence-Darlington Technical College rewards two Faculty Emeritus winners

Florence-Darlington Technical College will reward two of its recently retired faculty members in the New Year with Faculty Emeritus designations for 2019.

Retirees Laura Floyd and Patricia (Pat) Velicky will be honored at FDTC's annual College Award Celebration in February. Both former instructors were nominated by their colleagues on FDTC's Faculty Senate and will serve as ambassadors of the college.

The new Faculty Emeritus winners will join retired Instructor of Philosophy Andrew Kampziones, who was named the first Faculty Emeritus at the college for 2018.

FDTC Vice President of Academic Affairs Marc David said, "The Faculty Emeritus designation was recommended by the Faculty Senate and approved by the president to recognize faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in their disciplines and commitment to FDTC. In my

view, this is one of the most honorable recognitions a faculty member can receive because it represents a lifetime of service."

Lake City native Laura Floyd retired in 2012 as an Instructor of English but still serves FDTC students, faculty and staff leading special projects for the college. She was a professional librarian before becoming and instructor in the college's English and Humanities Department.

Nominated for Faculty Emeritus by English Instructor Alan Trusky, Floyd was recognized for her lifetime of higher education service. In his nomination, Trusky said, "Students loved and still love working with her!"

Since her retirement, Floyd has stayed busy consulting with the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence at the college. She also wrote and edited FDTC's 50th anniversary book. Floyd also was recognized for her writing

skills winning the South Carolina Fiction Project annual award three times.

Instructor of Mathematics Pat Velicky is a U.S. Air Force veteran and retires officially at the end of the year. She has taught at the College for 21 years.

Velicky has held numerous leadership roles at FDTC including curriculum developer, lead teacher for the College's Math Hub and coordinator of the annual Technical Math Contest. She also won the South Carolina Governor's Distinguished Professor Award and was recognized by her FDTC colleagues as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 2005.

She was nominated for Faculty Emeritus by Math Instructor Bob Indrihovic. He said, "Pat is the backbone of the Math Department working 60 hours a week, registering and advising students and cheerfully doing many tasks outside our department."



## How to create a durable gingerbread house

Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights. In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread.

Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses. Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century Germany. The fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.

Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there's no denying it can be exacting work — especially for those who strive for perfection. Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but those who are crafting from scratch can

employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.

- Go for form and not flavor. Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.

- Get the right icing texture. Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred "glue" to adhere gingerbread pieces. Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.

- Mind the dough. Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked. Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked. Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.

- Patience is key. Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before moving and

handling the house, says Beddall. Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.

- Kids likely will need help. Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction. They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.

- Utilize a template. Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces.

One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don't take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice. Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition.

## 7 facts about the winter solstice

Nocturnal animals and human night owls may rejoice during the winter solstice. On the winter solstice, people can witness the Earth's longest night and shortest day of the year for their respective hemispheres. For individuals living in the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice generally occurs between December 20 and 23 each year. Those in the southern hemisphere experience the winter solstice between June 20 to June 23.

In 2019, the northern hemisphere's winter solstice occurs on December 21. The solstice may come and go unnoticed, but it's an interesting day on the calendar.

1. Not only will the winter solstice occur on a specific date, it also occurs at a specific time when the Earth's semi-axis tilts furthest from the sun. This corresponds to when the North Pole is aimed away from the sun on the 23.5 degree tilt of the Earth's axis. At this point, the sun also shines directly over the Tropic of Capricorn. The information and trivia site Mental Floss says the solstice happens at the same moment for everyone on the plane. However, the hour it occurs depends on your time zone.

2. Areas of the Northern Hemisphere can have varying lengths of day and night on the solstice. For example, New York City may have nine hours and 15 minutes of sunlight on the winter solstice. If that upsets New Yorkers, they may be happy to be outside parts of Finland, some of which get less than six hours of sunlight on the solstice.

3. The word "solstice" is

derived from Latin and means "sun stands still." It was chosen to describe this cosmic phenomenon because the solstice sun seemingly appears in the same position at noontime for several days before and after the winter solstice — at its lowest point in the sky.

4. It is easy to mistake the solstices for the equinoxes, which also occur twice a year. However, the equinoxes occur in fall and spring and mark when the sun is directly above the equator and night and day are of equal length.

5. Despite the winter solstice indicating the beginning of the astrological winter, it may not be the coldest time of the season. Usually those temperatures are reserved for January and February.

6. The Farmer's Almanac reports that many cultures marked the arrival of the solstice as a time of death and

rebirth. Early man also kept track of the days by observing the sun's position in the sky. In fact, historians believe Stonehenge was created to monitor the sun's yearly "movement."

7. Many traditions associated with Christmas originated during Pagan celebrations for the winter solstice. For example, Scandinavians would burn a juul (yule) log in the hearth in honor of the god Thor. Thor's job was to bring the sun's warmth back to the people.

While the winter solstice and the lack of sunlight synonymous with it may not be something everyone looks forward to, there is a silver lining. Following the winter solstice, the hours of sunlight gradually increase by the day, eventually paving the way for the spring equinox.



## Broad-based education prepares Francis Marion's Fennell for medical school

Luke Fennell knew what he wanted from his college experience: a degree that would put him on the path to becoming a doctor.

The biology major from the small town of Olanta found that at Francis Marion University — and more.

Fennell's journey will continue next year when he begins medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg. It began long before he ever set foot on the FMU campus.

"I considered going to some of the larger universities in the state," Fennell says. "FMU's small class size and the relationships that the students have with their professors, as well as the Honors Program specifically brought me here... I knew it was the place for me."

Fennell felt home at FMU. But he reveled in trips far from campus as well.

During his four years at the university, Fennell spent time in the jungles of Ecuador at FMU's WildSumaco Biological Research Station with professor Travis Knowles and the historic districts of England as an Honors Program ambassador with Dr. Jon Tuttle.

Those experiences helped Fennell grow in ways that changed his life, regardless of his chosen profession.

"As a small-town guy from South Carolina, it was neat to be able to go through the jungles of South America and travel around the Andes Mountains," Fennell says. "International travel broadens your perspective regardless of career interests. As a physician, as an educator, or anything else, these trips help broaden your horizons. It makes you a more well-rounded person in whatever career you go into."

