



News & Press

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ESTABLISHED 1874

QUOTE

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

EDMUND BURKE

75¢

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County Council discusses CTC, road repairs

By Samantha Lyles
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Darlington County Council convened their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 2, and discussed the county's relationship with the County Transportation Committee.

The talks began after Council approved the receipt of \$151,938 in CTC funds for improvements to Flatnose Road. Roughly half of this road is unpaved and becomes impassable during heavy rain, and residents visited Council

and the CTC last year asking for help.

Council member Bobby Kilgo voted against receipt, maintaining his pattern of "no" votes on CTC matters as a protest against the perceived lack of autonomy granted Darlington County to prioritize its own road repairs.

"This is another situation where local government is being controlled by the legislature. Until they are willing to release and allow us to act as a governing body for a county — as was prescribed in the 1974-

75 Local Government Act — we're just sitting here as puppets," said Kilgo.

Kilgo also brought up the poor condition of Commanchee Street (in the Centerville Community), which floods and becomes impassable along a roughly 3,200-foot section during heavy rain, and questioned why the CTC has not put Commanchee on its repair list despite repeated pleas from residents.

Council member Dannie Douglas (who motioned for approval of the funding) asked

county administrator Charles Stewart how Flatnose Road was approved for repairs so quickly when other county roads have been in "way worse shape" for a longer period of time. Stewart replied that he couldn't speak to the CTC's reasoning, and that the county can only accept or reject the funding they offer for the projects they choose.

"The county doesn't have any control over where they assign the assets that have been charged to them," Stewart said of the CTC, adding that the items on County Council's agen-

da are there so the county can use the state procurement process for these road improvement projects.

CTC money comes from the South Carolina Department of Transportation and requires no match from the county. Typically, the state budgets funds based on CTC requests, that money is then accepted or refused by county council, and the county's Roads and Bridges Department then uses the money to construct or repair the designated roads.

This isn't the first time

Council has discussed the nature of their relationship with the CTC. At their January 3, 2017 meeting, Council voted 5 to 3 to approve distribution of \$846,927 in CTC funds to resurface sixteen damaged county roads. Kilgo, Joyce Wingate Thomas, and Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson were the "no" votes. Before this vote, several members of council voiced concerns about how the CTC chooses which roads will receive attention.

COUNTY ON 6A



Members of the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA class learn how to bounce back strong after cancer treatment.
PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTSVILLE FAMILY YMCA

YMCA programs can help make 2018 a healthy new year

By Samantha Lyles
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If you're looking for a fun way to get fit in the new year — with the added spice of a little friendly competition — the Let it Melt! Winter Weight Loss Fitness Challenge at the Hartsville Family YMCA might be just the ticket.

"We want everybody to start the new year with healthy lifestyle goals to help you lose those pounds and increase your physical activity," says Nique Knockemus, Hartsville Family YMCA wellness coordinator.

Y members can sign up for Let it Melt! at the front desk, and they will receive an information packet containing program guidelines, goals, and handy tips to get started on the right foot. Participants will also receive weekly emails packed with ideas and inspira-

tion to help keep them on track. They will weigh in once a week at the YMCA, but success isn't solely measured by the number of pounds shed.

"It's going to be based on their total percent weight loss — not the pounds, but the percentage. And if there is a change in their BMI (Body Mass Index), they will get points for that. We'll also count the total number of minutes they exercise per week, and the total number of times they've come in to the Y to workout," says Knockemus.

The person with the highest number of total points at the end of eight weeks will receive a prize as a reward for their hard work and commitment, but Knockemus hopes the real reward is a new set of healthy habits that will last them well into the future.

The Y is also encouraging people to take a proactive role

in treating and preventing disease with three new classes aimed at helping those with cancer, pre-diabetes, and high blood pressure.

The nationwide LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program focuses on helping cancer survivors through their recovery by incorporating a variety of exercise and fitness activities, wellness education, stress reduction techniques, and tactics for continuing these healthful habits after the 12-week program ends.

Knockemus says that in the past, cancer patients were often told to limit physical activity and prioritize rest, but current science indicates that patients often rebound from illness better if they maintain some level of fitness and stay active. LIVESTRONG at the YMCA participants are required to have a medical clearance from their physician

before enrolling, and they must be able to demonstrate baseline fitness before proceeding with the program.

"There's never really been a program before for cancer survivors, encouraging them to exercise," says Knockemus. "We do a functional assessment for each person before they take part in the class. We check their endurance with a walk test, they have to do a stretch test and flexibility test so we can see where they are."

She adds that the first LIVESTRONG class of five (which just finished up) made great progress and bonded quite well. The Y already has a waiting list for the next class in February, and inquiries about enrollment are welcome. LIVESTRONG classes meet twice per week for 90 minutes.

YMCA ON 3A

Darlington City Council gets stern talking to at first meeting of the year

By Melissa Rollins
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Darlington City Council started 2018 on a sobering note during their Jan. 3 meeting, with several citizens and local representatives chastising them for their behavior during 2017 council meetings.

Citizen Linwood Epps told council members that they need to conduct their meetings with civility and decorum, unlike what attendees have been seeing.

"It would be so nice...if you all would stop acting like school kids on a playground," Epps said. "You're not up there for this; stop doing that. You ought to let each other speak before you interrupt. The City of Darlington is in Darlington County; go to the Darlington County Council meetings and watch how they act at council meetings. They let each other speak; they don't care what you say. You can say what you want to; you have the floor. You all

shouldn't be interrupting each other. Stop acting like kids. You are all grown-ups. Act like it."

Darlington County Representative Robert Williams told council members that if they are interested in doing anything other than working to make Darlington better, they are in the wrong place.

"It is very crucial, critical to all of us, to unify ourselves," Williams said. "It is timeout for games. If you're into playing games, you need to go to the Olympics. As far as dealing with the business of the city, I think this is the time to be serious and we need to get serious with that. I urge all of you, including the mayor, to walk worthy of your calling. Not only walk worthy but live worthy of your calling. That calling is to be elected officials and to be a public servant."

Williams said that the citizens who elected the council expect more out of them.

CITY COUNCIL ON 6A



Sheila Baccus, Elaine Reed and John Segars get sworn in during the Jan. 2 Darlington City Council meeting.
PHOTO BY MELISSA ROLLINS

Sonoco introduces SoftPeel membrane for enhanced cut-finger protection

Sonoco (NYSE:SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, has introduced its SoftPeel™ membrane, a new closure option for cans that delivers improved cut-finger protection, printable billboarding space, and a more natural look and feel than all-foil options. The membrane is commercial with a leading CPG company, and widely available to new customers.

Sonoco leveraged its material expertise in flexible material converting and closure

development to create the unique solution. This multi-layered, paper-surfaced membrane proves to be easier to peel and softer to the fingers than its all-foil counterparts, especially full-panel aluminum closures.

"We've heard from both consumers and brand owners about the risks of cut fingers from traditional membrane closures, and have worked to address this in our membrane and end portfolio," said Jeff Tomaszewski, division vice president and general manager of rigid paper containers, North America at Sonoco. "Sonoco's SoftPeel membranes provide safer and easier opening for consumers, while providing the same barrier protec-

tion for the packaged product. The paper-based, multi-layer membrane also offers a space for brands to add their logo or promotional messaging."

Sonoco's SoftPeel membranes offer a unique paper look and pair well with Sonoco's composite cans, whose fiber content is at least 70 percent recycled paper. The membranes are the latest addition to the Company's suite of membrane and full-panel aluminum solutions, which includes low opening-force options, tamper-resistant closures and customizable embossed membranes. SoftPeel membranes are initially available in 401 (99 mm) and 502 (127 mm) diameters, with additional sizes under

development. For more information, visit www.sonoco.com/endsandclosures.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco (NYSE:SON) is a global provider of a variety of consumer packaging, industrial products, protective packaging, and displays and packaging supply chain services. With annualized net sales of approximately \$4.8 billion, the Company has 20,000 employees working in more than 300 operations in 33 countries, serving some of the world's best-known brands in some 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit www.sonoco.com.





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opinion

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Word of the Week

antithetical 1: being in direct and unequivocal
opposition 2: constituting or marked by antithesis

Merriam-Webster.com

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OP-ED

Timely financial reporting vital for public institutions

By Richard Eckstrom

Each October, many state agencies – including public colleges and universities – are required to submit to me their financial statements for the previous fiscal year. I use those statements to produce South Carolina's financial report, which is used by lawmakers, credit rating agencies, and others to assess the state's financial condition.

An agency's failure to turn in its statements on time can have ramifications beyond just that one agency. If it holds up completion of the state's financial report, it potentially hinders policymakers' ability to make decisions about spending and taxes. It may also send a troubling signal to investors interested in buying state bonds, or otherwise reflect poorly on the state.

Untimely financial statements sometimes raise red flags about an agency's accounting and record-keeping. In the recent past, they've led to discovery of serious deficiencies – such as failure to reconcile bank statements regularly, or a lack of CPAs in crucial accounting positions. Even worse, they can indicate indifference toward the importance of financial reporting.

When an agency misses the deadline, it's up to me to light a fire under them. But my options for doing so are limited. Hopefully, with repeated phone calls and a little nudging, I'll have the statements in enough time to complete the state's financial report without much delay.

But what happens when an agency is evasive or uncooperative – for example, won't return calls? With no legal authority to force them to do anything, my only recourse is to raise the issue publicly and hope the unflattering attention will motivate the tardy officials to get with the program.

Which brings me to the subject of S.C. State University... SCSU boasts a loyal student body and faithful alumni, yet its governance -- particularly its financial leadership -- has often fallen short. In 2014, its troubles came into the open: out of control spending, large budget deficits, about \$10 million in unpaid vendor bills, mismanaged funds, and improperly recorded transactions -- all of which resulted in a two-year probation by the regional accreditation agency. (Losing its accreditation would have been disastrous, as it would have meant its students were no longer eligible for federal aid and may well have caused SCSU to close its doors.)

Since then, much money and effort have gone into putting SCSU on sound financial footing. Lawmakers purged the entire board of trustees. The Legislature gave the school around \$20 million in state loans which later were forgiven, meaning taxpayers foot the bill to clean up the mess.

Given the resources invested in righting the ship, there was no joy in notifying other state leaders last month that SCSU was late again this year submitting its financial statements. After missing the Oct. 1 deadline, university officials assured me I'd have the statements by Nov. 22. That date came and went. It wasn't until Dec. 12 -- more than two months late -- that the statements were turned in.

All who care about SCSU's future should be concerned. Timely financial disclosures are crucial for keeping the university healthy and solvent. And again, late financial statements can portend broader issues.

While its fiscal woes only became known to the public in 2014, I actually had begun sounding the alarm years earlier -- after growing concerned by the school's chronic problems turning in its financial statements. Out of an abundance of caution, I'm sounding the alarm again.

Certainly, SCSU finances have stabilized over the past few years, and the quality of its board and administration are much-improved. Nonetheless, we mustn't tempt fate. Given its track record and the magnitude of its recent troubles, complacency isn't an option.

S.C. State's crisis was rooted in a lax attitude toward the notions of oversight and accountability -- a mindset partially cultivated by state leaders' hands-off approach to the university; the storied, historically black university was treated as a special case, allowing its administrators to operate nearly oversight-free. What was actually needed, then as now, was "tough love."

Three years later, the high stakes dictate keeping an attentive eye on SCSU administrators. We must remind them we're watching and what's expected of them. Failure to meet minimum standards isn't acceptable.

And there's a cautionary tale here for governmental bodies at all levels. While not a sensational topic, oversight measures such as financial reporting requirements are fundamental to an institution's well-being.

Richard Eckstrom is a CPA and the state Comptroller.

By Tom Poland, A Southern Writer

In Mom's back yard stands a red and black birdhouse on a white pole. Its roof holds iconic words. "See Rock City." If it had not been for Garnet Carter and Clark Byers, that birdhouse wouldn't exist, for that birdhouse harkens back to a heralded part of Southern lore. Times were, you could drive along a back road and sooner or later you'd see a barn with its roof turned into an advertisement.

You'll be hard pressed today to find a classic barn's roof declaring "See 7 States from Rock City. Near Chattanooga Tenn." In case you've never heard of it, Rock City is a roadside attraction on Lookout Mountain in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Chattanooga is close by. Gigantic rock formations, gardens, a Lovers Leap, and caverns with black lights I recall. I remember, too, Ruby Falls but that is an attraction inside Lookout Mountain. (No one's ever proved you can see seven states from Lookout Mountain.)

I saw Rock City as a boy but I can't recall ever seeing a Rock City barn. Monday, October 16, I did. The barn stands on Highway 28 between McCormick and Abbeville, South Carolina. All these years it was close by. Surely I must have seen it at some point. Just can't recall it. I'm sure of one thing, though. Photographers and artists captured the old barn's likeness. Weathered with boards missing and gaping holes here and there, the proud old barn stands as an art museum, a survivor.

OP-ED

Bill lacks transparency

By Bill Rogers

There is a wolf in sheep's clothing working its way through our state legislature.

The bill purports to be a transparency bill, but it is anything but... and it will hide how millions of taxpayer dollars are spent.

The wording begins saying any non-profit entity that "received more than one hundred dollars in public funds from a state agency or political subdivision in the previous calendar year or the current calendar year, must submit a quarterly expenditure report to the jurisdiction awarding the funds."

That sounds great. But the final section of the bill, H. 3931, drops a bombshell on openness. It says that an entity filing

OP-ED

See Rock City

A fellow by the name of Clark Byers climbed atop it. Byers's barn-painting career started in 1935 when Rock City founder Garnet Carter turned some country barns into Rock City billboards of sorts. He found a receptive audience in depression-weary Americans who were ready to hit the roads and see the land. An ad on a barn's rooftop had to be an eye-catching proposition.

All this barn roof-painting business came about as a way to market Carter's public attraction. Rock City officially opened May 21, 1932. Soon after, Carter enlisted the help of a young sign painter from Trenton, Georgia. He hired Clark Byers to travel the nation's highways and paint three simple words on barns: "See Rock City." Byers, who looked a bit like James Dickey, painted the words freehand and the size of the barn determined the message. The bigger the barn, the longer the message. The distinctive black-and-white signs appeared as far north as Michigan and as far west as Texas. Rock City gave the farmers \$3 or free passes to Rock City and in some cases Rock City thermometers and bathmats in exchange for turning their barn roofs into ads.

Before he turned to painting barns, Byers worked in a cotton mill and bottled buttermilk for \$3 a week. He would go on to paint barns for three decades, dodging bulls, clinging to slippery roofs, and watching the horizon for thunderstorms. He retired in 1969 after nearly being electrocuted by a lightning bolt while repainting a barn. He had

painted approximately 900 barns in nineteen states. Byers died in 2004. He was 89.

Weather and time and something nefarious robbed us of Byers's work, although I hear a few successors to Clark Byers still paint barns. That's fine but they aren't the real deal. Many vintage Rock City barns suffered a needless fate thanks to the scourge known as politicians. If they're not renaming lakes, putting their names on highways, and in general throwing history into the trash can, politicians find ways to destroy beauty in the name of bureaucracy. Today many reminders of days when families hit the road for family fun and togetherness are gone. Ladybird Johnson, you may recall, latched onto highway beautification as her First Lady claim to fame. During her highway beautification movement, roadside signs were deemed an eyesore. The "Ladybird Act" meant that many Rock City's rooftop messages had to be painted over.

As for Mom's Rock City birdhouse, like many a Rock City barn, its best days are behind it. Neglect and decay make for formidable allies whether you're an aged barn or a souvenir from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

I saw Rock City as a boy and now, what seems 100 years later, I can lay claim to seeing a Rock City barn. You can too. An online map of surviving Rock City barns directs you to these survivors (www.seerockcity.com). Georgia has five. South Carolina has one, and I saw it on Highway 28 four miles

from Abbeville.

If I could turn back the hands of time, here's what I would have liked to have seen eons ago. We're on a family trip with Mom and Dad in an aqua-and-white 1956 Plymouth. Along Highway 28 we look to the left and see a new barn with a man on its roof. There's Clark Byers sketching out his letters. Dad honks the horn and he turns and waves. He returns to work, using chalk to outline his message. "See 7 States from Rock City. Near Chattanooga Tenn." We have no idea that we just witnessed history in the making but some sixty years later I would see what's left of Clark Byers's work, a ghostly, fading reminder of times past.

Visit Tom Poland's website at www.tompoland.net

Email Tom about most anything. tompoland@earthlink.net

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

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FOIA ON 3A

O P - E D

Bills from last year still in play

By South Carolina Policy Council

The 2018 legislative session is just around the corner, and lawmakers from both the House and Senate have pre-filed a number of new bills for consideration when session begins on January 9. Before we publish our annual overview of newly filed legislation, we wanted to review some of the more important bills from the last session that could still pass into law.

