



News & Press

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

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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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WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

County debuts new judicial center designs

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
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Darlington County Council met Oct. 2 to review preliminary conceptual designs for a new \$14 million judicial center.

As depicted in artist renderings and floor plans from engineering and design firm Michael Baker International, the new 38,000-square-foot building would feature improved security for judges and court personnel with a separate entrance and exit, gated parking lot and sequestered office space.

A sally port (for loading and unloading detainees from vehicles) and a secured detention

area would keep prisoners making court appearances safely apart from judges, attorneys, jurors, witnesses and court employees.

Darlington County administrator Charles Stewart said the building will hold five judges' offices, each with an administrative area and restrooms. Three specific elevators will serve judges, criminal detainees and the public. He noted that this will end long-standing concerns about citizens randomly encountering prisoners while in transit.

"This is a separation that we cannot achieve without installing two additional elevators in our current courthouse facility," said Stewart.

General Sessions court

would take place on the first floor. Stewart said this main courtroom would be "the same size you already have in the current building."

On the second floor, a main courtroom and separate waiting areas for family court would keep contentious parties away from each other prior to their hearings. Two auxiliary courtrooms on this floor could host family court, civil court, grand juries or other such proceedings.

The proposed judicial center site on North Main Street (in front of the Historical Commission) includes 46 new public parking spaces.

JUDICIAL CENTER ON 3A



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

Rivals in mayor's race make their pitch



The Democratic Women's Council of Darlington County sponsored a "Meet & Greet" event for candidates for Darlington city offices last Thursday at Bethel AME Annex, 1321 S. Main St. All candidates were given a few minutes to introduce themselves and talk about their goals. Attending were the three candidates for mayor, Mayor Gloria Hines (left), City Council member and mayor pro tem Carolyn Bruce (middle), and businessman Curtis Boyd (right). Also present were four candidates for at-large City Council seats: Incumbent council members Bryant Gardner and John Milling and challengers Ernest Boston, Howard Nettles and Winfred Herrington. The election is Nov. 5. (More photos, 3A.) PHOTOS BY BOBBY BRYANT

'We have strong people': McMaster honors officers on anniversary of tragedy

From Staff Reports

"It takes a strong man or woman to put his or her life on the line for their fellow man," S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster said last week in a Florence ceremony honoring two police officers — one of them a Darlington resident — who were killed a year ago.

McMaster was one of sever-

al officials who spoke at Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center on Oct. 3, the one-year anniversary of the Florence County police ambush that killed Sgt. Terrence Carraway and Investigator Farrah Turner and wounded five other officers.

ANNIVERSARY ON 3A

Council to plan city parks' future

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

Darlington City Council and the county Recreation Department will meet to plan a course for the future of the city's parks and to consider how to tie them together with a system of trails, council agreed last week.

"You're going to have to connect these parks," Recreation Director Lee Andrews told council during its Oct. 1 meeting. "You're

going to have to do a trail system. You're going to have to do something along that line to draw people into wanting to use these, wanting to visit these parks."

"We've got to do something that's going to say, 'Come visit us,'" Andrews said.

He said that at some point — with luck — the property where Brunson-Dargan Elementary School now sits could play into the city's parks plans. The school is

being phased out; next year, its students will attend a new school that's being built next to Cain Elementary School. Cain's students also will be absorbed into the yet-unnamed new facility.

"As recreation director for Darlington County," Andrews said, "I do not think that we can have enough places for kids, adults, seniors, whatever, to go out and enjoy themselves. ... From the beginning, from 2013 to now, we have talked about a hundred

different things. What I would like to do is sit down with some of y'all and let's put a plan together on exactly what we're going to do.

"So we can work toward that, so I'm not getting a piece from this one and a piece from this one, and then we're trying to go in a hundred different directions and nothing's being finished."

"Let's put a plan together," Andrews told council.

CITY COUNCIL ON 3A

In Darlington County and statewide, SAT scores dip ...

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
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The latest SAT scores for public high-school students in Darlington County show a dip compared to last year's results — but the county school district is

far from alone.