Fennell was also able to dive

into the world of medicine during his undergraduate career. He shadowed doctors at the region's hospitals during internships, and probed the world of bio-medical research in his upper level classes. Getting a taste of serious research is unusual for undergraduates at many schools, but not at FMU.

Fennell's next stop is medical school and then, the Air Force, where he hopes to serve as an emergency physician or a general surgeon.

The road ahead is full of challenges, but Fennell feels good about his prospects. And he knows he wouldn't be where he is without FMU.

"The relationships that I've built at FMU will continue throughout my career," he says. "They provided opportunities I never thought I would have. ... There are so many opportunities that Francis Marion has provided."

## Duke Energy donates \$50,000 to Francis Marion ecology center project

Duke Energy has made a \$50,000 donation to the Francis Marion University Educational Foundation.

The funds will go towards the university's planned freshwater ecology center.

The center will support research and teaching in FMU's natural sciences, particularly biology and chemistry.

Fred Carter, president of FMU, says Duke's contribution paves the way for a significant addition to the University's educational infrastructure.

"Duke Energy is once again stepping forward to enhance educational opportunities in the Pee Dee and beyond," says Carter.

"There are so many possibilities associated with the

new freshwater ecology center. It's exciting for our faculty, our current students and to potential students interested in careers connected to the environment and natural resources.

"We're indebted to Duke Energy for its continuing support."

Mindy Taylor, government and community relations manager for Duke Energy, says investments like this make sense for Duke and for the communities it serves.

"It's important for Duke Energy to invest in projects that support the protection of the environment and provide communities with much-needed resources to promote good stewardship of the natural beauty

around us," says Taylor. "By supporting the organizations like FMU that do this great work, we can help protect, restore and enhance natural resources, and provide valuable educational opportunities to nature lovers of all ages."

The new ecology center and laboratory, and an accompanying conference center, will be built on a recently donated 146-acre parcel just north of FMU's main campus.

The parcel includes a 20-acre freshwater lake.

The conference center will be available to the public for special events.

Thanks to support from the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation, and a state appropriation brought to

fruition by the Florence County legislative delegation, led by Sen. Hugh Leatherman, the construction cost for both the ecology center and the conference center is in hand. Construction is expected to begin next year.

Duke's donation will help FMU fund additional programmatic aspects of the center.

Duke Energy is a long-term supporter of the sciences at FMU.

Duke contributions through the years have helped FMU expand facilities and grow programs in nuclear physics, engineering and biology.

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**QUOTE**

*At one point in your life you either have the thing you want or the reasons why you don't.*

ANDY RODDICK

# sports

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## Raceway will recognize champions in NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series

In year six of its award-winning throwback weekend, Darlington Raceway will celebrate "NASCAR's Champions ... Past, Present and Future" and "New Traditions ... First Race of the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs" for its 2020 throwback campaign.

The "Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR" will be celebrated during the track's 71st running of the famed Southern 500 (NASCAR Cup Series) and Sport Clips

Haircuts VFW 200 (NASCAR Xfinity Series) on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-6.

Darlington Raceway will honor all the past champions of the NASCAR Cup Series and NASCAR Xfinity Series during the weekend, which will coincide with the start of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs (Sept. 6) and the future crowning of another champion at ISM Raceway in November.

"Celebrating our NASCAR

Champions – past, present and future – during our 2020 Throwback Weekend is a great tie-in for Darlington hosting the opening round of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs," Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp said in a statement.

"There is so much history and correlation between NASCAR champions and Darlington race winners that this Throwback theme makes our 2020 event that much

more special for our fans, teams, partners and stakeholders."

There are 33 NASCAR Cup Series Champions that have won 71 total championships since 1949.

Drivers with multiple championships include: Richard Petty (7 championships), Dale Earnhardt (7), Jimmie Johnson (7), Jeff Gordon (4), Lee Petty (3), David Pearson (3), Cale Yarborough (3), Darrell

Waltrip (3), Tony Stewart (3), Herb Thomas (2), Tim Flock (2), Buck Baker (2), Joe Weatherly (2), Ned Jarrett (2), Terry Labonte (2) and Kyle Busch (2).

Seventeen drivers have one championship each.

Additionally, there were 19 years in which the NASCAR Cup Series champion won one or more Darlington races in the same year.

In the NASCAR Xfinity Series, 29 drivers have won

the series' championship since 1982.

Drivers with multiple championships include: Jack Ingram (2), Sam Ard (2), Larry Pearson (2), Randy LaJoie (2), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2), Kevin Harvick (2), Martin Truex Jr. (2), Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (2) and Tyler Reddick (2).

Twenty drivers have one championship each.



Shane Bewley, maintenance caretaker of Springfield Apartments in Darlington, and Donald Terry, maintenance caretaker of Palmetto Apartments in Darlington, received a 2019 Outstanding Maintenance Caretaker Territory Award, presented by Debra McCants at the Partnership Property Management Annual Awards Banquet held at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT). Shown in picture (left to right): Bewley, Terry, McCants, senior regional property manager, Coretha Thompson of Kingtree and Lola Blanchard of Allendale. Partnership Property Management employs over 350 full- and part-time employees, with the corporate office located in Greensboro, N.C., and branch offices in Florence and Asheville, N.C.



## PDRTA honored for its service to area

CareSouth Carolina awarded the Community Partnership Award to the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) at its December staff meeting.

The Community Partnership Award is given to local organizations and leaders in the area to recognize their distinguished partnership with CareSouth Carolina to serve and aid the community.

Over the course of the past couple of years, CareSouth Carolina has been working to provide answers to transportation barriers for patients in rural counties.

"After years of suffering transportation barriers, the PDRTA, under the leadership of Don Strickland, forged community partnerships with CareSouth Carolina and numerous other businesses, agencies and organizations to bring free transit to Marlboro county and Hartsville," CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis said. "This is amazing and is providing access to so many folks."