This past year was the first half of a two-year session, which means anything that did not pass this year is still in play and could pass next year.

Below is a summary of some of the most significant bills from last year to watch when session reconvenes in January.

H.3722: Bond bill – Increases debt for agency projects

This bill would authorize \$497 million of new debt for various state agency pet projects. Many of the agencies requesting bond funding did not see major increases in funding in this year's proposed budget, and lawmakers repeatedly said during budget deliberations that there was little money to spend. The proposed bond funding would be used to pay for facility and equipment renovation and maintenance. Even aside from the fiscal concern of plunging the taxpayers deeper in debt in the absence of cash on hand, maintenance and repair should be funded through the yearly budget – not paid for by debt financing. House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White has stated his intent to propose similar bond bills every few years. The bill is currently awaiting debate on the House floor.

H.3343 – bonds for school district facilities

This legislation would authorize the issuance of up to \$200 million of bonded indebtedness every year for school facilities. The facilities plans would be developed by the local districts and submitted to the Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The General Assembly would fund the bonds to pay for the projects either by joint resolution or budget proviso – a highly concerning provision, as passing massive debt increases through budget proviso is an end-run around proper process. Budget provisos exist merely to explain how the appropriated money must be spent, and most provisos are never debated. As a result, any proposal that would increase the debt should be openly debated and voted on separately.

The bill also mandates the creation of a grant fund for non-recurring school facility maintenance expenses. The major challenges with public education aren't a product of lack of funding, but rather the waste, bureaucracy, and lack of competition within the system. We certainly don't need to go deeper in debt in order to boost school funding. This bill passed the House and is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

H.4182 – Creates unaccountable bonding entities within public universities

H.4182 would allow college and university boards of trustees to create new government entities within their public universities. These mini-governments (called "enterprise divisions") would have numerous broad powers with very little state oversight or accountability, including bond issuance, acquisition of property and capital project construction. Most of these powers are specifically exempted from state oversight – including the oversight of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) – and are solely accountable to the boards of trustees. Worse, these broad powers of procurement include eminent domain. The enterprise divisions could use revenue from athletic programs as bonding streams, but only if the university's athletic program generates at least \$40 million per year – clearly benefiting South Carolina's largest universities. Universities already have substantial bonding power, but are subject to the oversight of the state and the CHE. The creation of an enterprise division would allow a university to bond for capital projects completely inde-

pendent of CHE oversight. Some universities may find that provision welcome in light of the CHE's recent pushback to higher education spending and debt proposals, but it has alarming implications for the taxpayers who fund the public universities, and who would likely be forced to pick up the tab for a university that defaults on its debt. This bill is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee.

H.3146 and S.27 – Appointment of superintendent of education

South Carolina previously had one of the highest number of elected statewide officials in the nation. Over the past few years, citizens have voted for the governor to appoint the adjutant general and the lieutenant governor. However, there is still a number of constitutional officers (officials elected by the entire state) who should be appointed by the governor rather than elected, including the superintendent of education. Putting so many officers on statewide ballots has the effect of blurring accountability: How many voters are familiar with the duties of the secretary of state, or the adjutant general? (Imagine electing, say, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Commerce separately from the President. That is essentially the reality on a smaller scale in South Carolina.)

There are two elements to making the superintendent: a gubernatorial appointment; a constitutional amendment removing the superintendent from the list of generally elected officers; and a bill enacting the necessary statutory changes. H.3146 (the constitutional amendment) and S.27 (the statutory changes) both passed their respective chambers and crossed over to the other, where debate will no doubt resume when session starts in January.

H.3179 – Roll call voting on grouped budget sections can be authorized by rules

This bill would allow House rules to remove the roll-call requirement for each section of the annual budget. Legislators would be able to vote for multiple sections at the same time, with the number of grouped sections determined by individual chamber rules. This bill would largely defeat the purpose of the roll-call voting requirement, which is to ensure citizens know how their legislators voted on any one particular measure. Conflict of interest problems would make it more difficult for legislators who have financial interest in one of the sections to abstain from voting on bundled sections of the budget (a doctor who sees Medicaid patients, for example, would have an interest in the Department of Health and Human Services budget). Even with roll call voting in place, there is very little discussion of what is actually in the budget. Lifting this requirement would not only lessen the discussion, but would allow lawmakers to hide their votes on the most important bill passed every year. A House rule change to allow remove the roll-call voting requirement on each section was also proposed and is still in committee, as is the bill.

S.386 – Eliminating the Judicial Merit Selection Commission

S.386 would have deleted language from the constitution that establishes a Judicial Merit Selection Commission (JMISC) to screen and nominate judicial candidates. Under current law, the Commission is entirely appointed by the legislature, which is a far cry from the independent judicial selection committee recommended by the American Bar Association. In any case, lawmakers shouldn't simply pick the judges who interpret their laws, and the JMISC is a key component of the legislature's hegemony over the judiciary. This bill would be a major step toward restoring the proper balance of power and judicial independence. It currently sits in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

S.255 – Electioneering/donor disclosure

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Hugh Leatherman (R-

Florence), would substantially encroach on South Carolinians' right to criticize politicians. It would require groups engaging in "election communication" – broadly defined as communication that supports or opposes a candidate, ballot initiative, or influences an election – to disclose not only their top donors but also the donors' mailing address, occupation, and employer. Groups that aren't currently required to disclose their donors, moreover, would face tougher reporting requirements at the state level than full-on political action committees that are directly involved in elections. Unlike other recent attempts to regulate free speech, which would have applied only in the run-up to an election (30 days before a primary election, 60 days before a general), Sen. Leatherman's bill would apply all year round. The bill did not even receive a committee hearing during the last session, but lawmakers may well attempt to pass it in the next.

H.3700 and H.3930 – Permitless open carry

H.3700 allows anyone over the age of 21 who is legally allowed to own a handgun in South Carolina to carry that handgun in public, openly or concealed, without the requirement of a concealed weapons permit (CWP). It would still allow businesses to restrict weapons on their premises if they have legally posted a sign stating the prohibition. It would continue to prohibit carrying a weapon into a residence or institutions such as schools, daycares, churches, courthouses, hospitals, etc. without the permission of the owner or governing authority. Finally, the bill would enact reciprocity for CWP holders between South Carolina and all other states. This bill never received a committee hearing.

Another bill – H.3930 – contained many of the same elements, but in the enacting language specified that the new protections would apply only to "individuals who legally may purchase a firearm from a properly licensed and certified firearms dealer." This provision is almost certainly unenforceable. This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

H.3240 – CWP reciprocity

This legislation is a reciprocity bill that would have required South Carolina to recognize concealed weapons permits (CWPs) from all other states. Visitors, under this law, would follow South Carolina's concealed carry laws while in our state. Under current law, South Carolina recognizes out-of-state CWPs only if that state imposes training and background check requirements as part of their CWP application process.

Keeping and bearing arms is a right and not a privilege, and citizens should not need to obtain permission from the government to exercise this right. This bill would have been a step in the right direction as it provided more freedom to gun owners from out of state. The bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

S.158 – Gun control

S.158 is one of a number of bills that would have created additional roadblocks to obtaining a firearm, none of which passed out of committee. This specific legislation would have increased the waiting period for background checks when purchasing a gun from a firearms dealer to 28 days.

Individuals who wish to obtain a firearm for criminal purposes are extremely unlikely to attempt to obtain that firearm in a way that requires a background check. Even if a potential violent criminal fails a background check, he can always obtain a firearm through illegal channels. By contrast, a law-abiding citizen who has an immediate need of a firearm for self-defense purposes would be hindered from protecting himself. This bill – along with all the other gun control bills filed – did not make it out of committee during the last session, although it could do so in the next.

H.3521 and S.212 – Authorizing production of

medical cannabis

Companion bills H.3521 and S.212 would allow cannabis to be produced and distributed by facilities to authorized patients and their caregivers for treating debilitating medical conditions. All production, distribution, purchasing, and usage would be heavily regulated by the Department of Health and Environmental Control, with strict penalties for violation. The bill also contains legal protection for anyone acting under its provision.

While the regulations in the bill are quite burdensome, this legislation would at least make it possible for South Carolina patients to be treated with cannabis. Medical professionals, not the state, should be the primary judges of appropriate medical treatment. Both bills are still in their respective committees.

S.345 – Independent practice for nurse practitioners and registered nurses

If S.345 passed, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists would be allowed to practice independently, subject only to a collaborative practice arrangement with a physician. Current law requires them to work under a doctor's supervision. The healthcare industry is one of the most over regulated industries in the country, which serves to both drive up costs, decrease innovation, and limit patient access to care. This reform would be an excellent step in the right direction and has been passed by a number of other states. This bill is still in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

H.3450 – Licensing electrology

H.3450 is one of a number of bills increasing the licensing and regulatory burden on entrepreneurs and businesses. This bill – and there are many like it – would require licensing by the Board of Medical Examiners for the practice of electrology and for electrology instruction. The bill created the Electrology Licensure Committee which would have consisted of five members appointed by the Governor.

This would impose onerous requirements, regulations, fees, etc. with broad powers given to a governing board. Aside from the bureaucratic bloat and potential for abuse inherent in this legislation, licensing laws rarely enhance public safety or make quality more likely. They almost always drive up prices and keep lower-income entrepreneurs from entering the industry. This bill passed the House and is currently in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

S.446 – Increasing state-funded venture capital fund

This bill would divert more tax dollars to the South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) – a state-owned venture capital firm controlled by a conglomeration of bureaucrats and lawmakers. The SCRA is funded largely by one-for-one tax credits. This bill would effectively double the SCRA's private contribution fund by doubling the available tax credits from \$6 million to \$12 million. It would also decrease the individual tax credit cap from \$2 million to \$250,000 and would exempt SCRA officials from qualifying for this credit. Under no circumstances should state government own a venture capital firm, especially when said firm is non-transparent and exempt from the ordinary rules governing agency salaries, mission, etc. If lawmakers want to double the funding for this entity, they should do it openly through the budget process rather than a backdoor system of tax credits. This bill passed the Senate and is now in the House Ways and Means Committee.

These bills are just a sampling of the legislation on the table for discussion in the next session. Both the House and the Senate have begun pre-filing new legislation, which our policy team is currently in the process of analyzing. An overview of the House and Senate profiles will be posted soon, and we will continue to keep our readership updated on these and the other important issues as they move through the legislative process.

YMCA

Continued from 1A

The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program targets those who have not yet been diagnosed with diabetes, but who have precursors to the disease like elevated average blood sugar levels measured by the A1C test. This yearlong program features a different topic each week, ranging from proper nutrition to exercise to dealing with stress.

"This class has a curriculum approved by the Centers for Disease Control, and the goal of the program is for participants to lose seven percent of their body weight and increase their physical activity to one hundred and fifty minutes a week," says Knockemus. "Studies have shown that those two things can help someone lower their A1C numbers below the pre-diabetes range."

In the Hartsville Family YMCA's current Diabetes Prevention Program (which is only about halfway over), almost half of the participants have lost 7 percent of their bodyweight, and some class members have lost as much as 12 percent.

"A couple of them have seen their A1C numbers fall below the pre-diabetes range already, so we've had really good luck with that class," says Knockemus. "They're already talking about forming a little alumni group so they can keep meeting and encouraging each other."

The Y is also offering a Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program to teach those living with high blood pressure some valu-

able methods for controlling the condition, thereby minimizing risks of stroke, heart attack, and death.

Participants will team with trained Healthy Heart Ambassadors for this four-month program. They will learn how to properly take their own blood pressure and log the results at least twice per month; they will also attend two consultations with a YMCA Healthy Heart Ambassador each month (just drop by for a ten-minute consult), and attend monthly seminars focused on nutrition education and heart-healthy eating habits.

Knockemus says that the range of what is considered high blood pressure has recently changed, as a reading of 130/80 or above is now considered high. This, of course, expands the number of people to whom doctors will prescribe HBP medication. If your high blood pressure does not stem from a hereditary condition but instead is caused mainly by unhealthy behaviors, you might be able to roll back those numbers without adding on another prescription.

"The whole point of this program is to help people who may be on blood pressure medication, if it's not hereditary but is based on their lifestyle, maybe this kind of intervention can help them get off the medicine," says Knockemus.

For more information on these and other exercise and wellness programs, contact the Hartsville Family YMCA at 843-383-4547, visit them online at www.upperpdmca.org, or stop by at 111 East Carolina Avenue in Hartsville.

FOIA

Continued from 2A

The Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce challenged this law about their being subject to the FOIA. A Circuit Court ruled they were indeed subject to the law and that ruling was later appealed to the S.C. Supreme Court, which heard arguments in this case in October and is presently considering the case before issuing its ruling.

We hope the current Supreme Court case will reaffirm openness.

A cynic might say this

bill is in response to that suit and is a desperate way to keep secret how chambers spend their public money.

Also note that the proposed law's required reports would provide the public with far less information than what the FOIA is currently able to provide.

This is a very bad bill and should be defeated when it comes before the House Ways & Means Committee.

Rogers is executive director of the S.C. Press Association, an advocate for open government.

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Gary Moore Ferguson

Gary Moore Ferguson, 73, passed away on Saturday morning, December 30, 2017, at his residence. He was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, on February 13, 1944. Gary was educated in the public schools of Franklin County, and in 1966, he graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor's Degree in Music with an emphasis in piano. In 1969 he received the Master of Church Music Degree with an emphasis in organ from the School of Church Music at Southern Baptist Seminary. In addition to music, Gary enjoyed sailing, running, gardening and yoga. He is survived by his sister, Carol Ferguson; and his brother, Kevin Ferguson and Kevin's wife, Barbara. He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Ferguson, in 1999, and his mother, Clara Ferguson, in 2015. Gary served from 1969 until 1984 as Minister of Music and Organist at First Baptist Church of Darlington, South Carolina. He moved to Danville, Virginia, in March of 1984 to serve West Main Baptist Church as Organist/Minister of Music. He also served in an adjunct position, teaching organ and hand bells at Averett University. Gary retired from West Main Baptist Church in June of 2011. Memorial services were held on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 2 p.m. at West Main Baptist Church with the Reverend Bruce Wilson officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Duke ALS Clinic, Stacey R. Asnani, Duke University Medical Center, 932 Morreene Road, Durham, NC 27710. The family would like to express its deep appreciation to four caregivers whose untiring efforts provided comfort and peace to Gary in his valiant struggle with ALS. The kindness and sacrificial care given by Ulanda Lanier, Cheryl Hunt, Jessica Coleman and Christopher Barley will always be remembered and appreciated.



Townes Funeral Home, 215 West Main Street, will be serving the Ferguson family. Online condolences can be made at www.townesfuneralhome.com.

Lawrence "JC" McCuller

Funeral services for Mr. Lawrence "JC" McCuller of

Darlington were at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 in the Washington and Charlotte C. Jordan Memorial Chapel of Jordan Funeral Home, Inc.

Interment followed in Palmetto Baptist Church Cemetery directed by Jordan Funeral Home, Inc.



Mr. McCuller was born in Darlington County, South Carolina on November 3, 1929. He was suddenly called to his final resting place on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

Lawrence was a son of the late Lawrence and Hattie Mingo McCullough. He received his formal education in the Darlington County Public Schools. He also served his country in the United States Army. After serving his tenure he was honorably discharged. Lawrence later received his certificate in brick masonry. He was a Brick Mason for over 30 years. On December 16, 1972, he was united in marriage to Mary Louise Winn.

Lawrence loved life and family. Most of all he loved his grandchildren. He leaves to cherish his loving memories: his loving family, wife, Mary L. McCuller; children, Melvin (Carinthia) Winn, Rodney Winn, MaChelle (George) Winn-Williams, and Lydia Winn; grandchildren, Wynnesshia Boyd, Signét Winn, Shawnette (Christopher) Nettles, Mahkayla and Kameron Winn; nieces, Cynthia Green, Shirley Wiggins, and Ilisa Whitney; a special family friend that he took as a granddaughter, Ti'Laysia James; a special caregiver, Anna Brown, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The family is receiving friends at the residence, 522 Brockington Road, Darlington.

Dorothy Ann Kennedy Walker

PITTSBORO, NC--Mrs. Dorothy Ann Kennedy Walker, 89, formerly of Darlington, SC, died on Thursday, December 28, 2017 in Pittsboro, NC.