New SAT scores throughout the Pee Dee are mostly down from last year, and average scores for virtually all of South Carolina's public schools reportedly are down from last year's numbers. Why is this happening? Because many more students took the test this time, officials say.

About 30 percent more high-school students — roughly 6,000 more — took the college-preparatory SAT this year than last, the state Education

Department says. The state paid for the tests this time and allowed students to take the SAT during the regular school day instead of the weekend.

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a statement: "This year we ... saw an unprecedented number of students taking the SAT, many of whom would not have had the opportunity had the state not made the decision two years ago to cover its cost."

SAT SCORES ON 3A

... But state 'report cards' show gains throughout school district

The S.C. Department of Education released school and district report cards last week, and the data indicate that Darlington County School District students made gains in many areas, the district said in a news release.

Education Superintendent Tim Newman said end-of-year testing from the 2018-19 school year shows clear improvements in the district's student achievement.

"I am pleased that the state's measurements, as

reflected in the annual report cards, show the hard work that our teachers and administrators are doing to help our students be more successful," Newman said in a statement.

"I am confident that the internal systems we have put into place to monitor student achievement and growth throughout the year are confirming the true successes in our classrooms. The intentional focus we have on daily teaching produces data on a regular basis that allows us to

monitor and adjust our practices to meet the needs of our students. As part of our internal measurements, we're looking at the actual scores on these tests to determine the growth shown by our students."

The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessments (SC Ready) are statewide assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

REPORT CARDS ON 3A





The Pee Dee's Oldest
Independently
Owned Newspaper

opinion

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Word of the Week

redound - to become transferred or added

Merriam-Webster.com

OCTOBER 9, 2019 | PAGE 2A

THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



The Whistleblower's Whistle



OP-ED

In praise of October

By Bill Shepard

The goldenrod is yellow;
the corn is turning brown;
the trees in apple orchards
with fruit are bending
down.

-- Helen Jackson

The morns are meeker than
they were,
the nuts are getting brown;
the berry's cheek is
plumper;

the rose is out of town.

-- Emily Dickinson

Both poets speak to the
sentiments of the moment.
The long and hot summer
days are getting noticeably
shorter. Summer is winding
down and the feeling of
autumn is in the air. It seems
such a short time ago that we
were experiencing the birth of
spring and rejoicing that the
cold and bleak winter was
past.

October is knocking at the
door. By the time you are
reading this article, she might
already be inside. She will be
a welcome visitor, although
her stay will be for a short
time.

Autumn, prelude to fall,
casts a change over the world
about us. Feelings change;
sights and sounds are different.
The bark of a dog, even
the rumbling sound of a
freight train in the distance,
takes on a different sound.

My mama used to say that

it was a lonesome time of year.
When I asked why, she
replied, "Everything is dying."
And so it is. Here in the
Upstate, the leaves are begin-
ning to show hints of fall. That
may be partly due to the long
dry spell we are experiencing,
but fall is here and change is
taking place.

Every morning my porch is
littered with acorns that have
fallen from the big oak where
the squirrels have been at
work. They can be seen busy
at their work, jumping from
limb to limb and tree to tree.
They know that summer is
gone and soon the winter season
will arrive. Their instincts
tell them to be prepared! If I
am wise, I too will make some
preparations.

Down in my garden, what
is left of it, I spotted a small
watermelon that looked as
though it was hiding among
the pea vines. It's doubtful
that it will grow to maturity
before Jack Frost arrives to
shorten its life. What a pity!
The leaves have already fallen
from the black walnut tree
that stands on the edge of my
garden. Their absence reveals
the walnuts that have sur-
vived the dry spell and are still
hanging on their limbs.

Now the question is "Will
they survive the squirrels that
are beginning to store their
food for the winter?"

If the deer would hold off a
few more weeks, I might could
gather a mess of late peas, but

each morning when I go to my
garden, I see signs they are
not doing that.

The scarecrow I placed at
the end of the row isn't work-
ing. I even tried placing a
radio in the garden and allow-
ing it to play all night, but that
didn't work either.