Strickland, executive director for the PDRTA, said the partnership between the PDRTA and CareSouth Carolina has been beneficial to the Pee Dee area.

"I was truly honored to receive the Community

Partnership Award from CareSouth Carolina," Strickland said. "I am very fortunate to be able to work with some incredible employees there that have a heart for serving and doing good for each community within a five-county region. My goal is to sustain this partnership because together, we can do great things. CareSouth understands the importance of having reliable public transportation in each community they serve and that is obvious by their mission and the work they are doing."

The HART service, provided by Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA), was designed to give Hartsville residents a great new travel option for getting to work, school, medical appointments, shopping or recreation.

The HART service began in May with 286 riders for the entire month. In just one month's time, the ridership had more than doubled at 683. The numbers continued to increase through the summer, culminating in 1,424 people using the service in the month of October.

Much like the HART transportation service, the MARTi service in Marlboro County has seen continued growth, as well. Since the service started

in late 2018, MARTi ridership has grown from 323 riders in December 2018 to 1,514 riders in October 2019.

Strickland said the service in Marlboro County has given local residents a service to get to work, increase their education and make medical appointments.

"The MARTi Service in Marlboro County has proven to be a lifesaver for many," Strickland said. "Citizens in Bennettsville, Clio, McColl, and Blenheim are using the service to reach work, medical appointments, education, and shopping. I look forward to the continued growth and improvement in quality of life for those in Marlboro County."

CareSouth Carolina is looking forward to a continued partnership with the PDRTA as public transportation services continue to expand in the Pee Dee area.

CareSouth Carolina is a private, non-profit community health center delivering patient-centered health and life services in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. CareSouth Carolina operates centers in Bennettsville, Bishopville, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Dillon, Hartsville, Lake View, Latta, McColl and Society Hill.

## USC's plotting a pothole-free future

University of South Carolina

It's one of the nation's smallest states, but South Carolina has the fourth-largest state-maintained highway system in the country. And those nearly 91,000 lane miles of pavement are deteriorating faster than ever, thanks to record numbers of cars and trucks on the road.

Nathan Huynh doesn't have a magic formula to fix the roadway wear and tear, but he hopes to use his modeling skills to help the S.C. Department of Transportation develop a better statistical formula for predicting the long-term health of the Palmetto State's pavement.

"Typically, a newly resurfaced road looks great and feels smooth for several years, and then, over time, it begins to break down," says Huynh, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of South Carolina. "Plotted out on a graph, it's not a steady

straight-line decline — it's more of an S-curve."

The Department of Transportation has used that curve for 20 years to predict pavement health, Huynh says, and they realize it's time for a refresh. "They want to be able at any point to know what the pavement quality index will be for a given road."

That kind of predictability will allow the transportation department to better plan for road maintenance and schedule repairs before the quality of a given stretch of road becomes untenable. Huynh's study will look at new and existing roads and the treatment techniques used to rehabilitate the pavement.

"The typical 'mill and fill' — grinding off and replacing the top two inches of asphalt — is appropriate most of the time but not always," says Huynh, adding that a road's deterioration is sometimes the result of a poor foundation.

"When you see furrows in a road, it's usually because of

problems in the underlying foundation or soil."

Huynh is also working on another project for the S.C. DOT to determine if it is cost-effective to conduct field investigation to assess pavement structural quality.

He and his colleagues were recently selected by the department to perform research that will deploy a weighted truck equipped with sensors and lasers to gather pavement functional and structural data on the state's roads.

This will help create a baseline of the state's road health and improve the selection of roadways for rehabilitation. Improvement of this process will help S.C. DOT optimize its engineering, construction and maintenance funds.

### NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF DARLINGTON

A Democratic Presidential Preference Primary will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020. This primary will be conducted in the polling places listed in this notice.

The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary is January 30, 2020.

The polling place locations for some precincts may be combined with others for the primaries, as allowed by law. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the polling places designated below. These primaries will be held under the rules for providing Photo ID at the polling place. Voters will be asked to provide one of the following Photo IDs at their polling place.

- S.C. Driver's License
- ID Card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- Federal Military ID
- U.S. Passport

If you have one of these IDs, you are ready to vote. Voters should remember to bring one of these IDs with them to the polling place. Voters without Photo ID can get one free of charge from the Department of Motor Vehicles or their county voter registration and elections office. Voters who encounter reasonable impediment to getting a Photo ID should bring their paper voter registration card without a photo with them to their polling place. These voters can then sign an affidavit swearing to their identity and to their reasonable impediment to obtaining a Photo ID and vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will count unless the county election board has grounds to believe the affidavit is false. For more information on Photo ID, visit [scVOTES.org](http://scVOTES.org) or contact your county board of voter registration and elections.

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 29, the county board will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes from the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary at the Darlington County Board of Elections and Registration 131 Cashua St., Darlington SC 29532. Telephone number is (843) 398-4900.

On Thursday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m. the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary. This hearing will be held at Darlington County Board of Elections and Registration 131 Cashua St., Darlington SC 29532.

The following precincts and polling places will be involved in this election.