A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 1 p.m. at Pittsboro United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends immediately following

the service. Dot will be buried alongside her husband of 63 years, David, and her mother, Mamie Lou, at Eastside Cemetery in Statesboro, Georgia. The interment of both Dot and David will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Dot was born on July 26, 1928 in Statesboro, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late David Kennedy and Mamie Lou Howard Tidwell. Her life's work centered around her faith and in her service to others. She graduated from Georgia State Women's College and earned her master's degree from Columbia University. She responded to a call by faith to become a missionary representing the Methodist Church alongside her husband, David. She spent many years nurturing their four children while teaching the people of the Belgian Congo region of Africa. After returning from the Congo, she spent many years teaching elementary school in Weaverville, NC and in the Darlington SC County School System. Dot was a very active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Darlington, SC where she served as the United Methodist Women President, taught Sunday School and served in many other capacities. Dot's special ministry was serving children and families through the Darlington Angel Tree program. She also volunteered on many Elderhostel projects.

Surviving are her son, Stephen and his wife Dawn Walker of Pittsboro, NC; her daughters, Rebecca and her husband Don Baker of Gilbert, AZ; Patricia and her husband Russ Averill of Redondo Beach, CA; and Margaret and her husband Sherwood Godwin of Snow Hill, NC; her grandchildren, Anna Godwin, David Godwin, Leslie Walker, William Wolcott (wife-Brittany), Matthew Baker, Carrie Baker, Thomas Baker, Christine McCary (husband-Chris), William Averill, and Cathleen Springfield (husband-Loudon); her great grandchildren, Adam McCary and Isabelle Springfield; her sister Sue Warren and her husband Harry of Pulaski, Georgia; and her sister-in-law, Sammie Preissner of Georgia, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.org) or to Trinity United Methodist Church Angel Tree (PO Box 16, Darlington, SC 29540).

Condolences may be made at

www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Arrangements by Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation

Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Walker family.

Monica Marks

Monica Marie Marks, age 47, passed away Thursday, January 4, 2018. Funeral services were held 3 p.m. Sunday, January 7th in the Lamar chapel of Belk Funeral Home, with burial following in Lamar Memorial Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service in the chapel.



Born June 21, 1970, Monica is the daughter of William Luke Marks and Barbara Jones Watford. She worked as a waitress and as a store clerk for a convenient store.

Surviving are her father, William "Bill" Luke (Terry) Marks of Tennessee; her mother, Barbara J. Watford of Lamar; her stepfather, Johnny Watford of Lamar; and a special friend, Jay Hood of Florence. She was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Stokes.

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

Eva Mae Humphries

Eva Mae Adams Humphries, age 89, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Funeral services were held 2 p.m. Thursday, January 4th in the chapel at Belk Funeral Home. Burial followed in Black Creek Cemetery.

Born August 14, 1928, Eva was the daughter of the late Hartwell Kitchen Adams and Daisy O'Neal Adams. She retired from Lazy Boy Furniture, and she loved her flowers and crocheting. Surviving are her sons, Randy D. Humphries and Tommy (Sandy) Humphries, both of Darlington, and six grandchildren. Eva was the last of ten children, and was preceded in death by her husband, David M. Humphries; and her son, James H. Humphries.

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

Rev. John M. Stephenson, Th.D.

Rev. John Mills Stephenson, Th.D. went home to be with his Lord and Savior on December

30, 2017. A service celebrating his life was held at Philadelphia Southern Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, officiated by Rev. Sidney Howell and directed by Belk Funeral Home. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Born March 18, 1957 in Jackson, Mississippi, he was the son of the late Rev. Bob and Earlynn Carr Stephenson and the late Miriam Weathers Stephenson. Rev. Stephenson dedicated his life to serving the Lord, preaching at Salem SMC for ten years, Will of Faith SMC from 1989-2013 and Timmonsville SMC from 1989 - 2016. John was also a teacher, coach and principal at Orangeburg Christian School and taught at Florence Christian School.

Surviving are his wife, Pat Floyd Stephenson, two daughters; Beth Stephenson of Darlington, Kay (Stephen) Kirby of Effingham, grandchildren: Isaac Stockton, Adalynne Kirby, Norah Stockton, Ella Stockton, Lyla Mills Kirby and Raelyn Kirby; and siblings, Vicky (Tom) Biers of TX and Bobbie Sue (Rev. Ellison) Evans of Turbeville.

In addition to his parents and stepmother, John was preceded in death by his son, Jonathan Robert Stephenson.

Memorials may be made to Camp Summers & Manget Tabernacle Restoration Fund, Conference Properties Trustee, c/o Boyd Lloyd, 203 McLeond Street, Lamar, SC 29069.

A tribute page for Rev. Stephenson is available at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Emeline Clarkson

Emeline James Clarkson, age 71, died Friday December 29, 2017 at her residence. A memorial service was held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2 p.m. The family received friends following the service.

A native of Hartsville, Emeline was the daughter of the late Blanding D. Clarkson, Sr. and Sue Flinn James Clarkson of Darlington. After graduating from Winthrop University, she was involved in church work in Greenville, N. C. before joining the S. C. Department of Social Services, retiring from there after more than 20 years. She was an active member of St. Matthew Church in Darlington. Emeline led a life of service to the community through her career as a social worker, her dedication to her church and will be dearly

missed by her many friends and her loving family.

She is survived by her brother, Blanding (Annette) Clarkson, Jr. of Rock Hill, SC, nephews: Blanding Lee (Haley) Clarkson of Isle of Palms, Flinn Thomas (Sherry) Clarkson of Taylors, Lauren James (Margaret) Clarkson of Rock Hill; three great nephews and one great niece.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to St. Matthew's Church, 210 South Main Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

A tribute page for Ms. Clarkson is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Dessie Modena Gandy Suggs

Dessie Modena Gandy Suggs, 97, widow of Winston Leroy Suggs, Jr., of Darlington, most recently living in Conway, SC, died on January 3, 2018.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1620 Malden Dr., Florence, SC. Funeral services will follow immediately at 11 a.m. at the same location.

Interment will follow in the LDS Cemetery in Society Hill, directed by Kistler Hardee Funeral Home, Darlington.

Mrs. Suggs was born in Chesterfield County, SC. She was the daughter of Sildem Joy Gandy and Rebecca Maude Crolley.

Surviving are her children: Wayne Lucas (Susan) Suggs of Oregon; Don Winston (Lorna) Suggs of Utah; Joye Eileen (Bill) Rockwood of California; John Scott (Barbara) Suggs of California; Modena Lee (Earl) Zaugg of Utah; Susan Ola (Steve) Richey of South Carolina; Michelle Marie (Jeff) Rank of Utah; and Alex Eric (Ronda) Suggs of Montana, 40 grandchildren; 105 great grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren; her brother, Rupert (Marilyn) Gandy of Utah; and her sister, Lorraine Burr of Utah.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The General Missionary Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through a local bishop or Corporation of the President, 50 East North Temple Room 1521, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150 or you may call 800-453-3860 ext. 2-2554 or email donations@ldschurch.org.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.kistlerhardeefuneralhome.com.

CHURCH NEWS

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

Bible Conference

Pastor Andy Cook is coming to Central Baptist Church, and he's bringing Israel with him. An experienced Israel tour leader and author of multiple books, Cook will take us on a virtual tour of many biblical sites during a four-day Bible conference. Starts January 7, 2018, at 10:30 am with evening sessions at 7 p.m. Jan.7-10. Discover more at experienceisraelnow.com/central. Central Baptist is located at 512 Spring Street, Darlington. For more information, call 843-393-8581.

Winter Summit

The Woman's Pee Dee District Department of the Pee Dee Baptist Association will have their Winter Summit on January 13 at New Faith Baptist Church, 501 West Roosevelt

Street, Dillon. The workshop presenter will be Mr. Sylvester Wallace. Registration begins at 9:40 a.m. and session starts at 10 a.m.

The Upper Room Holy Ghost Mission

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

Bible Study

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

Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line

Anyone who needs prayer for healing and deliverance is

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

Lawson Grove Baptist Church

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

Black Creek Baptist Church

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

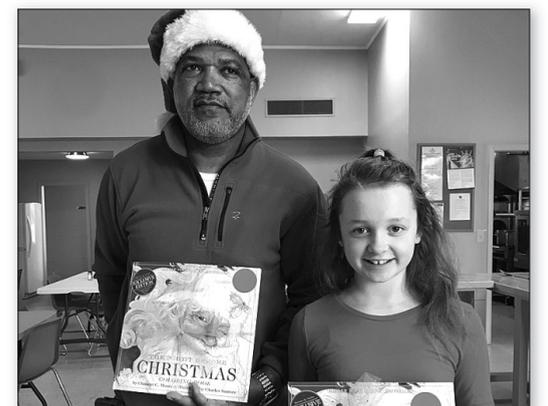
Covenant Baptist Church

Covenant Baptist Church, located at 628 Pocket Road, announces their hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11a.m. Spoken Word Service. Wednesday: 6 p.m. Bible Study. Need a ride to church? Call 843-393-7872.

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries 426 W. Broad St. in Darlington announces their hours

1st/3rd Sunday Pastoral Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Church Services 11:00 Elder M. Frierson 2nd/4th Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 by Deacon Z. Frierson Service at 11:00 a.m. Min.Gerald Green. The community is invited to attend. Come expecting to hear the anointed Word. Contact Deacon.Z.Frierson 843-229-3158



During the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, children at the Hartsville Soup Kitchen enjoyed selecting books of their own from those provided by Rachel Creech through her "Rae's Readers" program. The children also had an opportunity to enter a drawing for a copy of the classic "Night Before Christmas" storybook. Ten copies of this book were available for the children to win. Thanks to everyone who has continued to support Rae's Readers with book donations. Rae's Readers provides books for toddlers through high school year round at the Hartsville Soup Kitchen. Rachel is 11 years old and is in the fifth grade at North Hartsville Middle School. She started this free book program when she was 7 years old as a way to give back to other children in the community.

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PETS OF THE WEEK



This fun, bubbly, spirited gal is ready to get the party started. This athletic, social butterfly loves engaging other dogs in playtime. Eager to please and kiss your face, Precious is super friendly, a tad silly and has a "let's play" outlook on life. Great choice for a more active home with slightly older kids; no cats please! 6 mos old; female. 35lbs; bully mix



Betty Boop is stunning with her big, poofy blonde jacket and dark brown eye, but she does not let that go to her head. This sunny faced shepard mix is all tail wags and big grins as she nicely meets new dogs and humans of all ages. Super snuggly, sweet and graced with the best disposition, Betty Boop is an easy paced walker who is calm and pretty laid back in her approach to life. 1-2 yrs old; Shepard mix; 56lbs; female

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

Have you lost or found a pet?

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

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

Area Happenings

Weekly Events

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.

BNI

Meets each Tuesday at 7:30 am in the conference room of the TB Thomas Sports Center, 701 W Washington St, Hartsville.

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.

Story Time

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

Library Programs

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

Crochet & Knit Clubs

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

Pee Dee SCORE

Pee Dee SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers Free confidential counseling to America's small business, serving Darlington, Florence and surrounding areas. Existing and start-up businesses can schedule an

Darlington County First Steps

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

DC Disabilities and Special Needs Board

Holds monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. The public is welcome to come to the meetings. The meetings are held at the Scott Center 201 N. Damascus Church Road in Hartsville.

Darlington Branch NAACP

The Darlington Branch NAACP meets on the second Tuesday every month, 7:00 p.m. at 109 Pearl Street. New members are always welcomed. For more information contact President Anthony Hall at 843-229-1274 or email to darlingtonnaacp@yahoo.com. Please visit our Facebook page: Darlingtonnaacp.

Darlington Professional Women

Darlington Professional Women (DPW) will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon at the Darlington Country Club. DPW is an association for local businesswomen to share lunch, enjoy a presentation and network.

Historical Commission Meeting

1st Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. at the Historical Commission, 204 Hewitt St., Darlington.

American Legion Post 13

American Legion Post 13 of Darlington meets the second Thursday of each month at the Post on Harry Byrd Highway next to the South Carolina National Guard Armory. A meal is served at 6 p.m. with a monthly meeting that follows. The nation's largest Veterans organization invites its members, eligible Veterans, and active National Guard/Reserve personnel to attend.

Darlington County Coordinating Council

The first Friday of every month at 11:30. Alternating

months between Carolina Pines in Hartsville and Medford Nursing Center in Darlington.

Darlington Library

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

Yoga for Beginners

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

Book Club

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

Jan. 2018

DDRA Concert Committee

The Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association (DDRA) Concert Committee planning meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Mamma Mia's. We need to select dates and assign tasks to make our Bringing Downtown Alive! events successful. Bring ideas and any friends who might be willing to assist with the project! Please RSVP or send comments to info@buildupdarlington.org or 843-298-4000 x 103.

Lamar MLK March and Service

The 2018 MLK March and Service in Lamar will be held Jan. 15, 9 a.m. at Bethany Baptist Church, 205 West Pearl Street in Lamar. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bobby Donaldson, USC History Professor

Free to Be Me Workshop

The Free to Be Me workshop, January 20, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. is a transition-focused workshop for young adults ages 12 and up with disabilities and their parents/guardians. The parents/guardians and young adult attend the learning sessions together to develop a transition plan, which includes the school transition process, life goals, employment goals, self-determination skills and self-advocacy development. A light lunch will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. To register, visit fs27.forms.site.com/all4autism/for31/index.html.

Precinct Reorganization Meeting

Darlington County Democrats will hold a precinct reorganization meeting on Jan. 20, at 10 a.m. Please join us at the Jerusalem Baptist Church Assembly Room, 301 S. Sixth Street, Hartsville. Please come to your precinct meeting it is an opportunity to make a difference right in your own neighborhood. For more information call 843-339-3000.

DWTS Darlington County

The 2018 Dancing with the Stars of Darlington County will take place Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Center Theater in Hartsville.

It will feature a "City Lights, Broadway Nights" theme. For more information, visit www.darlingtoncountydancingwiththestars.com or call 843-206-8718.

Economic Development Update Luncheon

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

Feb. 2018

Honey Bee Project

The South Carolina 4-H Pollinator Program, an independent-study program that engages youth (ages 5-18) in the active role of beekeeping, learning the basics of entomology and gaining an appreciation for the role of pollinators in our world. Deadline to register is Feb. 2. The cost is \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. The program runs from March to August. Visit www.clemson.edu/4h/project_areas/natural_resources/honey_bee

Golden Readers at the Florence Little Theatre

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

Darlington City Council Meeting

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

Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County School District Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington.

Lamar Town Council

Lamar Town Council will meet at 5 p.m. Feb. 12 at town hall.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

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

Society Hill Town Council Meeting

The Society Hill Town

Council will hold their monthly meeting Feb. 13. All monthly meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall of Society Hill 280 South Main Street.

Coker College Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert

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

Hello Again Gala

Hello Again will host An Evening Under the Stars Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. at SiMT, 1951 Pisgah Rd., in Florence. Tickets are \$15 per adult individual and \$7 for children over 5-years-old. There will be soul food, jazz music and giveaways. Learn more at www.helloagain23.com/events

March 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

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

Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County School District Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. March 12 in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington.

Lamar Town Council

Lamar Town Council will meet at 5 p.m. March 12 at town hall.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

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

Society Hill Town Council Meeting

The Society Hill Town Council will hold their monthly meeting March 13. All monthly meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall of Society Hill 280 South Main Street.

Kalmia Gardens Oyster Roast

The annual Kalmia Gardens Oyster Roast will be held March 17 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Kalmia Gardens, 1624 W. Carolina Ave. For more information, visit Kalmiagardens.org or call 843-383-8145.

Apr. 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

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

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Duke Energy and county officials to test sirens

The outdoor warning sirens around the Robinson Nuclear Plant will be tested Wed., Jan. 10, between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The 59 sirens within 10 miles of the Robinson Nuclear Plant will sound at least once during the test and may sound more than once. Residents will hear an audible tone lasting for approximately 30 seconds. No public action is required.

This test is performed quarterly, in cooperation with emergency officials in Chesterfield, Darlington and Lee counties, who are responsible for sounding the sirens.

Hearing a siren does not mean to evacuate. In an emergency, sirens are sounded as a signal for residents to tune to a local radio or TV station that would carry an Emergency Alert System (EAS) message. County officials use these stations to provide information to the public. If sirens are heard and residents are unsure if it is a test or an emergency, they should tune to their local radio or TV station. The EAS will not be activated during the siren tests.

For more information about the outdoor warning sirens, residents can refer to information available on <https://www.duke-energy.com/safety-and-preparedness/nuclear-safety/nuclear-power-plants>.

The Robinson Nuclear Plant produces approximately 724 megawatts of electricity and is located about five miles from Hartsville, S.C.