| Precincts           | Polling Location                      | Address                |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Antioch             | Antioch Recreation Center             | 2462 Antioch Rd.       |
| Auburn              | Centerville Fire Station              | 2380 N. Center Rd.     |
| Bethel              | Bethel United Methodist Church        | 2423 Bethel Rd.        |
| Black Creek - Clyde | Lake Robinson Rescue Squad            | 2364 W. Old Camden Rd. |
| Burnt Branch        | Hartsville Middle School              | 1426 Fourteenth St.    |
| Darlington #1       | City Hall                             | 400 Pearl St.          |
| Darlington #2       | Pate Elementary School                | 1010 Indian Branch Rd. |
| Darlington #3       | High School Ninth Grade Bldg.         | 501 Spring St.         |
| Darlington #4       | Cain Elementary School                | 607 First St.          |
| Darlington #5       | Mayo High School Gym                  | 364 Chestnut St.       |
| Darlington #6       | Brunson Dargan Elementary School      | 400 Wells St.          |
| Dovesville          | Dovesville Fire Station               | 511 Mont. Clare Rd.    |
| Hartsville #1       | First Presbyterian Church             | 213 W. Home Ave.       |
| Hartsville #4       | Outreach Center (Fourth St. Entrance) | 404 S. Fourth St.      |
| Hartsville #5       | T. B. Thomas Sports Center            | 701 W. Washington St.  |
| Hartsville #6       | Jerusalem Baptist Church              | 301 S. Sixth St.       |
| Hartsville #7       | Scott Center                          | 201 N. Damascus Rd.    |
| Hartsville #8       | North Hartsville Elementary School    | 110 School Dr.         |
| Hartsville #9       | American Legion Hut                   | 135 Society Ave.       |
| High Hill           | South Darlington Fire Dept.           | 4793 Hoffmeyer Rd.     |
| Indian Branch       | Indian Branch Community Center        | 2070 Indian Branch Rd. |
| Kelleytown          | West Hartsville Elementary School     | 214 Clyde Rd.          |
| Lake Swamp          | Lake Swamp Fire Station               | 6140 Oates Hwy.        |
| Lamar #1            | Lamar Town Hall                       | 117 W. Main St.        |
| Lamar #2            | Lamar High School                     | 216 N. Darlington Ave. |
| Lydia               | Lydia Community Center                | 5069 Indian Branch Rd. |
| Mechanicsville      | Mechanicsville Fire Station           | 1932 Cashua Ferry Rd.  |
| New Market          | Pond Hollow Fire Station              | 2225 Ruby Rd.          |
| Oates               | St. Johns United Methodist Church     | 214 W. Seven Pines St. |
| Palmetto            | Palmetto Fire Station                 | 1304 E. McIver Rd.     |
| Society Hill        | Society Hill Town Hall                | 280 S. Main St.        |
| Swift Creek         | Swift Creek Fire Station              | 137 N. Center Rd.      |

Hartsville #6 new location

# Jane Windham's Balsam Lane Tablescape



## Tips for baking better Christmas cookies

Cookies and other baked treats are everywhere come the holiday season. It's not uncommon to give cookies as gifts or arrive at holiday gatherings with cakes and other decadent desserts.

Cookies are a classic holiday treat, and some families even build entire traditions around baking Christmas cookies.

Novice bakers making cookies for the first time may be a little overwhelmed when perusing recipes. Baking is a science, and sometimes it takes practice to get the results just right. However, there are some tips that can help yield better, buttery bounties.

### Handle butter with care

Butter can make or break a cookie recipe, as butter is often the glue that holds the cookie together. Therefore, it is key to follow the directions carefully regarding how to handle butter. Smithsonian.com says to leave butter at room temperature for 30 to 60 minutes to properly soften it. This takes patience, but fiddling with butter too much can damage its delectable integrity. While purists may say butter is best, margarine may be acceptable if it has a high fat content; otherwise, cookies may spread out and flatten.

When it comes time to cream the butter with sugar, be sure to do so thoroughly to

incorporate air into the butter and remove the grainy texture of the sugar.

### Measure flour properly

Measuring flour the right way can ensure cookies come out right. The Cooking Channel says to spoon the flour lightly into a dry measuring cup, then level it off with a knife. Do not dip the measuring cup into the flour or tap the knife against the cup. This will pack too much flour into the measuring cup and result in dry, tough cookies.

### Slow down the eggs

Add eggs one at a time to make sure each will emulsify properly with the fat in the butter. Adding eggs en masse may cause the emulsification to fail.

### Chill out

Follow recipes that call for chilling cookie dough carefully. This process is important for making sliced and shaped cookies. By chilling, the dough becomes more malleable for rolling and even slicing.

### Use a bottom rack

Too much heat may com-

promise cookie integrity. The food experts at Delish say to try moving cookies onto a lower rack in the oven if they aren't retaining their shape when baked. Put an empty cookie sheet on the top rack. That will block the cookies from the most intense heat that rises to the top of the oven.

Mastering cookies takes a little patience and some trial and error. Once bakers get their feet wet, Christmas-cookie-baking becomes even more special.



See more from Jane Windham at cottageatthecrossroads.com.

The News & Press will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Wednesday, Jan. 1 while we ring in the new year.

WE WISH YOU MANY BLESSINGS IN 2020!

Ads and classifieds deadlines will be Thursday, Dec. 26 at noon.



## Christmas lights in Darlington





Margaret Ravenel Godbold



Grayson Caroline Jeffords CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

## Men's Dance Club of Darlington Debutante Ball

The Men's Dance Club of Darlington held its 63rd Annual Winter Debutante Ball Dec. 21 at the Darlington Country Club.

Members and guests were greeted by club president, Marvin I. Lawson and Mrs. Lawson. Also in the receiving line were Robert Edward Godbold, who introduced his

daughter, Margaret Ravenel Godbold, and Marion Curry Belk II, who introduced his niece, Grayson Caroline Jeffords.

Godbold is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edward Godbold. She is a freshman at the University of South Carolina and was presented by her father. She is the

granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Luther Godbold of Darlington and the late Mr. and Mrs. David Boyd Parr Sr. of Newberry. Her escort for the evening was James Gage Weatherford of Darlington.

Jeffords is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Scott Jeffords. She is a freshman at

Wofford College and was presented by her uncle, Marion Curry Belk II. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Scott Jeffords, Mrs. Grace Ard Streett and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gene Streett, all of Darlington. She was escorted by Wallace Truett Wason of Williamsburg, Va.

## Pilot Club meets for Light-a-Light Ceremony

On Dec. 2, Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines joined members and guests of the Pilot Club of Darlington for the lighting of the Light-A-Light Christmas tree.

The tree's lights are symbols of the donations made to the Pilot Club in honor of or in memory of special people. Light-A-Light donations become part of the scholarship fund for a deserving high school senior in Darlington each year.