Duke Energy Progress

owns nuclear, coal-fired, natural gas, renewables and hydroelectric generation. That diverse fuel mix provides about 12,900 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 1.5 million customers in a 32,000-square-mile service area of North Carolina and South Carolina. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is one of the largest energy holding companies in the United States. Its Electric Utilities and Infrastructure business unit serves approximately 7.5 million customers located in six states in the Southeast and Midwest. The company's Gas Utilities and Infrastructure business unit distributes natural gas to approximately 1.6 million customers in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Its Commercial Renewables Business Unit operates a growing renewable energy portfolio across the United States.

Duke Energy is a Fortune 125 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com.

The Duke Energy News Center serves as a multimedia resource for journalists and features news releases, helpful links, photos and videos. Hosted by Duke Energy, illumination is an online destination for stories about people, innovations, and community and environmental topics. It also offers glimpses into the past and insights into the future of energy.

Darlington County School District announces January Teacher Feature winners

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

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

Honorees receive free meals at local restaurants and recognition in their schools.

The January honorees are:

- Spencer Tyner, Brockington Elementary Magnet School
- Natalie Pigatt, Brunson-Dargan Elementary School
- Brandy Weaver, Cain Elementary School
- Angela Thomas, Carolina Elementary School
- Anthony Heilbronn, Darlington High School
- Kimbrelle James, Darlington Middle School

- Travis Spears, Darlington County Intervention School
- Jack Parker, Darlington County Institute of Technology
- Angel Moronta, Hartsville High School
- Kimberly Roos, Hartsville Middle School
- Kenyatta Peterson, Lamar Elementary School
- Michelle Greene, Lamar High School
- Vonda Baker, Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology
- Amanda Griggs, North Hartsville Elementary School
- Lacy Jackson, Pate Elementary School
- Stephanie Walz, Rosenwald Elementary/Middle School
- Courtney Harless, Southside Early Childhood Center
- Kentasha Jenkins, Spaulding Elementary School
- Kaywanna Bradley, Spaulding Middle School
- Jackie Brown, St. John's Elementary School
- Ashley Lesage, Thornwell School for the Arts
- Michael Collins, Washington Street Elementary School
- Judith West, West Hartsville Elementary School

County

Continued from 1A

Roads and Bridges director Bobby Richardson said at that meeting that the CTC "has always been willing to take recommendations from council" and they regularly ask for input from county staff when making their determinations.

Kilgo and council chair Bobby Hudson mentioned that in the past, Darlington County had control over the CTC, but now its members are appointed by the local legislative delegation and it does not answer to the county's elected officials or staff.

Stewart confirmed that in some counties, the legislative delegation has relinquished control over the CTC and given

that authority back to the county. As the discussion wrapped up, Council member Lewis Brown asked Stewart to look into the relationships other South Carolina counties have with their own CTCs, with respect to how many County Councils have control over their local CTC project list.

On the regular agenda, two ordinances related to a potential \$300 million investment in solar energy came up for final reading, but Council opted to carry over these votes until February. Stewart explained that contract negotiations, which were discussed during the December 4 executive session, have not been finalized due to the holiday break.

The first of these ordinances, No. 17-17, would offer PILOT (Fee In Lieu Of Tax) agreements

with an unnamed company involved in a solar energy development plan code named "Project Dates." The ordinance extract states that "many solar projects are looking at South Carolina," and the "conversion of agricultural property to solar property can produce significant increases in property tax revenue." The extract also states that the unnamed company has represented that incentives are critical to their locating in Darlington County.

The company has assured Darlington County that a series of expenditures totaling over \$300 million will be invested in 17 different solar power facilities before December 31 of 2022. Tax map searches for properties named in Project Dates show several small parcels and several large parcels scat-

tered across multiple locations throughout the county.

The second ordinance, No. 17-18, would enlarge the boundaries of the Darlington-Florence Industrial Park to include property owned or operated by Project Dates.

Also on the agenda, Council approved the use of about \$8,000 in contingency funds to pay for the annual employees' appreciation banquet. They also approved \$33,881 for low bidder Grant's Flooring Gallery of Hartsville to install carpet and tile at the Hartsville Outreach Building on Fourth Street.

The next regular meeting of Darlington County Council is scheduled for 6 p.m. on February 5 at the Courthouse Annex located at 1625 Harry Byrd Hwy in Darlington. The meeting is open to the public.

City Council

Continued from 1A

"We expect, and when I say we I mean the citizens of Darlington, nothing less than for you to be who you say you are and respect one another," Williams said. "As you start out this new year, it is up to you all to set the tempo for the city. If you are going to get up here and fuss and fight, guess what you want

the citizens to do? Fuss and fight. Folks are watching you when you think they're not watching you...When we're in public, we need to act like we're in public because we don't know who is watching, who is listening, who is doing anything else; that's very important."

Williams said that having been a resident of Darlington his whole life, he would like to see it growing and prospering.

"It would be an honor to see

you all move Darlington forward," Williams said. "I was born and raised in Darlington my whole life. But one thing I kind of despise about Darlington is the lack of growth, the lack of opportunity, the lack of employment. We can do better than that. Darlington can be better."

Being the first meeting of the year, council members John Segars and Carolyn Bruce were sworn in to their new term; councilwoman Sheila Baccus was

sworn in to her first term representing Ward 1 after beating long-time councilman Coleman Cannon in the November election; they were sworn in by Probate Judge Marvin Lawson.

First reading of a new ordinance dealing with digital signage in Darlington was tabled after councilman Bryant Gardner voiced some concern about the blanket rules the ordinance would impose on businesses regardless of operating hours.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

What about our box of chocolates?

By Dr. William Holland

It's hard to believe that 2017 is history. We have many things to be thankful for along with events and situations that unfortunately brought sorrow, pain, and disappointment. Forest Gump's mom said, "life is like a box of chocolates" as we never know what we are going to get. I guess basically we can see the point, even though this seems to imply that even the worst of times would be no more than just another flavor of candy. However, in the real world we can agree that we are not only unaware of what is coming our way, but also unprepared how these future events will change our life.

I've had several people express to me how they did not feel excited about Christmas this year. I must admit that I agree and with me personally there are a few reasons why. Over the years I've done some research about the origins of the holidays and let's just say the more we learn the more we are accountable for. Another reason is with our kids now in their mid-thirties and married, we are still eagerly waiting for grandchildren. Without small children running around, the enthusiasm of the festivities is reduced to say the least. I must also include that the relentless bombardment of holiday advertising is enough to dampen even the most fanatical participants. It seems by the time we've been exposed to numerous Santa Clause salesmen, decorated trees, dinner parties, shopping excursions, holiday songs, movies, etc... we are more than ready to pack it all up and escape from the chaos. Maybe I'm turning into the Grinch or Mr. Scrooge, or could it be something more? Maybe, I'm sad because things are not the way they used to be. I keep thinking back when life seemed more simple and sincere. I miss certain individuals that are no longer with us and their absence has left an empty place in my heart. Yes, the world is rapidly changing and all of it is not necessarily for the better.

I also have thoughts about growing older. For those of us who are wondering who that

white-haired person is in the mirror, I'm starting to feel a little nervous and maybe even stressed about my future. Issues like financial security for our retirement and questions about our health are like those unknown pieces of chocolate, but I've come to understand that I can plan my life through two different views. I can depend on my own abilities and allow my emotions to establish how I feel and who I am. Or, I can decide to draw close to God and learn how to trust Him with everything. The first choice is to live in fear and worry which is a very miserable way to exist. I know we are to use our mind and do everything we can to help ourselves, but there is likely to come a time when we will have a problem so large that we cannot fix it on our own. The second choice has everything to do with becoming very serious about our relationship with Jesus Christ. Surrendering our will to Him is the most difficult sacrifice we will ever make, but keep in mind that He also made the ultimate sacrifice for you because He loves you more than anything. A very common response to the topic of faith is, "you do not have a clue what I'm going through" and I realize that, however the severity of our problems cannot change the reality of His truth. There are occasions like with John 3:16, when even the simplest message can awaken us to a brand-new way of living, but our part will always include embracing and believing that His promises cannot fail. Can you imagine how much peace and joy we could experience with Him every moment if we would trust Him with everything? It's not essential that we know where God is taking us, what He is going to do or how He is going to do it, we just need to pull over, give Him the keys and let Him drive. This coming year, God desires to be the Lord of our life, no matter what flavors of chocolate are still in our box.

Dr. Holland lives in Central Kentucky with his wife Cheryl, where he is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. To learn more visit: billyhollandministries.com.

McLeod Orthopedic Services Now Available in Hartsville.

The McLeod Centers for Advanced Orthopedics is pleased to open a new location in Hartsville. Our goal is to provide high quality and comprehensive orthopedic care, from the first consultation to the last follow-up. This new location provides convenient access for patients in Hartsville and surrounding areas. Our highly skilled orthopedic surgeons Dr. Rodney Alan, Dr. Barry Clark, Dr. Patrick Denton, and Dr. Jason O'Dell will now be caring for patients in Hartsville in addition to Florence.

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Two Darlington High School athletes sign with local colleges

Lillie Baumbach, daughter of Samantha and John Baumbach, recently signed a letter of intent to play softball with Florence-Darlington Technical College's Lady Stingers. Baumbach will play outfield under FDTC head coach Heber Watson. She plans to pursue an associate in science degree and become a radiologist. Baumbach played softball in Darlington from 7-12th grade, taking home a Golden Glove Award in 2015, 2016 and 2017. She also received the Columbia College Award for academics.

"I chose to go (to Florence-Darlington Tech) because of the opportunity to continue to play the sport I love and gain a quality education to begin my life dreams."

Avery Williamson, son of Dana and Joe Williamson, recently signed a letter of intent to play tennis at Francis Marion University. He will play under head coach Garth Thompson. He plans to study nursing to eventually become a nurse, along with coaching tennis. Williamson was named MVP twice while playing at Darlington, receiving both the most improved award and the coach's award; he also received the Region Player of the Year Award and the All-Region Award twice. Academically, Williamson was named to the Honor Roll every quarter in his high school career, was a Junior Marshall and Student of the Month, also receiving a school Pride Referral.

"(Francis Marion) is local and has an excellent nursing program," Williamson said. "The campus is beautiful and it seems like it will suit me well."

Photos by Melissa Rollins



Peguero ranks tenth in NWCA poll

FAYETTE, IOWA - Coker wrestling's Luis Peguero is ranked tenth nationally in the 197 weight class as of Dec. 28, according to the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches Association. This is the second ranking released of the season.

Peguero had a successful month of December, finishing with a record of 10-2. His lone loss at the Newberry duals came against the No. 9 ranked wrestler from No. 1 St. Cloud State. Peguero wrapped up the fall season as the third place finisher in the 197 pound bracket at the Midwest Classic hosted by the University of Indianapolis.

On the season, Peguero has 16 wins, including four falls, one major decision, and 10 decisions. In his Cobra career, he is tied for second all-time with 56 wins, by way of 12 pins, two technical falls, seven major decisions, and 29 decisions.

Santos named to 2018 Bryan Ivie Award watch list

Coker men's volleyball opposite hitter Joao Victor Santos has been named to the 2018 Bryan Ivie Award watch list, as announced by Off the Block. The Brazil native is one of 15 men's volleyball opposite hitters named to the position-based list among both NCAA Divisions I and II.

Last season, Santos landed in the nation's top 25 with 3.41 kills per set average with double-digit kills in 11 matches. He collected 201 kills, 80 digs, 36 blocks, and 17 service aces in 2017. Santos earned All-IVA Team honors in its inaugural season.

In his career, Santos ranks fourth all-time in kills (473) and aces (48). He is ninth with 169 digs, eighth in both solo blocks (19) and block assists (56). Santos holds the single match record in kills with 27 against Limestone in 2016. He was a member of the 2017 team who set records in kills per set and solo blocks (2nd nationally), and the 2016 team who broke the previous marks in aces, aces per set (1st nationally), aces in a match, and assists in a match.

Darlington Falcons on a roll with men and women finishing on top

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

The Darlington Falcons and Lady Falcons looked to kick off region play this past Friday against the Lakewood Gators, but due to snow closing the school on both Thursday and Friday, the game was postponed.

But while Friday's game was canceled, both the Falcons and Lady Falcons did get some action in on the hard court, taking on South Florence back on Tuesday, January 2 and it was a great night for both squads as Darlington came out victori-

ous in both contests.

In a scheduling oddity compared to the rest of the schedule both Darlington boys' and girls' basketball teams do not play at the same location when playing South Florence.

Having already played once this season with both Darlington teams winning as well this time around it was the Lady Falcons getting the home game and the Falcons going on the road.

Darlington (boys) 53, South Florence (boys) 49

Led by Jamean Muldrow's 19 points the Falcons outscored the Bruins by five points in the fourth quarter to

win by four and improve their record to 11-3 overall for the season.

Jaliam Smith was Darlington's other double-digit scorer, finishing the night with 11.

Darlington (girls) 31, South Florence (girls) 16

Up by just two points at the half, the Lady Falcons outscored South Florence by 13 in the second half to cruise to a 15 point victory.

Hope Richardson led the way for Darlington with 12 points.

Carolina Pepsi Classic Recap

After winning the inaugu-

ral Darlington Falcons Holiday Tournament before Christmas, Darlington once again participated in the Carolina Pepsi Classic hosted by West Florence and while the Falcons did not win the classic, a third place finish was more than respectable.

Darlington opened up the tournament with an 80-73, four overtime, victory over Crestwood and followed that with a 78-58 win over Trinity-Byrnes.

With two wins in the books Darlington needed to get by North Augusta to earn a place in the championship game. Unfortunately for the Falcons

that was not able to come together as North Augusta won 65-53.

The Falcons wrapped up the tournament defeating Marion in a close 73-72 game to capture third place finish in the classic.

Coker selects Heterbring to lead newly added Field Hockey Program

Coker College is pleased to announce the hiring of Katrina Heterbring as the Cobras' first-ever field hockey coach, Dr. Lynn Griffin, vice president of athletics and athletic facilities announced today.

"Katrina brings the experience that we were looking for to bring field hockey back to Coker" stated Griffin. "Field hockey has an extensive history at Coker dating back to the 1930's and we are excited to watch Coach Heterbring establish the program".

Heterbring comes to Coker after spending the last four years as the head field hockey coach at Wells College located in Aurora, N.Y. During her time at Wells, Heterbring led the Division III program to two (2015, 2016) North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) tournament championships and was named the conference's Coach of the Year in 2016. Heterbring also led Wells to a regular season conference championship in 2016. In all, Heterbring coached six NEAC All-Conference selections and ten NEAC Player's of the Week.

In addition to her student-athletes excelling on the field, Heterbring guided her players to academic success by developing

three NFHCA Scholar Distinction Award winners, five Zag/NFHCA National Academic Squad selections, and nine DIII National Academic Squad selections.

While at Wells, Heterbring was also the head coach of the women's lacrosse team in the 2014-15 academic year. Serving as the women's lacrosse coach for one season, Heterbring's squad caused 121 turnovers on the season, posting the best total in program history. Additionally, Heterbring coached three NEAC All-League players, the most in one season dating back to 2012.

"I would like to thank Dr. Wyatt, Dr. Griffin, and the search committee for giving me the opportunity to start a new NCAA Division II field hockey program," said Heterbring. "I am thrilled to be a part of history at Coker College and I am confident that my experience, along with the resources at Coker College will guide me in developing a strong field hockey program."

Prior to joining Wells, Heterbring was an assistant coach at fellow South Atlantic Conference and ECAC member Newberry College in 2013. At Newberry, Heterbring assisted the Wolves to an ECAC Division

II Invitational Tournament berth. Heterbring also coached two Independent Schools Alliance All-Conference players, including the league's Rookie of the Year.

Before joining Newberry, Heterbring served as a Graduate Assistant for the field hockey and women's lacrosse teams at Elmira College from 2011 to 2013. With Heterbring's assistance, the Soaring Eagles' field hockey squad earned placement on the NCAA's "Most Improved Team" list in 2013.

A 2011 graduate of American International College in Springfield, Mass., Heterbring was a four-year member of the field hockey team and played women's lacrosse during her tenure with the Yellow Jackets. Heterbring graduated as the program's record holder in career minutes played (5,390) and defensive saves (20), earning a selection to the NFHCA North-South Division II All-Star Game.

A two-year captain, Heterbring helped to lead the field hockey team to the Northeast-10 Conference playoffs in 2010 and made an NCAA Division II Championship Tournament appearance.

Coker hires Director of eSports

Coker College has announced the hiring of Joseph Rudy as the Cobras' first ever Director of eSports.