The following donations have been made in honor of these individuals:

Janet Blackmon, Jason Blackmon, Jimmy Blackmon, Kayse Blackmon, Kim Blackmon, Maverick Blackmon, by B.J. Blackmon

Members of the Darlington Pilot Club by Belinda Copeland

Members of the Darlington Pilot Club by Janice Flowers

Sullie Lane, Eloise Smyre by Martha Griggs

Henry and Tania Bailey; Chesley and Barbara Benjamin; Roy and Maggie Blackmon, Royce and Rivers; members of Darlington Anchor Club; members of Darlington Pilot Club; Wallace and Eleanor Haynes; Jason and Laura Smith, Langley and Gracie, Dot Stone; David Vaughan; Wilbur and Donna Vaughan by Rodney and Judy Langley

Frances Manning by



Kimberly Nelson

Dona Jo, Barry, Brycen and Braden Brown; Gil, Lauren and Evie Revell; Tommy, Gillie and Garrett Revell; Casey, Andy, Blayne and Ainsely Rhueark; Don and Peggy Ruthven; Tony, Pam and Ramsey Sherrill; Carol Weinberg; Trey, Stacy, Blake and Makayla Weinberg by Peggy Ruthven

Bobby Adams, Elizabeth Adams, Kim Adams, Vikki Adams Guyton, Ivy Adams Landry, Sabrina Adams White

by Melissa Schwier

Darlington Anchor Club; Julie and Cal Scott by Mary Scott

The following donations have been made in memory of these individuals:

Letha Barnhill, Georgie Jordan, Christine Hursey by Martha Griggs

Gene Harrison by Jeanette Harrison

Eli Flowers, Mary and E. J. Flowers, Woodrow and Leona Jeffords, Katie Weaver by Pearl Jeffords

Tommy Britt, Frank Burch, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Frank Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Horace Langley, Michael Sigmon, Jim Stone by Rodney and Judy Langley

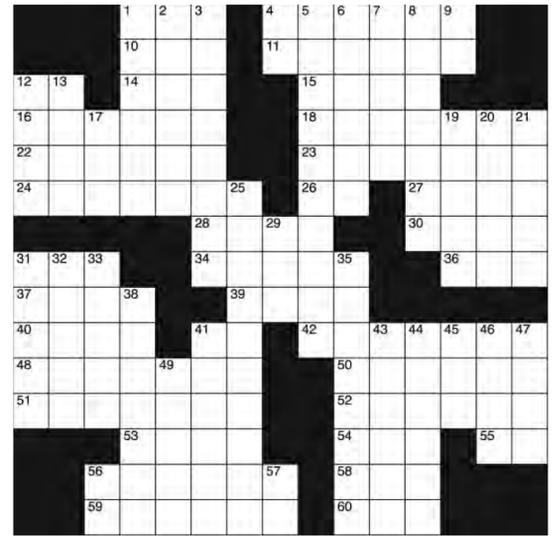
Henry Manning by Kimberly Nelson

Bill and Emma L. Sherrill, Billy Weinberg by Peggy Ruthven

Kinchen Hartwell Adams, Celeste Jones Neel by Melissa Schwier

Ron Scott by Mary Scott

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

1. Hair care product
4. Looped
10. It's present in all living cells
11. Choose
12. South Dakota
14. Cash machine
15. Of the piater
16. Ancient Egyptian documents
18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs
22. Not perceived
23. Look over
24. Improve a tire
26. Time zone
27. Main branch of Islam
28. Bark of the mulberry tree
30. Sea eagles
31. Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)
34. Famed Hollywood producer
36. Yuck!
37. Reject outright and bluntly
39. \_\_ 500, car race
40. Small heap or pile

41. Type of degree (abbr.)
42. Contagious skin disease
48. Erases from a surface
50. In an enthusiastic way
51. Begin again
52. Intricately produced pattern
53. It flows NW to the Seine
54. Be obliged to repay
55. Southeast
56. Slip in
58. Leisure time activity
59. Breastbones
60. Sun up in New York

- Cook
17. Time zone
19. First PM of India
20. Performing perfectly
21. A way to hide
25. Former NBA commissioner
29. Peter's last name
31. Outlying suburb of London
32. Used to cut steak
33. Deep inlets
35. Type of tree
38. Done openly and unashamedly
41. Indigenous person of N. Africa
43. Confessed openly
44. A way to separate with an instrument
45. Influential journalist Tarbell
46. Manning and Roth are two
47. One who cares for horses in India
49. Something to believe in
56. Form of "to be"
57. Atomic #73

### DOWN

1. More cloudy
2. Main course
3. Protect with plastic
4. Equally
5. Rebukes
6. Friend to a salesman
7. Warms up
8. Overshadow
9. Interior lineman in football
12. San Antonio hoopster
13. Comedian

## WORD SEARCH

N U O J N R B O T F R N F P B E T C E U  
C L R A I K G K A S M U Z L F P B P Z C  
N C P D N W J G C O A F L B G K O C I C  
Z L Z E W E S I A R B O P E U A U J L B  
R K A S E R M J M L O U R B C B P Z E Z  
U D B A L T D J C L R W K H E S J T M W  
J J S G O L I U R E G R A T E F M A A E  
U J I S T J C L E D L O F K O I A A R Z  
D F M J Z D E I T L N Z D J W L W R A A  
Z D M B A S T E N S J W M W B L P Z C L  
G E E C A S K N Z P O P O H H E O M K G  
Z Z R A E W R N H E K P A R T T H T G E  
N T W E T S Z E K K N B A M B D C N W F  
W H C L J I E K M A R I N A T E R L D W  
D S U S N F L A B E D J I F P E C E U A  
U A U W A I K W R J O E N F S U O H S P  
M D D R E D G E S L A E E T N E D L A S  
B E R T U S O P F G E A J P R K S I H W  
C C U M C K K H B B M A M M N A W D F K  
K L E Z M F H J T N D L D B C W A F R N

- |           |        |          |        |
|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| AL DENTE  | CUBE   | GLAZE    | ROAST  |
| BASTE     | DASH   | GRATE    | SEAR   |
| BRAISE    | DICE   | JULIENNE | SIMMER |
| BROWN     | DREDGE | KNEAD    | STEW   |
| CARAMELIZ | DRESS  | MARINATE | WHISK  |
| E         | FILLET | POACH    |        |
| CHOP      | FOLD   | PUREE    |        |

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## Giving to charity without fear of scams

Last year, individual Americans donated an estimated \$292 billion to charity. Before you pull out your wallet this holiday season, the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) and the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) offer tips to make your giving safe and scam free.