"We are excited to bring Joseph to Coker as his knowledge and involvement in eSports will make an immediate impact on our newly formed program," stated Griffin. "eSports is growing nationally and Joseph will build a quality team at Coker that will begin competing next fall."

Rudy heads into his new position at Coker with six years of experience in the eSports field. Rudy began his journey by joining the eSports club during his freshman year at Penn State University (PSU). Rudy was voted president of the organization. In his leadership role, Rudy was able to create the PSU Intercollegiate LAN, where he had multiple schools travel to Penn State and compete in an eight-team tournament. He eventually reached out to the Big Ten Network (BTN) and connected them with Riot to create the BTN Invitational.

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State reading legislation, innovative pilot programs discussed at forum

By Melissa Rollins
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

During the Education Forum hosted by the Darlington County School District last month, district and state leaders gave their perspectives on issues relating to education on the local and state level.

Our first story on the forum focused on the Abbeville Lawsuit.

Our second story talked about the teacher shortage across the state, how teacher pay played a part in that crisis and how leaders were working to combat it.

Our final story on the forum will focus on the question of how to combat summer learning loss.

The question asked during the forum was:

“There are many innovative approaches to solving the summer gap or making sure our students are reading at grade level by third grade. Some of these include year-round schooling or primary schools focused solely on English and math. Have we as a district considered either of these ideas? What initiatives are being introduced at the state or local level to help us help our students?”

Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said that her department is working to ensure that students are learning what they need to by equipping their teachers to combat challenges



Molly Spearman, SC Superintendent of Education, Sen. Gerald Malloy and Speaker of the SC House of Representatives, Jay Lucas, were just a few of the officials who took part in an education forum in Dec. 2016. PHOTO BY MELISSA ROLLINS

they may face in the classroom.

“The focus of our state is on helping teachers have as many tools as possible in their toolbox; knowing how to teach all children how to read,” Spearman said. “That is through recent legislation that is excellent that is called Read to Succeed. We are in full implementation. This is the year that children may be retained if they are not on grade-level.”

Spearman said that her department has been working with legislators to get funding for programs that help students

retain the knowledge they gain during the year.

“A tremendous amount of funding from the legislature, a tremendous amount of strategic time from us at the Department (of Education) is in professional development for teachers; we focused even on special problems like Dyslexia, where we came up with modules, virtual training, for teachers,” Spearman said. “Summer reading camps have been funded. All of these things to really support the children so that we don’t have a lot of children retained; I don’t think

it is going to be as horrific as some think because you all (educators) have been doing a really, really good job getting children on grade level.”

Senator Gerald Malloy said that while he was not in favor of Read to Succeed when it was first introduced he sees that it, along with other sister programs, can help students in South Carolina.

“I was against Read to Succeed when it came up because I thought it was standing alone,” Malloy said. “At the same time, in the legislature, we expanded four-year-old

kindergarten and that was added to that bill. What is critical is this is the third year of implementation so this is the first year that you’ll end up having to effectuate the effects of that particular bill. Obviously it was a change for our state. It came out of a program down in Florida. This year, Ms. Spearman and others are going to have to see what happens with those children who did not achieve the reading level that we needed to and see what we have to implement from then on.”

Darlington County School

District Board of Education Chairman Jamie Morphis said that the district has discussed innovative programs but those discussions stalled. He said that the district is back on track with them now.

“Here in the district we have been looking at this,” Morphis said. “We have put out a study to find ways and recommendations. We are still waiting on that recommendation to come back but in the meantime we have had discussions about year-round school. You always talk about gearing up for school and then gearing down and the amount of time it takes in that long summer period of nothing happening. Again, in rural areas sometime there’s not that parental involvement or support at home where you are getting that education and keeping it going throughout the summer. That is a concern.”

Morphis said that he would like to see DCSD set up pilot programs at their schools to see what can work for their students.

“We talked a year or two about piloting a program for the year-round school,” Morphis said. “With the transition of our administration we are back on that now. We have also discussed single-gender classrooms... Personally, I feel like when you separate boys and girls they are more focused and not worried about their clothes or impressing someone. Those are two things I would love to pilot and we are looking at.”

Beat cabin fever with winter renovations

When the weather outside is frightful, homeowners and renters can turn their interior spaces into something delightful. Residents can banish feelings of cabin fever by using time spent inside to make subtle or even substantial improvements to their living areas.

Individuals may find that winter is a great time to tackle delayed or unfinished projects or to put plans for major renovations in motion. Homeowners may find that they have some extra time on their hands when weather and early evening darkness reduces how much time they can spend outdoors. The following projects can help homeowners make the most of their time indoors.

- **Start painting:** One of the easiest ways to transform the look of a room is with a fresh coat of paint. Painting a room or rooms is an inexpensive project that can be completed over the course of a single weekend. Painting in lighter colors can help illuminate dark spaces and make a home feel more vivid and inviting, especially during the winter. And painting need not be reserved for walls only. Homeowners may want to sand and paint furniture to give items a trendy arts-and-crafts feel.
- **Re-imagine flooring:**



Thanks to the bevy of laminate, composite materials and vinyl flooring options, homeowners can engage in do-it-yourself flooring projects to perk up tired interior spaces. Many “floating” flooring systems are user-friendly and can instantly update spaces. Some systems may not even require adhesives or nails to complete.

- **Redress the furniture:** New furniture can be expensive. For those who are happy with the lines and scale of their current furniture, a facelift may be all that’s needed to give

rooms a new look. Slipcovers can make sofas, love seats and chairs look like new or blend with an entirely new color scheme. Slipcovers come in fitted and loose varieties and in many different materials. Other pieces can be updated with throws, new linens or a coat of paint or stain.

- **Address drafts and other inefficiencies:** Colder temperatures alert homeowners to drafts, leaks and even insect or rodent infiltration. Homeowners can scout out rooms and remedy situations.

- **Organize the home:** Rainy or snowy days are great moments to address organizational issues, such as messy mudrooms or cluttered kitchen cabinets. Get a jump-start on spring-cleaning before the warm weather arrives.

Time spent indoors can be put to good use by engaging in renovation projects

Modify grooming and beauty tips for winter

Winter may be a time for cozy sweaters and tall boots, but it also can be a season for static-charged hair and dry skin. Upon the arrival of cold weather, women and men may have to make some changes to beauty or grooming routines to survive chilly temperatures.

Handling the extremes of wind, snow and dry indoor air takes care and attention.

- **Modify your moisturizer.** Moisturizer that works in the spring, summer and fall may not be adequate in winter. Water-based moisturizers can do a good job, but men and women with extremely dry skin may need to switch to an oil-based product that locks in moisture. Many people even find that inexpensive petroleum jelly offers protection against dry skin and chapping.

- **Avoid hot showers and baths.** Although they can feel heavenly, hot showers and baths can strip more moisture from the skin, exacerbating dry skin issues. Stick to warm showers and apply moisturizer immediately after.

- **Assess scalp conditions.** The scalp can be prone to dryness during the winter. Skin conditions like dermatitis, eczema or psoriasis may be aggravated by changes in temperature, advises Seton Dermatology. Speak with a dermatologist if over-the-counter products do not remedy the situation.

- **Avoid flyaway hair.** Cold temperatures, wind and combing may lead to the buildup of negative ions on hair shafts, causing the strands to repel one another and static to form. Spraying a static guard onto a hairbrush and working it through the hair can help as well.

- **Don’t neglect hands and feet.** Invest in a quality hand cream. Apply a foot balm, cover feet with cotton socks and give the product time to be absorbed into the skin.

- **Shave with care.** Men should lather up their shaving cream with warm water and rinse with cool water to avoid irritation and dryness. Apply an aftershave balm to hydrate.

How aging adults can maintain their mental acuity

Aging is associated with or linked to a host of mental and physical side effects. For example, many adults expect their vision to deteriorate as they grow older.

While physical side effects like diminished vision might not strike much fear in the hearts of aging men and women, those same people may be concerned by the notion of age-related cognitive decline. Learning about Alzheimer’s and how to maintain mental acuity can help aging men and women better understand the changes their brains might be undergoing as they near or pass retirement age.

Is Alzheimer’s disease hereditary?

The National Institute on Aging notes that only a very rare form of Alzheimer’s disease is inherited. Early-onset familial Alzheimer’s disease, or FAD, is caused by mutations in certain genes. If these genes are passed down from parent to child then the child is likely but not certain to get FAD. So while many adults may be concerned about Alzheimer’s because one of their parents had the disease, the NIA notes that the majority of

Alzheimer’s cases are late-onset, which has no obvious family pattern.

Can Alzheimer’s disease be prevented?

Studies of Alzheimer’s disease are ongoing, but to date there is no definitive way to prevent the onset of the disease.

How can I maintain mental acuity as I age?

Researchers have not yet determined a way to prevent Alzheimer’s disease, but adults can take certain steps to maintain their mental acuity into retirement.

- **Exercise regularly.** Routine exercise may be most associated with physical benefits, but the NIA notes that such activity has been linked to benefits for the brain as well. For example, a 2011 study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America found that aerobic exercise training increases the size of the hippocampus, leading to improvements in spatial memory.

- **Read more.** Avid readers may be happy to learn that one of their favorite pastimes can improve the efficiency of their

cognitive systems while delaying such systems’ decline. A 2013 study published in the journal Neurology by researchers at Chicago’s Rush University Medical Center found that mentally active lifestyles may not prevent the formations of plaques and tangles associated with Alzheimer’s disease, but such lifestyles decreases the likelihood that they will impair cognitive function.

- **Stay socially connected.** Maintaining social connections with family, friends and community members also can help women prevent cognitive decline. Epidemiologist Bryan James of the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center studied how social activity affected cognitive decline, ultimately noting that the rate of cognitive decline was considerably lower among men and women who maintained social contact than it was among those with low levels of social activity.

The idea of age-related cognitive decline strikes fear in the hearts of many men and women, but there are ways for adults to maintain their mental acuity well into their golden years.

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Darlington Fire and Police "Toys for the Community" program brings Christmas joy to local families

Dozens of Darlington families received a little Santa Claus-style help from local emergency responders on the morning of December 23, right before Christmas Eve. Each year, members of the City of Darlington Fire and Police Departments transform the First Baptist Church gym into a toy depot where games, bikes, and dolls are given to local children in need.

"We do this every year, going on about twenty-nine years now, where we give toys to the community," said Chuck Kelly of the Darlington Fire Department. "This year, we're probably in the neighborhood of about thirty-six families, which is about eighty-five or ninety kids."

This annual toy donation program takes applications through November from area families who may be experiencing financial difficulties. Drive organizers review applications and determine whether the family qualifies for help, but Kelly says it's very rare for anyone to be turned down.

The DFD did try something new this year to fund the Toy

Drive. Spearheaded by the department's Firefighter of the Year, Perry Kelly, the DFD staged a "Taste of Christmas" event, which recruited over 30 cooks and raised about \$2,300 to help purchase toys for children in need.

"We used to do a boot drive, but it's getting to be where that's unsafe, so we're finding other ways to do it besides standing out on the streets and getting donations," Kelly said. "We also sent out letters to local businesses asking for donations, and this year we've done great."

Kelly estimated that the combined efforts brought in over \$8,000 for the Toy Drive. A little of that is set aside as seed money to start next year's Toy Drive fundraising, but about \$7,800 went directly into purchasing toys, clothes, and needed items for kids ranging from babies to age 12.

"We don't pay light bills or anything like that, but if the family says that the child needs clothes, we will get them clothes. Or if they ask for food instead, we will get them food. But we are mostly doing toys," said Kelly.

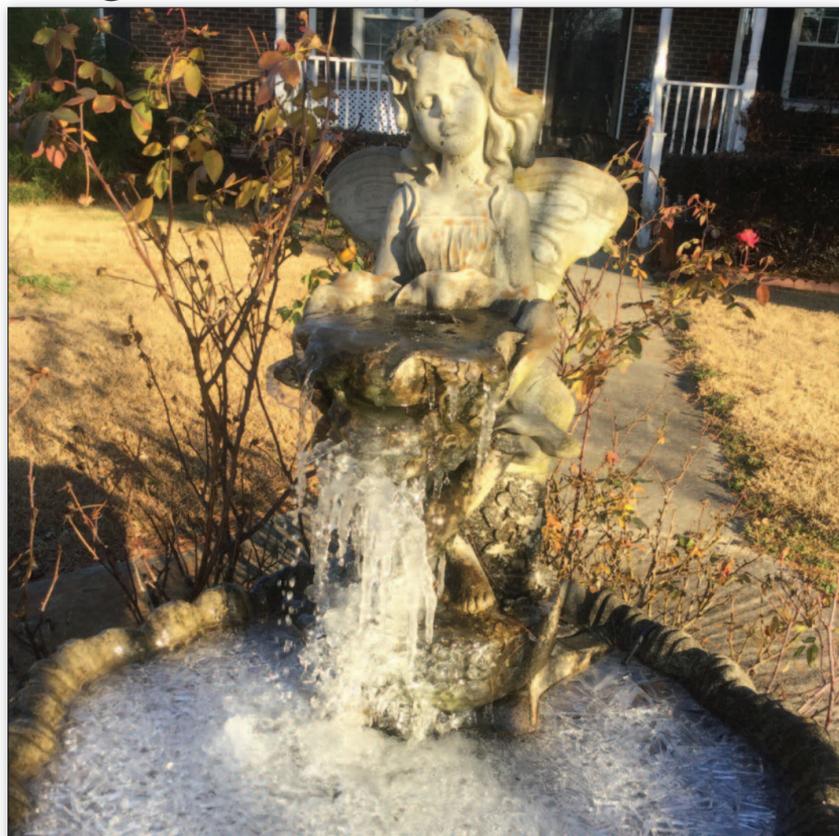


Members of the Darlington Fire Department arrived early at the First Baptist Church gym to set up Christmas toy donations for local families in need. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

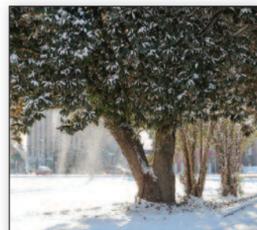
Snow Days in Darlington County!



Lyndsey Grace Belk made a snowman and even shared her hat and scarf. Photo Submitted



Cheryl Boykin submitted this awesome picture of her frozen fountain.





On Dec 16, the Nu Ryderz MC of Darlington and other local clubs joined together to host a FREE food donation. The event served over 400 people. The club also donated new hats, gloves, scarves and new shoes to everyone. Capital Support Consulting & Business Services presented the club with a community service award. CareSouth Community Outreach team administered free blood pressure, BMI, diabetes and cholesterol screenings. We were overwhelmed by the turn out and so pleased to bless so many for the holidays. Photo Contributed



The annual donation in the amount of \$1,000 was presented to Beth Johnson of the American Cancer Society from the Mayo High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Virgil Wells Cancer Walk

"It is a pleasure giving to an organization that serves the masses," said Regina Flynn Damon, the Cancer Walk's Chairperson. "Cancer has no regard for financial status, color, religion and appearance. Whenever it strikes the human race, we are all affected. Beth comes in every year with literature and prizes and is available at the walk and after the walk to speak to the participants and serve the community upon request."

The cancer walk has already taken place but donations are still being accepted. They can be sent to Regina Damon at P.O. Box 1517, Darlington, SC, 29540 or at the Mayo Hall of Fame Building, 306 Jessamine Street in Darlington.

Photo Contributed

Coker's Samuels surpasses 1,000 career points

Donte Samuels surpassed 1,000 career points as the Coker College men's basketball team edged the visiting Newberry College Wolves 89-84 in a back and forth South Atlantic Conference battle Wednesday (Jan. 3) afternoon. The Navy and Gold improved to 7-7 overall and 4-2 in SAC play with the victory.

The Cobras grabbed an early 7-0 lead in the opening minutes of action thanks to a couple of jumpers from Demarco Jackson and a three ball by Khalil Halls. Next, Newberry responded by knotting the game up at 17 with 8:54 remaining in the first half. Both squads exchanged points for the remainder of the half and the Cobras headed into halftime with a slim 33-31 lead.

During the second half, the

Navy and Gold gave themselves some breathing room as they used an eight point run at the 16:55 mark to take a 48-36 lead. The run was highlighted by back-to-back three-pointers from Jackson and Halls. Newberry showed their resiliency once again by battling back into the game and taking an 84-81 lead over Coker with 1:54 remaining in regulation.

With the game on the line, the Cobras dug deep and outscored the Wolves 8-0 to close out the game. Samuels scored six of Coker's final eight points, while Jake Barrett buried the final two free throws of the game to seal the victory.

Samuels surpassed 1,000 career points during the game and now has a total of 1,015 points as a Cobra.