Be wary of solicitations that ask you to pay in prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire, or bank transfer. Once in the hands of a scam artist, the money is gone and difficult to trace.

Don't give out personal information to someone soliciting a donation. Personal information can be as valuable as cash to a criminal, who may try to convince you to part with credit card or bank account data, phone numbers, addresses, and

more.

Check out charities before donating. Scammers create fake charities before the holidays to trick people out of donations.

Look out for charities with names that sound like famous charities but are not. Go to the Secretary of State's website to see if the charity is registered.

You can also call 1-888-242-7484.

Research charities online using words like "scam" and "complaint."

You can also check a charity's ratings with BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, and Guidestar.

Use the IRS' Tax Exempt Organization Search to see if your donation is tax-deductible.

Don't assume solicitations on social media or crowd-

funding sites are legitimate. Some scammers hijack links to legitimate sites while others may misappropriate donated funds.

To report a concern about a charity or to file a scam complaint:

Call the Secretary of State's Division of Public Charities at 1-888-242-7484.

File a confidential complaint online with the Secretary of State using their Charitable Solicitation Complaint Form.

Call SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit at 1-844-835-5322, or visit [consumer.sc.gov](http://consumer.sc.gov) and click the Identity Theft Unit tab.

For more information, visit [consumer.sc.gov](http://consumer.sc.gov), [sos.sc.gov](http://sos.sc.gov), or [dor.sc.gov/securitycenter](http://dor.sc.gov/securitycenter).



A convenience store at Bobo Newsome Highway and Lydia Highway near Hartsville was destroyed by a fire last Tuesday, the Darlington County Fire District says. Units from three stations responded, along with the Hartsville Fire Department and Darlington Fire Department through mutual aid assistance. According to Chief Ricky Flowers, first arriving units were on scene within six minutes of the call being received. No one was inside the building. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Darlington County Fire District and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Ex-deputy accused of misconduct

A former Darlington County sheriff's deputy has been indicted for misconduct in office, the state attorney general's office says.

Edward Wirhousky is

accused of having sex while on duty and letting someone use his official computer, a spokesman for the attorney general told local news media last week. He was indicted by

the Darlington County Grand Jury Dec. 5.

The Sheriff's Office said he has not been employed there since 2017.

## S.C. Legislature secretive when it comes to chamber spending plans

By Rick Brundrett  
The Nerve

At least 100 state agencies have filed budget requests for the next fiscal year that begins July 1, online records show.

But the S.C. House and Senate aren't among them – despite a longstanding state law requiring all agencies to annually file budget requests with the governor by Nov. 1. Both the 124-member House and 46-member Senate typically have ignored that law, as The Nerve previously has reported.

The law says that by Nov. 1 of each year, agencies "receiving or asking (for) financial aid" from the state must report to the governor – in recent years by way of the Department of Administration's Executive Budget Office – "an estimate in itemized form showing the amount needed" for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Legislature also routinely has disregarded another longstanding state law requiring the budget-writing House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees to hold joint, open hearings on the governor's proposed annual state budget within five days after receiving it.

The House and Senate are flush with money for their respective chambers. For this fiscal year, the House's budget is \$22.7 million, including a \$250,000 increase, while the Senate's budget is \$16.3 mil-

lion, including separate hikes of \$1.25 million and \$250,000.

On top of that, as of June 30, the House had general and "other" fund reserves of \$23.3 million – more than its current total budget – and \$247,024, respectively. The Senate's general and "other" fund surpluses were \$5.2 million and \$726,713, respectively, state Comptroller General's Office and Department of Administration records show.

It remains to be seen whether House and Senate leaders will seek for their own chamber coffers a chunk of the projected extra \$1.8 billion in general fund revenues for fiscal 2020-21. This fiscal year's total state budget, which includes federal, state and "other" funds, such as fines and fees, is more than \$30 billion.

The Nerve revealed that next fiscal year's requests collectively include millions for promoting a professional golf tournament, businesses, and products, plus taxpayer-funded incentives for companies to locate or expand in the state.

As for the House and Senate chamber budget requests for 2020-21, The Nerve requested details from Senate clerk Jeff Gossett and acting House clerk Charles Reid, who left his longtime clerk's position earlier this year to become president of the private South Carolina Business & Industry Political Education Committee, but

recently resumed his former House role.

Gossett didn't respond to The Nerve's request. Richard Pearce, staff attorney for the House clerk, in a written response said there are "no documents in the possession of the House related" to next fiscal year's proposed chamber budget. Pearce didn't directly answer The Nerve's question about why the chamber, unlike other state agencies, doesn't submit its spending plan in advance to the Department of Administration for public viewing.

Asked whether the House and Senate provided budget requests to the Department of Administration, agency spokeswoman Kelly Coakley in a written response said only, "All budget requests for FY 2020-21 received by the Executive Budget Office are posted on our website."

The Nerve cited the law requiring state agencies to provide their budget requests to the governor by Nov. 1, though Coakley in her written response replied, "You will need to direct your questions regarding the House and Senate to the House and Senate."

Legislative leaders typically have been tight-lipped about publicly revealing their respective chamber spending plans in advance. When The Nerve earlier this year, for example, asked Gossett under the state Freedom of Information Act for details of



a proposed \$1.25 million hike for the Senate chamber – which eventually was approved by the Legislature – he responded in writing that there were "no records responsive to this request."

As the top administrators of their respective chambers, Gossett and Reid made \$206,016 and \$191,172, respectively, last year.

The Nerve in October 2018 reported that including Gossett and Reid, 27 staffers in both chambers were earning at least \$100,000, and that the total number of employees earning at least \$50,000 had grown by 25 since 2015.

The Nerve obtained those records under the Freedom of

Information Act.

Unlike most other state agencies, the House and Senate chambers don't provide their staff salaries for the online state salary database, maintained by the Department of Administration.