Grand Lodge Officers of Knights of Pythias received Outstanding Community Service Awards during the 100 Men in Black Program sponsored by Silver Star Masonic Lodge # 333 in Horry County. Pictured from left to right are Grand Chancellor Kevin N. Brown, Grand Athletic Commissioner Andre Hooks and Grand Outer Guard Ernest Brailey. Grand Asst. Athletic Commissioner Orlando Hudson received award for Outstanding Community Service during this event. Photo Contributed

Darlington County communities commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Three communities in Darlington County will host events to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex event will take place Jan. 14-15 at St. James United Methodist Church, 312 Pearl Street, in Darlington. Sunday's service will be held during normal church hours; Monday's service will begin at noon. The vision is "Positive Changes Will Begin With Me - My World Too". Rev. Michelle Law-Gordon will be the keynote speaker. Children and youth choirs from across the Pee Dee will render music. The public is invited to attend the celebration. For more information, call 843-393-

9762 or 843-395-0431.

Lamar will host an event Jan. 15, 9 a.m. at Bethany Baptist Church, 205 West Pearl St. Dr. Bobby Donaldson, a history professor at USC, will be the keynote speaker.

People to People of Hartsville's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr service will be Jan. 15 from noon until 1:30 p.m. at Jerusalem Baptist Church, 301 S. 6th Street in Hartsville. The theme is Shining Light on the American Civil Rights Movements. Dr. Donaldson will also serve as the keynote speaker for this event. A free lunch will be provided by the AKA Sorority. For more information call Barbara Carraway at 843-409-5241.

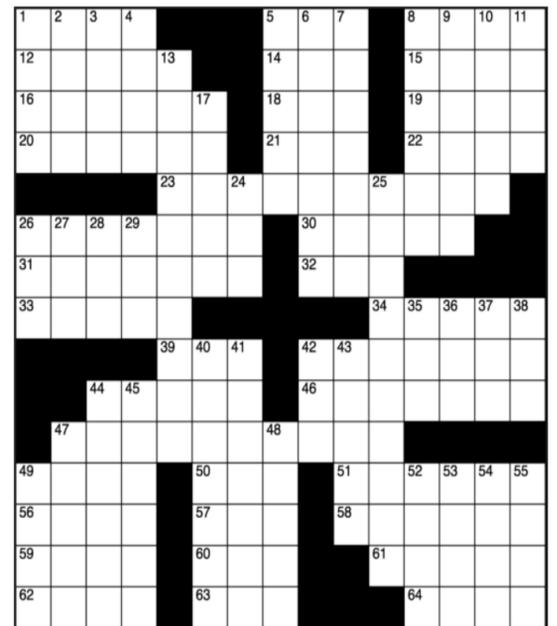
South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation receives grant

The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation has been awarded funding from South Carolina Humanities to support its project, "MLK50: Where Do We Go From Here?" commemorating 50 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goal of this project is to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by exploring civil rights activities since the death of Dr. King fifty years ago and what can or should be next steps. The SCAAHF will conduct oral interviews of citizens who lived in Darlington County during the

sixties and seventies on January 14 from 3 - 6 p.m. On Monday, People to People of Hartsville will hold a commemoration service at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Hartsville. Following the commemoration service lunch will be served and participants will be able to discuss civil rights activities that occurred during the sixties and seventies and give ideas on what next steps should or could be taken to continue the work begun by Dr. King. Anyone interested in participating in the oral history project is encouraged to contact Jannie Harriot, executive director at 843-332-3589.

CROSSWORD



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Make ale
 5. Residue
 8. Female parent
 12. Succulent plants
 14. O.J.'s judge
 15. Czech river
 16. Embarrassing predicament
 18. NHL legend Bobby
 19. Sunfish
 20. One who acclaims
 21. On the ___: running away
 22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
 23. The Golden State
 26. Merrymake
 30. Siberian nomads
 31. Pock-marked
 32. Baleen whale
 33. Leaf-footed bug genus
 34. Treasure
 39. Tanzanian shilling
 42. Changed
 44. Intestinal pouches
 46. Walked in a celebratory way
 47. South American mountain chain
 49. Jai ___, sport
 50. Consumed
 51. Firm
 56. Pubs
 57. Leafy drink
 58. Cured
 59. Northern wind of France
 60. Tax collector
 61. Respite from the sun
 62. American spy Aldrich
 63. Central Standard Time
 64. Myanmar ethnic group
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Crush
 2. Razorbill genus
 3. "Full House" actress Loughlin
 4. Bluish green
 5. Garlic mayonnaise
 6. Attacks repeatedly
 7. Secretion
 8. Special instance
 9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
 10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
 11. Israeli city
 13. Formed a theory
 17. Remove
 24. Type of light
 25. Repeats
 26. Certified public accountant
 27. River in eastern France
 28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 29. Special ___: military group
 35. Ribonucleic acid
 36. Not even
 37. Power transmission belt
 38. Doctor of Education
 40. Type of nerve
 41. Types of tops
 42. Large primate
 43. Flooded, low-lying land
 44. Gritty
 45. Gets up
 47. Stake
 48. Not the most
 49. Swedish rock group
 52. Expresses pleasure
 53. Expression of boredom
 54. Queen of Sparta
 55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

WORD SEARCH

B O M C I R B A F S R E K C I T S X P L
G I L T L K X M J V L A C T L S M P R J
U E A N U W Y A J A C D Y R L E W E J O
G S O I S S M F W R D H S G A Y C G W U
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| ACRYLIC | EASEL | MOLD |
| ADHESIVE | EMBOSS | PAINT |
| AIRBRUSH | FABRIC | PASTELS |
| BEADWORK | FLOSS | PENCILS |
| BLADES | FOLIAGE | POTTERY |
| CALLIGRAPHY | FRAMING | RUSTIC |
| CANVAS | GLUES | SCRAPBOOK |
| CHARCOAL | JEWELRY | SEWING |
| CLAY | JOURNAL | STICKERS |
| CLOTH | KNITTING | WAX |
| CUTTING | KNOTS | WOOD |
| DECORATIONS | MAT | YARNS |

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As small business confidence surges, worker shortage, wage pressure intensify

The shortage of qualified workers reached a record high in December, and the number of small business owners who made plans to raise compensation was the second-highest in history, according to the monthly National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Jobs Report.

"We've been watching this problem build for the last 12 months, but it seems to have reached a critical point in December," said NFIB President and CEO Juanita Duggan. "Small business owners are converting their optimism into action, and a majority cannot find enough workers to meet higher customer demand."

State-specific data is unavailable, but NFIB State Director Ben Homeyer said small-business owners here are concerned about the shallow pool of qualified applicants.

"One of the ways we gauge our members' position on key issues is through our Member Ballot," Homeyer said. "This year's survey showed strong support for legislation that would make it easier for certain nonviolent offenders to enter

the job market."

When NFIB asked its South Carolina members asked whether the state should allow for the expungement of criminal records for one-time, nonviolent offenders, 60.9 percent of respondents said yes, 32.7 percent said no, and 6.4 percent were undecided.

H3209, which is now in the Senate, would expunge certain crimes, such as nonviolent drug offenses, from people's records to improve their workforce eligibility. "It doesn't help anyone to lock out people who have turned themselves around and are trying to move on with their lives," Homeyer said.

In the upcoming legislative session, NFIB will also support:

H3311, also in the Senate, would help with workforce development pathways and identify and help with training to get more folks in the needed pipelines.

The Be Pro, Be Proud program, which strives to get kids early to look at the careers such as a CDL driver or home builder that offer good pay and require less than a college degree.

"Capturing the interest of

these folks early gets them in line to succeed as soon as they graduate high school and put them on a path to productivity," Homeyer said.

Nationwide, the number of job openings remained steady in December while plans to hire fell four points to 20 percent. That modest decline could indicate that small business owners are becoming more frustrated by the shortage of qualified workers.

"Finding qualified workers is now the second-biggest concern for small business owners," said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg. "Taxes occupied the top spot all of last year, but that may drop as the recently enacted tax reform law takes effect. The worker shortage could very well become the number-one problem for small businesses."

Fifty-four percent of small business owners last month reported finding few or no qualified workers. That's a 10-point jump from the previous month and an all-time record. The previous record (53 percent) was September of 1999. Meanwhile, the number of

firms planning to raise compensation jumped six points to 23 percent, the second-highest reading in history. It's the highest reading since March of 2000 (also 23 percent) and just shy of the record of 27 percent, set in December of 1989.

"They have to raise compensation to attract and keep qualified employees," said Dunkelberg. "That means their costs will increase. It remains to be seen whether that will lead to higher prices."

The labor shortage is a problem for small business owners, but it is also a strong signal that the economy is gaining momentum.

"Qualified workers are in strong demand. That's good for workers and good for families," said Duggan. "Finding qualified workers is a challenge that small business owners will be working through over the next few months. The positive is that small business owners are more confident in the economy, and workers will be the beneficiaries."

To learn more about NFIB, please visit www.NFIB.com.



Three arrested for trailer theft

On Jan. 3, 2018 at approximately 11:30 am Christopher Hubert Garris, Christopher Hubert Garris Jr. and Johnathan Blaze Avant were arrested for Petit Larceny. The subjects allegedly stole a utility trailer and generator from victims. The Darlington Police Department would like to thank the public for its help in identifying the subjects.

Homicide Investigation Update

Sheriff Tony Chavis has announced the arrest of a Darlington man investigators allege was involved in a shooting death on Flat Creek Rd. in the Darlington area of Darlington County.

"My Investigators remain determined to bring all those responsible for this senseless crime to justice," stated

Sheriff Tony Chavis. "We will continue to seek additional charges and more arrests are expected."

According to Sheriff Chavis, patrol deputies were dispatched to a residence on Flat Creek Rd. at 11:30 p.m. on November 29. Patrol deputies found one victim, identified by Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee as Larry Moody, 55, of Darlington.

On December 28, sheriff's investigators assigned to the criminal investigations division arrested Darquan Larchelle Gattison, 26, of Darlington, at a residence on Wallflower Ln. without incident. Gattison has been charged with murder and his bond has been denied. Gattison remains in custody at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center. The South

Carolina Law Enforcement Division assisted in the investigation.

This case remains under investigation. If you have any information call (843) 398-4501 or Crime Stoppers of the Pee Dee at 1-888-CRIME-SC or visit www.p3tips.com. You do not have to reveal your identity to leave information.

Hartsville Area Home Invasion Investigation

Darlington County Sheriff's Patrol Deputies were dispatched to a residence on Primus Park Rd. in the Hartsville area of Darlington County at 11:27 p.m. Dec. 30 due to a home invasion suspect being inside of the residence with a gun and shots being fired. Patrol Deputies in the South Hartsville area were able to respond and capture one suspect inside the residence. It is believed a second suspect fled the scene and there is no available description of the second suspect.

Patrol Deputies arrested Curtis Roy Nelson of Lake City. Nelson is currently being held at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center.

www.p3tips.com. You do not have to reveal your identity to leave information.

Urgent need for blood donors

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood and platelet donors of all blood types to help address a winter blood donation shortage.

Severe winter weather has had a tremendous impact on blood donations already this

year, with more than 150 blood drives forced to cancel causing over 5,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. This is in addition to seasonal illnesses, such as the flu, and hectic holiday schedules collectively contributing

to more than 28,000 fewer donations than what was needed in November and December.

In South Carolina, 21 blood drives were forced to cancel or close early due to last week's winter storm, causing 625

donations to go uncollected.

How to help

Eligible donors can find a blood or platelet donation opportunity and schedule an appointment to donate by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-733-2767.

BOOKINGS REPORT

W. GLENN CAMPBELL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 29, 2017 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2018
INMATE NAME/AGE/BOOKING OFFENSE

Editor's note: The booking report represents a list of persons arrested given to the media from the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center under the S.C. Freedom of Information Act.

All people are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Please be advised there are many people with similar names.

If listed here erroneously, please contact the detention center, which will send us any corrections. If a person is found not guilty in a court of law, that person may have that printed here as well by providing court documents to us to that effect.

- Edward Marshall King Jr., 24, of 205 Divinity Rd, Darlington, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 2nd Off

- Brandon Hunter Lineberger, 26, of 218 Williams Rescue Rd, Indian Trail NC, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Driving Under the Influence

- Lora Jean McCaskill, 32, of 1105 Drew Drive, Darlington, Petty Larceny <\$2000

- Blake Lee Parks, 30, of 908 Wilkes Pond Road, Hartsville, Trespassing

- Robert Lee Robinson, 55, of 117 Duke Street, Lamar, Public Disorderly Conduct

- Darya Elizabeth Walker, 20, of 10118 Hanover Glen Rd, Charlotte NC, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st;

CHARGES

ABHAN: Assault and battery, high and aggravated nature

DUAC: Driving under unlawful alcohol concentration

DUI: Driving under the influence

DUS: Driving under suspension

CDV: Criminal domestic violence

CDVHAN: Criminal domestic violence, high and aggravated nature

PDC: Public disorderly conduct

PWID: Possession with intent to distribute

SPOM: Simple possession of marijuana

Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st

- Richard C Anderson, 64, of 403 Atlantic St, Darlington, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st

- Monroe McFarland Benjamin, 44, of 3924 New Hope Well Road, Darlington, Domestic Viol 2nd Degree

- Brittany Lorraine Corley, 32, of 408 S Warley St, Darlington, Use of 911 Number Unlawfully

- Johnny Legrand Munn, 54, of 1013 Rosepark Village, Hartsville, Driving Under the

Influence

- Curtis Roy Nelson, 48, of 1520 Victory Ln, Scranton, Burglary First Degree; Attempted Murder; Attempted Murder; Poss Firearm by Convicted Violent Felon; Discharging Firearms Into a Dwelling

- William James Squire, 62, of 330 Tillot Ave, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000; Shoplifting <\$2000

- Larry Alston Dennis, 19, of 1069 Timmonsville Hwy, Darlington, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st

- Robert Brennan Graham, 35, of 513 Bedford Ave Apt A, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000; Entering Premises After Warning

- Thomas George Hall II, 36, of 1324 Whyworry Dr, McBee, Domestic/Domestic Violence 3rd Degree

- Jamal Nicholas Lowery, 22, of 334 S Ham Road, Timmonsville, Unlawful Carrying of Weapon; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st

- Joseph Latrell Lewis McFadden, 22, of 211 N Hill St Apt A22, Timmonsville, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Giving False Information; Unlawful Carrying of Weapon

- Joseph Dylan McLain, 25, of 170 McLaughlin Lane, McBee, Driving Under the Influence; Driving Under Suspension; Trafficking Ice

Crank Crack >10 G but <28G 1st

- Eddie Lee Turner, 52, of 3208 Sand Oak Drive, McBee, General Sessions Bench Warrant; General Sessions Bench Warrant; Violation of City Ordinance

- Ray Kenneth Larymore Jr., 42, of 720 Wire Rd, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension; Driving Under the Influence

- Hykeem Ramel Mack, 23, of 402 Chestnut St, Darlington, Interference/Hindering Officers

- Anastasia Jamelle Robinson, 30, of 906 Amewood St, Hartsville, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st

- Richard Mangum, 32, of 3677 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Bethune, Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st

- Johnathan Blaze Avant, 17, of 429 Weaver St, Darlington, Petty Larceny <\$2000; Petty Larceny <\$2000

- Jamie Dorn Cleto, 32, of 221 Amberwood Drive, Darlington, Giving False Information; Driving Under Suspension; Speeding >10 But <15 MPH Over the Speed Limit

- Christopher Hubert Garris, 42, of 731 Howle Park St, Darlington, Petty Larceny <\$2000; Petty Larceny <\$2000

- Christopher Hubert Garris Jr., 17, of 1856 Candy Lane, Darlington, Petty Larceny <\$2000; Petty Larceny <\$2000

- Preston Montrey Harter, 25, of 300 Walker Court,

Latta, Violation of Probation (Used by PPP Only)

- Heather Renee Schooley, 39, of 182 Old Timer's Court, Hartsville, Domestic/Domestic Violence 3rd Degree

- Devin Deandre Bittle, 22, of 549 Plesant Rd, Cheraw, Driving Under Suspension; Manuf, Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st

- Jerome James Bonaparte, 50, of 100 Tedder St, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance

- Brad Olin Britt, 31, of 409 Racetrack Rd, Darlington, Domestic/Domestic Violence 3rd Degree

- De'Antre Lamont Cooks, 20, of 1030 E Home Ave, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000; Manuf Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st

- Shaquise Travon McFardland, 17, of 906 Amewood Street, Lydia, Manuf Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st

- Donald Breon Wright, 43, of 729 Tony James Rd, Hartsville, Violation of City Ordinance; Shoplifting Less Than \$50

- Jerod Alexander Cassidy, 18, of 2686 Flushing Coving Dr, Hartsville, Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st

- Frankie Lee Holloway, 57, of 116 Reid St, Darlington, Public Disorderly Conduct

- Mary Allison McKenzie, 17, of 640 Harlington Cir, Hartsville, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

- Weston Smith Privette, 36, of 921 Temmermae Dr,

Hartsville, Burglary First Degree

- Kendall Emanuel Williamson, 43, of 321 Dots Circle, Darlington, Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent >\$2000 <\$10,000; Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent >\$2000 <\$10,000; Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent >\$2000 <\$10,000; Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent <\$2000

- Bennie NMN Wilson, 21, of 321 Birdnest Rd, Hartsville, Driving Under the Influence

- Jason Brian Cooper, 35, of 2932 Cash Rd, Pamplico, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

- Kevin Michael Schafer, 26, of 5821 Middendorf Rd, Chesterfield, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

- James Hugh Wilhelm, Jr., 65, of 1227 Nicholson Rd, Hartsville, Driving Under the Influence

- Dyamond Rhomir Jacobs, 17, of 504 Wingate Dr, Hartsville, Carjacking w/o Great Bodily Harm; Carjacking w/o Great Bodily Harm; Poss of a Weapon During Violent Crime; Criminal Conspiracy; Armed Robbery Armed with Deadly Weapon; Armed Robbery Armed with Deadly Weapon

- Delia Shandrica Johnson, 28, of 2205 Sunnyfields Dr, Hartsville, Weekender

- Brooks Allen Tadlock, 51, of 120 Harmon Creek Dr, Lexington, Driving Under the Influence; Fail to Return Drivers License After Susp; Driving Under Suspension; Improper Vehicle License

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Tips to help realize your goals in the year ahead

At the dawn of a new year, many people set goals to motivate themselves to change. But as January 1 drifts further into the rearview mirror, it can be easy to settle into old habits and forget about the resolutions and goals established at the turn of the calendar.