As The Nerve has previously reported, the House and Senate in recent years have bypassed the normal budget process for their own chamber budgets, often waiting until after the legislative session starts in January before publicly releasing their proposed spending plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

By law, the governor is supposed to review agency bud-

get requests before submitting his or her state budget version to lawmakers, though they largely ignore it and draft their own spending plans. A final legislative version eventually is sent to the governor, who can issue line-item vetoes.

Lawmakers, however, usually override most budget vetoes.

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.

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# classifieds

**DECEMBER 25, 2019 | PAGE 5B**  
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## HOMES FOR RENT

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Storage #197  
Household items  
Total due: \$225.00  
**WHITNEY WILLIAMS**  
Storage #221  
Household items  
Total due: \$285.00

word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Randall Savely at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

## Legals

Continued from 4B

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you have the right to be present and represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you. It is your responsibility to contact the Clerk of Court's Office, One Public Square, Darlington, South Carolina 29540, to apply for appointment of an attorney to represent you if you cannot afford an attorney (take all of these papers with you if you apply). This is a new action. If you had an attorney appointed in a previous action, that attorney is NOT your attorney for this action. YOU MUST APPLY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU DO NOT APPLY FOR AN ATTORNEY WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE COMPLAINT, AN ATTORNEY WILL NOT BE APPOINTED FOR YOU. Refer any questions to the attorney for Plaintiff, (843) 332-2231. South Carolina Department of Social Services

T. Brooke Allen, SC Bar #72858  
Post Office Drawer 1377  
Hartsville, SC 29551  
Telephone: (843) 332-2231  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
December 6, 2019  
Hartsville, South Carolina  
(22c3 leave in thru 12-25-19)

### 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: Opaline Dozier Atkinson  
Date of Death: 10/9/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600586  
Personal Representative: John Atkinson  
Address: 1024 Ashland Road, Hartsville, SC 29550  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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#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: Elisse Sloan Brewer  
Date of Death: 11/10/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600562  
Personal Representative: Lisa Howard  
Address: 1617 Shampy Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Date of Death: 11/15/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600575  
Personal Representative: William Terry Johnson  
Address: 2461 Antioch Road, Hartsville, SC 29550  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Date of Death: 12/4/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600582  
Personal Representative: Sandra H. Johnson  
Address: 2117 Ruby Road, Hartsville, SC 29550  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Date of Death: 11/14/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600583  
Personal Representative: Charles E. Lyons  
Address: 105 Richmond Road, Assonet, MA  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Date of Death: 12/9/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600589  
Personal Representative: Mary L. Heck  
Address: 39534 Dorchester Circle, Canton, MI 48188  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Address: 1243 Meadowlark Lane, Darlington, SC 29540  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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Date of Death: 11/18/2019  
Case No: 2019ES16-571  
Personal Representative: Donald L. Thompson, Jr.  
Address: 1326 Salem Road, Scanton, SC 29591  
Attorney: John Jay James, II  
Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Date of Death: 10/28/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600543  
Personal Representative: Sandra G. Brown

Address: 708 Dovefield Road, Lamar, SC 29069  
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

### SUMMONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON  
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO.: 18-DR-16-0688  
Karen Liles, Plaintiffs, vs.  
James Brandon Jolly and Sara Kathryn Tyner, Defendants.

In Re: Kison R J (xx/xx/2018)  
A minor under 14 years of age  
TO: DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at his office located at 702 W. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550 within thirty (30) days after the date of service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time allowed, Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for judgment by default granting the relief prayed for in the Complaint.

Cody T. Mitchell  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
702 W. Carolina Avenue  
PO Box 1408  
Florence, SC 29501  
Tel: (843) 332-5050  
Fax: (843) 332-5105  
ctmitchellsc@gmail.com  
Hartsville, South Carolina  
9/25/2018

### 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: McCleery B.

Cunningham  
Date of Death: 11/8/2019  
Case No: 2019ES1600587

### SUMMONS AND SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON  
TONIN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
C/A NO: 2019-CP-16-01073  
Kevin Muninger, Plaintiff, vs. Thelma T. Moore, and all persons claiming any right, title, estate interest in or lien upon the real estate described; any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being a class designated as John Doe, whose true name is unknown; any un-born infants or persons under disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, whose true name is unknown, Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-NAMED:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint on the subscriber at 814 West Evans Street, Post Office Box 1317, Florence, South Carolina, 29503 within thirty (30) days from the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service; and in case of the failure to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for DARLINGTON County on October 10, 2019 at 3:58 PM, for purposes of quieting title, as described in the Complaint.

### SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Pursuant to an execution and subsequent levy, the Tax Collector of Darlington County, South Carolina, acting in her official capacity, offered for sale the real property of Thelma T. Moore for non-payment of 2007 real property taxes. The property is described as follows: All those certain pieces, parcels of lots of land lying, situate and being in the County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, known and designed as Lot Nos. 243 and 244 in Section 1, as shown on a map made by W. R. Banks, Registered Surveyor, dated January 21, 1960, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County in Plat Book 31, at

Case No: 2019ES1600592  
Personal Representative: Michael A. Smith  
Address: 101 Pine Knoll Ct., Elgin, SC 29045

### SUMMONS AND SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON  
TONIN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
C/A NO: 2019-CP-16-01073  
Kevin Muninger, Plaintiff, vs. Thelma T. Moore, and all persons claiming any right, title, estate interest in or lien upon the real estate described; any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being a class designated as John Doe, whose true name is unknown; any un-born infants or persons under disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, whose true name is unknown, Defendants.

### TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint on the subscriber at 814 West Evans Street, Post Office Box 1317, Florence, South Carolina, 29503 within thirty (30) days from the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service; and in case of the failure to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for DARLINGTON County on October 10, 2019 at 3:58 PM, for purposes of quieting title, as described in the Complaint.