Staying on course and achieving one's goals requires discipline. In addition to working hard, men and women who want to realize their goals in the year ahead can take several steps to increase their chances of being successful.

- Examine your priorities. Achieving goals is easier when their goals can be among your biggest priorities. Examine your priorities to determine if you can fully commit to goals that may require significant time commitments. Men and women who are already stretched thin may need to recalibrate their goals or make changes in other areas of their lives before they can fully commit to pursuing new goals.

- Be specific in regard to planning. Being specific when choosing goals is important, but it's equally important to be as specific as possible in regard to developing a plan to realize those goals. Before embarking on a journey to realize your goals, figure out how you're going to achieve them. Create a new daily or weekly schedule that allots time to realize your goals, seeking input from loved ones whose lives may be

affected by your new schedule.

- Make note of potential obstacles. Recognizing potential hurdles in advance of their appearance can help you overcome these obstacles and stay the course toward achieving your goals. For example, men and women hoping to lose weight can look ahead to occasions that might compromise their efforts, such as a loved one's wedding or backyard barbecue. Recognizing these obstacles in advance gives people a chance to develop a plan to overcome them. In the weight loss example, men and women can choose vegetarian options from reception menus or resolve to avoid alcohol, which tends to be high in calories.

- Start small, but start immediately. Lifestyle changes can be difficult, so make small changes initially and gradually work toward larger, more significant changes. Starting small can lay a successful foundation, but it's also important to start immediately. Procrastination can reduce the likelihood of achieving your goals, and the earlier you get started the more quickly you and your loved ones will adjust to the changes necessary to realize your goals.

The dawn of a new year is a great time to set new goals. Bringing those goals to fruition requires careful planning and commitment.

How to find time to exercise

A new year marks a great time to embrace change. Many people do just that by making resolutions designed to improve their lives in the year and years ahead.

Resolutions regarding personal health are annually among the most popular changes people hope to make at the dawn of a new year. In fact, a quick scan of annual lists citing the most popular resolutions found that pledges to eat healthier and exercise more can be found at or near the top of such lists.

Though such lists might not have been compiled using the most scientific of methods, it's no secret that getting healthier and looking better is a goal many people strive for upon the arrival of January 1. Unfortunately, a 2015 report from U.S. News & World Report suggested that 80 percent of resolutions fail, oftentimes as early as February. For those who don't just want but need to get healthier, failure to live up to a resolution to exercise more can have potentially devastating consequences.

If exercising more is a goal in the year ahead, the following are a few strategies to make that happen.

- Exercise in the early morning: As the day progresses, unforeseen challenges or forgotten commitments have a way of devouring time initially earmarked for exercise. Exercise first thing in the morning before any commitments to work and family hijack the time you have committed to exercising.



- Take on less responsibility: Professionals and parents often cite commitments to work and family as the primary reasons they aren't getting enough exercise. While those are perfectly reasonable excuses to skip a workout, men and women who recognize the long-term benefits of routine exercise may be compelled to take on less

responsibility at work while also making an effort to divvy up responsibilities at home more equitably.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ongoing exercise can reduce risk for cardiovascular disease, Type 2 Diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and some cancers. The CDC also notes that routine exercise strengthens

bones and muscles while improving mood. Taking on more responsibility at work might be great for your career, but that may prove a Pyrrhic victory if your long-term health is jeopardized. Parents can discuss with their spouse how to better share responsibilities at home so both moms and dads can get regular exercise.

- Embrace more efficient exercise routines: Rather than working a single muscle group at a time, which can be both time-consuming and boring, men and women can adapt their workout routines to focus on multi-muscle exercises. Work with a personal trainer to make your workout as efficient as possible.

- Schedule your routine each week: Each week is different, so while it may be ideal to establish a workout routine in which you exercise at the same time each day, that's not always going to be possible. Failing to exercise on a day you had intended to workout can compromise your motivation to workout in the future, so sit down at the beginning of each week to examine your commitments for the days ahead and schedule times to exercise in the next seven days. This can keep you on track and help you avoid the disappointment of missing a workout because life got in the way.

Finding time to exercise is not always so easy, but even the busiest men and women can likely still include workouts in their daily routines

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Cornelius Bush Date of Death: 5/13/2017 Case No: 2017ES1600340 Personal Representative: Corinthian Bush Address: 1140 Candy Lane, Florence, SC 29501 Attorney: Everett Keith Chandler Address: 103 Waterloo Street, Aiken, SC 29801 (24p3 leave in thru 1-10-18)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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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: Gloria Jean Stegner Date of Death: 12/11/2017 Case No: 2017ES1600591 Personal Representative: Lawrence E. Stegner Address: 1001 Bethlehem Road, Hartsville, SC 29550 Attorney: Albert L James, III Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540 (25c3 leave in thru 1-17-18)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

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

C/A NO. 2017-CP-16-1009 Filed Dec. 27, 2017 Road/Route US 401 Bridge Replacement Over Jefferies Creek Project ID No. 0036261 Tract 9 South Carolina Department of Transportation Condemnor, VS. Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Landowner(s), and C. C. Kirby, Jr., Taxpayer, Other Condemnee(s), and

Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Landowner(s), and C. C. Kirby, Jr., Taxpayer, Other Condemnee(s), and

John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Unknown Claimant(s). TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANT(S) ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., the within Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, has been filed with the Clerk of Court for Darlington County. The purpose of this lawsuit is to enable the Condemnor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, to acquire certain real property for its public purposes, as is more fully stated in the attached Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment. Responsive pleadings to the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment are not necessary. BY: Attorney for Condemnor (SCDOT) Andrew F. McLeod 222 Market Street Cheraw, S.C. 29520 Telephone: 843-537-5204 Cheraw, South Carolina December 21, 2017

LIS PENDENS SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

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

C/A NO. 2017-CP-16-1009 Filed Dec. 27, 2017 Road/Route US 401 Bridge Replacement Over Jefferies Creek Project ID No. 0036261 Tract 9 South Carolina Department of Transportation Condemnor, VS. Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Landowner(s), and C. C. Kirby, Jr., Taxpayer, Other Condemnee(s), and

John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Unknown Claimant(s). NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Condemnor above named pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, has brought an action against the Condemnee(s) above named to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes, to-wit: All that parcel or strip of land in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, containing 0.014 acre (631 square feet) of land, more or less, and being described as follows: Within 75 feet of the survey centerline at US 401, on the right, between approximate survey stations 298+33.37 and 298+50. Tax Map Number 129-00-01-005 The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of a section of US 401 Bridge Replacement Over Jefferies Creek. BY: Attorney for Condemnor (SCDOT) Andrew F. McLeod 222 Market Street Cheraw, S.C. 29520 Telephone: 843-537-5204 Cheraw, South Carolina December 21, 2017

NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI

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

C/A NO. 2017-CP-16-1009 Filed Dec. 27, 2017 Road/Route US 401 Bridge Replacement Over Jefferies Creek Project ID No. 0036261 Tract 9 South Carolina Department of Transportation Condemnor, VS.

Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Landowner(s), and C. C. Kirby, Jr., Taxpayer, Other Condemnee(s), and

John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Ruth Graddy Kirby (AKA) Ruth G. Barham, deceased, Unknown Claimant(s). TO: THE CONDEMNEE(S) OR CLAIMANT(S) HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS OR UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the order appointing Rodney C. Jernigan, Jr., Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, Condemnee(s) herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors or under other legal disability, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Dillon County.

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone on their behalf or on behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or any of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the Condemnor will apply for an order making the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi absolute. BY: Attorney for Condemnor (SCDOT) Andrew F. McLeod 222 Market Street Cheraw, S.C. 29520 Telephone: 843-537-5204 Cheraw, South Carolina December 21, 2017 (25c3 leave in thru 1-17-18)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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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: Jacqueline D Lane Date of Death: 11/27/2017 Case No: 2018ES1600002 Personal Representative: Gordon Scott Lane Address: 1026 Edgewood Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550 (26p3 leave in thru 1-24-18)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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NOTICE OF SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2016-CP-16-00127

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, v. Charlie Mae Highland, I, the undersigned Special Referee for Darlington County, will sell on February 6, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. at the Darlington County Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, South Carolina to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the proposed buildings and improvements thereon being designated as Lots 7 and 8 of the Carrie Kennedy Highland Subdivision as shown on plat prepared for Charlie Mae Highland dated September 27, 1993 by J. E. Tucker, Jr recorded in Plat Book 150 at Page 185 and being bounded and measuring as follows: NORTH: By Old Road a distance of 125.00 feet; EAST: By a 25' foot wide road (undeveloped) a distance of 100.00 feet; SOUTH: By property of Claretta Thomas, Lot 9, a distance of 125.00 feet; WEST: By property now or formerly of Robert J. and Ella M. Rogers a distance of 100.00 feet. This being the same property conveyed to Charlie Mae Highland by Deed of Carrie Kennedy Thomas Highland dated December 30, 1983, and recorded on February 6, 1984, in said Register's Office in Deed book 866 at Page 619. TMS No.: 058-02-01-008 Property Address: 427 Primus Park Road, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550 SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, DARLINGTON COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee for Darlington County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to cost and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee for Darlington County may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). For complete terms of sale, attention is drawn to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Order for Sale on file with the Clerk of Court for Darlington County. A personal deficiency judgment being waived, bidding will not remain open. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 6.500% per annum. Should the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent fail to appear on

sales day, the property shall not be sold, but shall be re-advertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent is present. Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property. Purchaser is responsible for the preparation and filing of their deed. W. Haigh Porter Special Referee for Darlington County HARRRELL, MARTIN & PEACE, P.A. Donald W. Tyler #5664 Taylor A. Peace #100206 135 Columbia Avenue, PO Box 1000 Chapin, SC 29036 (803) 345-3353 ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF (26c3 leave in thru 1-24-18)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE: GUARDIAN AD LITEM and FILING

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Case No.: 2017-LP-16-207 Sammie Coe, Jr., Plaintiff, vs. Godley Auction Company, Inc., and John Doe and Richard Roe as all persons claiming a right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the Complaint herein, including, but not limited to any unknown owners, or any person, under disability or persons in the military service designating in a class as John Doe and Richard Roe as to property Designated as Darlington County Tax Map No. 166-00-02-070 Defendants. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an action has been hereby commenced and is now pending in the Darlington County Court of Common Pleas in regards to an Amended Summons and Amended Complaint filed on July 21, 2017. Said parcel that is the subject of this action, was at the time of the commencement of this action, and at the time of the filing of this notice, situate in Darlington County and described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land identified as a portion of Tract No. "1" as identified on a plat prepared by Ervin Engineering Co., dated January 10, 1990 and recorded in the office of the Darlington County Clerk of Court in Plat Book 126, at page 159 on January 24, 1990. According to the terms of said plat, said parcel is bounded as follows, now or formerly: on the north by the remainder of Tract No. "1" on said plat, for an indeterminate distance; on the east by property of Coe, for a distance of 150.45 feet; on the south by State Route S-16-179 (McIver Road), for a distance of 740.82 feet; and on the west by property of Jeffrey, for a distance of 149.93 feet. See above-captioned plat for a more particular description. This being a portion of the same property conveyed to Defendant Godley Auction Company, Inc. by Deed of Linda S. Lombard, dated January 24, 1990 and recorded in the office of the Darlington County Clerk of Court in Book 986, at page 136 on same. TMS # 166-00-02-070 Darlington, South Carolina 29501 PARKER E. HOWLE S.C. Bar No. 77878 Attorney for Plaintiff 88 Public Square Darlington, SC 29532 Tel.: (843) 395-1519 Fax: (843) 393-0342 (26c3 leave in thru 1-24-18)



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classifieds

JANUARY 10, 2018 | PAGE 5B
THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.

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CHIEF OF POLICE CITY OF DARLINGTON

The City of Darlington is accepting resumes for the position of Police Chief until 5:00 p.m. on Monday January 22, 2018. Candidates should have a proven track record and strong credentials in law enforcement. Candidates should have strong communication, public relations, and leadership skills.

The prospective candidate must have diverse exposure to all aspects of municipal law enforcement management, with experience and competency in management and direction of police personnel, policy and procedure development, administration, and program implementation.

The Chief will be a key member of the City's management team and will require excellent communication skills, the ability to perform well under pressure and the ability to develop and maintain credibility and trust with the city staff, community and other law enforcement agencies. The Chief must be a decisive leader who is willing to collaborate with the staff while remaining responsible and accountable for final decisions. The Chief must have highly developed professional knowledge and skills, maturity of judgment, strong personal leadership, high ethical standards and the ability to communicate effectively with the organization. The Chief of Police is appointed by and reports to the City Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelors degree from accredited college or university in criminal justice, public or business administration or related field, preferred. Ten years experience in a municipal law enforcement agency with three to five years supervisory experience and a valid South Carolina's Driver's License. Salary will be based on experience with excellent benefits and state retirement. The City of Darlington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Resumes of interested candidates should be received before 5:00 p.m. on Monday January 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Resumes should be sent to:

Mr. Howard Garland, City Manager
P.O. Box 57,
Darlington, SC 29540

Smith Mini Storage and Palmetto Mini Storage

843-395-0301 OR 843-601-1078
**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT UNDERSIGNED WILL SELL TO SATISFY THE LIEN OF OWNER AT PUBLIC SALE. COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE FOLLOWING UNITS WILL BE:

January 20, 2018
121 W. SMITH AVE. - 10 A.M.
725 WEAVER ST. - 10:30 A.M.

- KIMBERELY MERCHANT - P34
- TASHA LOWERY - P17
- QUANSHIA BLAKNEY - C26
- DIONNE BOATWRIGHT - H63
- DANIELLE KEITH - P36
- KIM RIVAS - P54
- WILBUR THOMAS - P15
- JOSHUA DURANT - E39
- MARY PERREAUE - D34
- SHEHCORWH SMITH - 177
- SHANA LUCKY- P27A - P28B
- JESSICA GREEN - P26
- STACIE EVANS - C23
- KATHY CHARLES - B30
- TONIQUA SMITH - C60
- FREDRIANNA WASHINGTON - B10

SMITH MINI STORAGE AND PALMETTO MINI STORAGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WITHDRAW ANY ITEM FROM THE SALE. CASH SALE ONLY! ALL ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE. SALE IS SUBJECT TO ADJOURNMENT. SALE WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.