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page 61. Reference is also made to a map made for Robert E. and Lori B. McElroy by Lind, Hicks & Assoc., Surveyors, Inc. dated July 8, 1997, and recorded in the above-mentioned office in Plat Book 169, at page 315. Said lot being bounded as follows, to wit: On the North by Lot Nos. 245 and 246 for a combined distance of 100.00 feet, on the East by Lot No. 242 for a distance of 200.00 feet; on the South by Greystone Drive for a distance of 100. feet; and on the West by Lots Nos. 232, 231, 230 and 229 for a combined distance of 200.00 feet. Reference being had to the above mentioned maps for a more complete and accurate description.

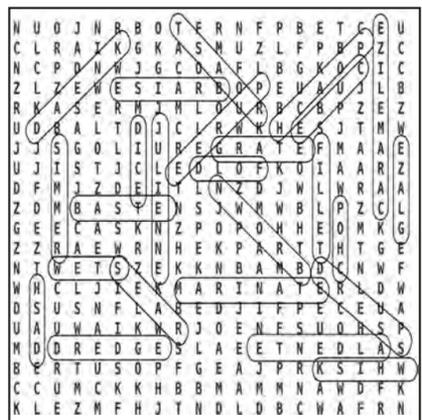
This being the same property conveyed to Thelma T. Moore by Deed of George L. Wilcox and recorded in Deed Book 1040 at page 238 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County. TMS# 218-09-01-039  
October 10, 2010  
s/CHARLIE J. BLAKE  
FLORENCE, South Caroli  
CHARLIE J. BLAKE,  
ESQUIRE  
S.C. Bar No.: 16980  
FINKLEA LAW FIRM  
814 West Evans Street  
Florence, SC 29501  
Phone: (843) 317-4900

### ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

It appearing unto the satisfaction of this Court upon reading Plaintiff's Petition to Appoint Guardian ad Litem Nisi, and Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Post Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, having consented to act as Guardian ad Litem Nisi and to represent the Defendants including all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in and to the real property located in Darlington County, South Carolina, and designated as TMS#: 218-09-01-039 any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being classes designated under the fictitious names of John Doe and Richard Roe, hereinafter referred to as "Defendants," and that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interests of such Defendants and has no interest herein adverse to the interest of said Defendants and is not connected in business with the Plaintiff in this action or with their counsel.

LEGALS ON 6B

## Answers from 7A



# Gingerbread goodness

Gingerbread is a broad term that can describe anything from a firm and crispy cookie to a moist, soft cake. Traditionally, gingerbread is seasoned with ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and other aromatic spices.

Molasses and brown sugar counteract the spice with sweetness.

North Americans have been baking gingerbread in various shapes or forms for more than 200 years, and the recipes even pre-date the American revolution.

However, gingerbread dates back even further to the Shakespearean era, with The Bard having mentioned it in one of his plays.

Gingerbread's name can be traced to medieval England and once referred to any kind of preserved ginger.

The term went on to reference ginger-flavored cakes in the 15th century, and gingerbread eventually became popular throughout the world.

Even though gingerbread cakes and cookies have been made for centuries, Germans are often credited with creating gingerbread houses.

They were probably modeled after the witch's candy cottage in the fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel." Even though gingerbread can be



made any time of year, it is particularly associated with the Christmas



Employees from Duke Energy's Robinson Nuclear Plant present the United Way of Darlington with a donation of \$7,200 for 2019. As part of the annual giving campaign, these funds are raised solely by plant employees and are separate from donations from the company as well as Duke Energy Foundation. Pictured: employees Matt Smith, Gail Kirven and Kristen Ludlum with Danny DuBose, United Way of Darlington director. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# How to make holiday wreaths . . . the easy way

There are many different ways to decorate homes and businesses for the holidays. Tall evergreen trees are among the most visible symbols of the holiday season. However, wreaths hung on doors, windows or fences also are ubiquitous this time of year.

Wreaths adorn homes primarily during the holidays of Easter and Christmas. Wreaths have also been worn around the head or neck in ceremonial events around the globe for centuries.

It is believed the first wreaths date back to ancient Greece and Rome.

Members of the Greco-Roman society were known to hand-make ring-shaped items using fresh tree leaves, small fruits, flowers, and twigs. Oftentimes these headdresses symbolized a person's social status.

Others suggest wreaths evolved to become a Christian symbol of immortality.

Regardless of how wreaths

are viewed, many people like to display wreaths for the holidays. Wreaths can be purchased pre-made, but making a wreath on your own can make the holidays even more fun.

One of the easiest ways to make a wreath is to design it around a circular floral foam form. Gather supplies to make the wreath.

For traditional wreaths, supplies will include sprigs of evergreen (real or artificial), ribbon, floral wire, bows, and artificial berries.

Working around the foam form, arrange the boughs of evergreen, using the floral wire to wrap or pin into the foam itself.

Keep the layers coming until you get the desired coverage.

Embellish with a ribbon or place a bow.

The blog A Piece of Rainbow says that creating a wreath jig is an easy way to make a wreath.

Cut a dollar-store laundry basket bottom from the top ring

to make a template, on which you can place wreath-making materials so they keep their circular form.

Use floral wire or natural jute string to tie the materials together.

Experiment with fresh evergreen, twigs, holly branches, or whatever materials you choose.

Thick card stock also can serve as the wreath template. Attach artificial flowers or leaves, spray snow, ornaments, or other items to the card stock ring with a firm adhesive.

Many craft stores sell wreath forms made of natural vines that have been strung in a ring. These can be decorated in their entirety or left a little sparse to let the natural twine show through.

Wreaths may seem like complicated creations. But a little imagination and the right materials is all it takes to create a homemade wreath.



## Legals

Continued from 5B

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Posts Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, be and

he is hereby designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Defendants and she is hereby authorized to appear in and defend such action on behalf of said Defendants and to protect their interests, unless said Defendants, or any of them, shall within thirty (30) days of the service of a copy of this

Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service as herein provided, apply to this Court for the appointment of another competent and discreet individual of their choice to serve as Guardian ad Litem for them, for the purposes of this action. Upon the failure of such application, within the speci-

fied time, this Order shall automatically become final and absolute. IT IS SO ORDERED. Darlington, South Carolina s/Paul M. Burch, Judge #2048 December 5, 2019 Circuit Court Judge (24c3 leave in thru 1-8-20)

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