SMITH AND PALMETTO MINI STORAGE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED WILL SELL TO SATISFY THE LIEN OF OWNERS' PROPERTY AT A PUBLIC SALE /AUCTION. SMITH AND PALMETTO STORAGE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BIDS AND CAN WITHDRAW ANY ITEMS FROM THE SALE. CASH ONLY. ALL ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED AT THE TIME OF THE SALE. (39-20-45)

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NEW LISTING

616 W. Smith Avenue—Brick home with 1,461 sq ft of living area. Home sits on 1.70 acres of land. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Large open kitchen. Tile floors in kitchen and dining room. Stainless steel appliances. Beautiful hardwood floors in living room and bedrooms. Mud room and laundry room not included in sq ft. 1 car attached carport with storage area. Large workshop. **\$137,900**

829 Cashua Ferry Rd—Well maintained brick home with 1,010 sq ft. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Large living room. Kitchen with pantry. New vinyl thermo windows. 2 car attached carport. Beautiful corner lot with irrigation system. **Priced to sell @ \$99,900**

RESIDENTIAL

2200 Lides Springs Rd—3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,066 sq ft **\$249,900**
4818 Lullwater Drive—3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,066 sq ft—**\$209,900**
122 Columbian St—3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,608 sq ft **\$165,000 REDUCED**
121 Woodcreek Rd—3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2,000 sq ft—**\$174,900**
485 Anderson Drive—3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1,967 sq ft, inground pool—**\$159,900**
4854 Lullwater Dr—3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1,460 sq ft—**\$139,900**

1700 Cashua Ferry Rd—3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2,000 sq ft **\$129,900**
3221 Winding Way Dr, Florence—3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,248 sq ft—**\$116,900**
1197-G Waxwing Drive, Florence—2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,450 sq ft—**\$112,000**
421 Spring St—2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 964 sq ft—**\$62,900**
2381 Green Street Road—2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,937 sq ft—**\$59,900**
443 Phillips Street—792 sq ft 3 bedrooms and 1 bath—**\$49,900**

LAND AND LOTS

Bobo Newsome Hwy (Hwy 101)—22.9 acres of wooded land. **\$66,700**
Lot K, Jeffords Mill—60 acres of wooded land. **\$12,000**
621 Delaware River Rd—47 acre lot, fenced with septic tank **\$13,500**

Redwood Drive—Nice lot located off of McIver Road. 92 acres—**\$10,000.00**
motivated seller make an offer
West McIver Rd—50 acres of wooded lot—**\$50,000.00**

COMMERCIAL

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

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

1110 Lamar Hwy—2,299 sq ft bld currently used as a barber shop. Separate office and workshop with roll up door in rear bld. **\$60,000**
To view these properties visit www.pamsherrill.net

PAM T. SHERRILL

BIC/Owner/Auctioneer SCAL#3103 - Cell: 339-7505

CASEY RHEUARK Realtor 843-307-4035
JESSICA EVANS Realtor 843-206-4187

CHARLES WATSON Appraiser CR-2868 Cell: 245-3103
JENNIFER BYRD Realtor 843-495-3630

HOMES FOR RENT

2115 Green St. Road, Large 4 bedroom, brick house w/2 1/2 baths approx. 10 minutes from town, c/h/a, stove, refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook-up, \$650.00/deposit, \$650.00/rent, call 843-393-8084. 26ctfn

208 Dutton Lane - 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, stove & refrigerator provided, laundry area, c/h/a, \$550.00/deposit, \$550.00 rent, call 843-393-8084 26ctfn

Microhome, 674 Stanley Circle, 1 BD Furnished w/utilities included, \$450/mo., 843-393-7545 6ctfn

409 Eastburn Ct., 3 BD, 2 BA Brick home, \$625.00/mo., 843-393-7545 22ctfn

916 Pearl St. - Large 3 or 4 bedroom home w/ 2 full baths, stove & refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook up, central heat & air, double carport, \$650.00/deposit, \$650.00/rent, call 843-393-8084 24ctfn

2357 Welling Farm Road, One bedroom furnished microhome with utilities, Large landscaped lot, \$425.00/month, 843-393-7545 24ctfn

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

605 East Broad Street, Two bedroom apartment, \$300.00/ month, 843-393-7545 24ctfn

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

1309 Myrtlewood Drive - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment approximately 10 minutes from town, stove & refrigerator provided, washer/dryer hook up, \$450.00/deposit, \$450.00/rent, call (843)393-8084 21ctfn

MOBILE HOME LOTS

LOT ONLY, Mobile Home lot with 3 sides privacy, circular drive, city water, 843-395-9687 8ctfn

Harry Byrd Highway, Call 843-319-5284 for more details 5ctfn

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Struggling with DRUGS or ALCOHOL? Addicted to PILLS? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope & Help Line for a free assessment. 866-604-6857

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! We have recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 855-669-2515

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

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Game: (SC882) LUCKY LOOT

Social Security Disability? Up to \$2,671/mo. (Based on paid-in amount.) FREE evaluation! Call Bill Gordon & Associates. 1-800-614-3945. Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., member TX/NM Bar.

DENTAL INSURANCE. Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7030 or <http://www.dental50plus.com/60> Ad#6118

AUCTIONS
ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

EDUCATION
AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING - Get FAA certification to

fix planes. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-367-2513

HELP WANTED
Looking for a new career for the New Year? The S.C. Department of Corrections is Currently Hiring Statewide: Correctional Officers, RN's and LPN's, Mental Health Techs, Grounds Maintenance, Facilities Management, Teachers, Chaplains, Trades Specialists. Contact Us Today: 803-734-JOBS. www.doc.sc.gov

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

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

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

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Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic

Answers from 2B

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SC National Guard to host resource fair

A Military Career and Resource Fair will be held Jan. 10 at the Florence Armory, 400 South Greer Road in Florence. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Veterans, Active/Retired Service Members and Family Members are invited to connect with local employers, state agencies, and organizations that provide employment and military / veteran services.

Meet with Service Member & Family Care representatives in the following areas:

Employment, VA Benefits, Behavioral Health, ID Cards, ESGR, Family Assistance, Health & Wellness, Financial & Legal Guidance, Education. It is hosted by SC National Guard Service Member & Family Care. For more information, email Dangelo.Brisbon@sebapro.com or call 803.299.1583.

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AUCTION: Tuesday, January 23 at 2 p.m.

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Celebrity Dancer Becky Askins-Weaver and her partner Brian Mezzo Forte. Photo by Steve Roos



Celebrity Dancer Cliff "Bones" Jones with his partner Shantella Harris. Photo by Steve Roos

Dancing with the Stars of Darlington County: Meet the Dancers

It's almost time again to hit the dance floor. Dancing With the Stars of Darlington County, an annual charity event benefiting the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault, will be staged once again at the Center Theater in Hartsville. The event will take place January 25, 2018.

To follow along with the training and get updates on the event, visit them on Facebook and on their website at www.darlingtoncountydancing-withthestars.com. The community can also vote for their favorite couple to win the People's Choice Award.

Each week until the big night, we will introduce two couples in the News and Press.

This week's couples are:

- Brian Forte (Professional) & Becky Askins-Weaver (Celebrity) Dance Style: Quickstep; Broadway Show: Jersey Boys (Choreographer: Burnadene Kelley-Newman)

- Shantella Harris (Pro) & Cliff Jones (Celebrity) Dance Style: Rhumba; Broadway Show: West Side Story (Choreographer: Shantella Harris)

Professional Dancer Brian Mezzo Forte is a Hartsville native, writer, producer, director, comedian, and owner of MezzoForte Restaurant and Playhouse in downtown Hartsville. A love of theater, music, and the arts, along with a supportive community, led Brian to write, produce, cast and direct his own play at the Center Theater in Hartsville as early as 15 years old. After

graduating HHS, Brian attended Coker College majoring in Musical Theater and there received extensive training in music, theater, and dance, as well as, writing and producing, all of which he is currently doing today. Last year Brian moved back to his hometown and teamed up with his mother on a joint venture that is one part upscale soul food and one part black box theater known as MezzoForte Restaurant and Playhouse. In addition to being an entertainer and business owner, as well as, social media "maverick" (see his Facebook live posts and podcast), Brian also serves as mentor/advisor of Living Out Loud Youth, a non-profit youth group that mentors through the arts.

"DWTS of Darlington County and the Pee Dee Coalition are great partners that allow me the opportunity to put my talents to good use," says Brian. Brian has also had the privilege of working with the Pee Dee Coalition as director of Escaped to Tell, an independent film chronicling the life of a sexual abuse and domestic violence victim.

Celebrity Dancer Becky Askins-Weaver is the VP of Sales and Operations at Integrated Systems, a robotic automation company in Darlington, having been with the company for 11 years. Prior to that, she worked at the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Foundation and has also owned her own construction company. She is a native of Hartsville and is active in her community, serving on numerous boards including the

Community Foundation for a Better Hartsville, the GSSM Accelerate Corporate Advisory Board and the Black Creek Arts Council. She has previously served on the Darlington County Economic Development Board, Coker Cobra Club Board, Hartsville Country Club Board and the Building Committee at Wesley United Methodist Church. She is a past member of the Thursday Study Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club, having served as its President. Becky has two children - Alexis, 23 and Mac, 17. She enjoys playing tennis, traveling, making jewelry and taking photos. Becky is passionate about the mission of the Pee Dee Coalition and urges everyone to contribute so that women and children who find themselves in unhealthy or dangerous relationships have the necessary support they need to break free.

Burnadene Kelley-Newman is the owner and director of KFA which is currently celebrating its 29th year. She began her dance education at the age of six. Her natural talent and passion for dance was discovered and continued through high school and college. She received a BA in Dance, as well as, a BA in Elementary Education from Columbia College. Her special training includes not only dance but cheerleading, runway, print and commercial modeling, theatre, and music (both instrumental and vocal). Burnadene is a certified member of Dance Masters of America. Since KFA's beginning, some of her accomplishments and awards include:

Business Women of the Year, Who's Who Among Business Professionals, serving on the South Carolina Dance Colloquium, the I.V. League honor of distinction for Innerviews Magazine, TV 13's Pee Dee Hero Award, and receiving the honor of a sponsorship for the first studio Chapter in South Carolina for the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. She is also the former director of the Phantom Dance Team and was the choreographer and director of the AIFA Championship halftime shows for 2007 and 2008. She has enjoyed choreographing with the Florence Little Theater in 2009 for their production of Peter Pan, in 2014 for the Wizard of Oz, and in 2015 for Mary Poppins.

Mrs. Burnadene served as the 2010/2011 head cheer coach for the FMU Patriots cheerleaders and directed the "Vipettes", the dance team for the PeeDee Vipers basketball team 2013-2015. She has served as a performer for Clarendon DWTS, Cheraw DWTS, and Florence DWTS. She has been the director of choreography for Florence DWTS since its beginning in 2011. She also has directed the Cheraw DWTS, Lee County DWTS and Kershaw County DWTS and is presently a choreographer for the Darlington DWTS. Burnadene is not only the owner and director of KFA but also the founder of the KFA Dance Company who is well known in the state of South Carolina and beyond. She has 7 studio locations - Florence, Lake City, Turbeville, Bishopville, Hartsville, Camden and Cheraw,

and has taught dance to thousands of students, some of which are children of former students. Burnadene is very active in the local community as well as the dance world at large. She has taken her students to perform in places such as Las Vegas, New York City, MGM studios, Carnival, Royal Caribbean cruise lines, the Orange Bowl, the Gator Bowl, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, Universal Studios, Disney, and many more. She has received numerous top choreographer, teacher, and director awards. Mrs. Burnadene and her KFA dancers have provided the entertainment for the Miss South Carolina pageant, the AIFA National Halftime, Harlem Globetrotters, and many halftime shows for college basketball games. Most recently Miss Burnadene was featured in an article "Dances on Demand" in the September issue of Dance Studio Life Magazine. She and her dancers have recently been a part of a dance movie called "One Family", featuring studios from around the US and Canada. Mrs. Burnadene resides in Florence with her husband, Sid, and they are the proud parents of five children.

Professional Dancer Shantella Harris is a lifelong resident of Florence where she lives with her husband Herbert and their children, Miya (10), Sean (6), and Robyn (5). Shantella loves to travel, be outdoors, and is learning to ride a motorcycle. She is the Owner and Creative Director of Driven by Dance Studio in Quinby, SC. Shantella is a certified dance

instructor with over 20 years of experience as both a dancer and dance instructor ranging from African, Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and Liturgical Dance. Shantella is honored to be a part of an event with such a meaningful cause.

Celebrity Dancer Cliff "Bones" Jones, a Hartsville native, is the Senior Vice President of Bullard Restaurant Group. He is also a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church. Cliff is married to Beth Jones, and they have two teenage children, Kira and Noah. Cliff is involved with the Hartsville Area Recreation Department sponsoring, coaching, and playing on teams each year. Cliff has served as a team captain with the Darlington County Relay for Life and is currently serving on the 2017-2018 Darlington County Relay for Life leadership team. He is active with the Florence Little Theatre and has been in six different shows since 2015 and won the Debut Award in the 2015-2016 season. Cliff currently plays in the Roy Hobbs adult baseball league in Myrtle Beach and was selected to the Myrtle Beach All Star Team in 2015. He finished with two first place awards in the Black Creek Arts Center Carolinas Photography competition in 2009 and his photography was on display at the Hartsville Memorial Library as the featured artist of the month. Cliff is honored to have been asked to participate in this event and hopes to inspire his children to take part in worthy causes such as this in the future.

Coker College re-opens scholarship applications for June 2018 M.ED. Cohorts

Coker College is now accepting applications for the Excellence in Teaching Scholarship, open to all educators in South Carolina who have been named Teacher of the Year and wish to pursue a Master's of Education at Coker College. The scholarship applies to all past and current Teachers of the Year, and it offers the final term of their graduate coursework at no cost. One outstanding teacher will also be offered a full scholarship for their entire graduate education.

The Master of Education in Literacy Studies at Coker was developed in response to the needs of S.C. teachers.

"Coker College decided to offer this program because educators in the area expressed a need and desire to develop a greater understanding of how to create effective learning

environments that reach the individual needs of their students," says Karen Carpenter, Dean of the Wiggins School of Education, Coker College. "Educators recognize the vital role strong literacy skills play in a child's school and life success. Teachers in the program examine and research effective literacy strategies and use the knowledge they gain to conduct action-based research."

Carpenter says the scholarships are important for recognizing great educators in South Carolina.

"The Excellence in Teaching scholarship was designed to honor and recognize teachers' commitment and passion for teaching and learning. This scholarship was founded on the belief that dedicated and innovative teachers should be recognized and provides the opportunity for Coker College

to give back to the community," she said.

The Literacy Studies degree is a hybrid program, with 12 online and in-person classes. This course of study can be completed in seven six-week terms. There is also an option to receive a Literacy Coach add-on with two additional classes. This schedule allows full-time teachers to work while earning their master's degree.

Coker also offers Excellence in Teaching scholarships for the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instructional Technology.

The M.Ed. in Literacy Studies term begins in June 2018 and scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2018.

To learn more about the Excellence in Teaching scholarship visit coker.edu/excellence-teaching-scholarship.

6th Annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo

The 6th annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo will be held January 17-18 at the newly remodeled Florence Civic Center. At this exceptional event, SC AgriBiz brings together the best in Agriculture—Education, Connecting and Innovation—all rooted in tradition and thriving through innovation.

The Expo begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday with a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast, followed by keynote speaker Boone Peeler, newly appointed USDA, FSA Executive Director. The day is filled with educational programming, visiting exhibitors and connecting with leading agriculturalist. Programming is available for field crop farmers, fruit and vegetable producers and women in ag. Dr. Nate Smith, a national renowned Clemson Economist and his

team will feature the "Ag Outlook and Marketing Session". The day concludes with the "Taste of SC", beginning at 6:15 p.m., an outstanding southern culture experience to tasting the finest foods produced in SC.

The SC Commissioner of Ag Breakfast kicks off at 8 a.m. on Thursday with another opportunity to learn more about SC agriculture and the 2018 ag outlook. Keynote speaker, Mary Kay Thatcher with the American Farm Bureau, will bring an update from Washington, DC on the forthcoming Farm Bill. The day continues with outstanding educational sessions presented by two nationally renowned speakers Dr. Ron Heining with NC State University and Kevin Matthews discussing field crops and how to generate

increased yields. Their sessions are titled Soybeans that Yield Like Corn - Starting Right and Finishing Strong and Amazing Corn Yields - Achieving the Impossible by Meeting Plant Needs. Thursday's Expo schedule also includes the highly endorsed vegetable production classes led by Extension Specialist Tony Melton and a Women in Ag session. The Expo will provide many opportunities to connect with exhibitors and ag leaders.

Daily admission and parking to the AgriBiz and Farm Expo is FREE. The Taste of South Carolina tickets are available for \$25 and Commissioner's Breakfast tickets may be purchased for \$35 each. For more information about the expo or to purchase tickets, visit www.SCAgriBizExpo.com