My blueberries are gone
but the muscadine are ripen-
ing. So far the raccoons from
the woods nearby haven't
found them. I'll be lucky if
they don't. One mouth of the
muscadine and I'm a boy
again. Strange how a frag-
rance, sound or taste can
send one's mind on a senti-
mental journey.

I spent a lot of Sunday
afternoons in the top of a
spreading oak tree, eating
wild muscadine. What fun
that was! Harmon Baldwin's
father could step out into the
narrow street that ran past his
house and whistle loudly;
immediately, boys would spill
out of their houses and follow
him to the nearby woods.

We felt safe and secure in
his company and knew we
were in for a beautiful outing
among nature. In the spring-
time we would search for wild
plums ripening along the edge
of the forest, but in the fall our
minds were on the wild grapes
hiding in the tops of the tall
trees. Thank you, Mr.
Baldwin, for giving of your
time so that lasting memories
could be made.

The first ripe mountain



apples are appearing at the
roadside stands and soon will
be joined by yellow pumpkins
and stalks of blue ribbon sug-
arcane. I'd better not start
down that lane of memories.
I'll save that trip for another
time.

The Darlington Sweet
Potato Festival is another
reminder of the ending of
summer and the beginning
of fall. My mouth waters when
I read about all the goodies
available at that festival.

Yes, summer has slipped
away and fall is here - at least
by the calendar on the wall.
That evidence is backed up by
signs appearing all around.

Changes can be seen all about
us. We can add to that list
things like hay drying in the
fields where it has been cut
and baled; small patches of
turnip greens, mustard salad
and collards in yards here and
there; and squirrels busy gather-
ing acorns.

And if all of that is not
enough, visit your nearest
shopping malls and see the
displays inside the windows.
Fall colors of clothing are on
display along with Halloween
costumes of ghosts and gob-
lins. You might even see a
Thanksgiving display here or
there. I wouldn't be too sur-
prised if a Christmas decora-

tion was seen!

Enjoy it - make that last
trip to the beach; plan a week-
end to the mountains and
view the handiwork of God
among nature. It won't last
long. Just as summer has
given way to fall, so will fall
give way to winter. The cold
and biting winds will be blow-
ing sooner than you realize.

Now it is fall and the poet
Emily Dickinson said it best:
"The morns are meeker than
they were, the nuts are getting
brown; the berry's cheek is
plumper and the rose is out of
town."

OP-ED

Thinking about Ruth's Flower Shop

By Tom Poland

Outside the artful placing
of lilies, camellias, daffodils,
and azaleas in vases, I never
tried floral arranging.

Thought about it but Clint
Eastwood said, "A man's got to
know his limits."

As close as I got to profes-
sional flower arranging was a
college job at Carolyn's
Flowers in Athens, Ga. I
watched floral artists perform
their magic using gladiolas,
various blooms, baby's breath,
thin green wire, and green
foam called Oasis. Wire and
Oasis let flowers defy gravity.
They used soft green tape too.
You had to look hard to see it,
green as a blade of grass and
supple.

I drove a white van for
Carolyn and delivered gravity-
defying magic as birthday bou-
quets and Valentine's Day bud
vases. Coca-Cola crates held
bud vases in that old van and

not once did a vase topple.
(When's the last time you saw
a wooden Coke crate?)

As I ferried flowers around
the Classic City, I often
thought about Mom. She
loved flowers and more than
once expressed her desire to
open a flower shop. She never
did.

Nonetheless flowers sur-
rounded me growing up. Mom
grew lilies, gardenias, daf-
fodils, azaleas, roses, and
camellias and these made
their way into our home as
beautiful arrangements.

Mom had a gift for flower
arranging, and how I wish she
had run her own flower shop.
It would have been good for
her, but she never did because
of a rough time she went
through as a young mother.

A physician of the mind told
her to never work again, that
she couldn't handle the stress.
At the age of 3, I spent four
months in the hospital and it

was just too much for her. She
never held a job again, though
being a homemaker meant
work. Lots of work. And then
the years piled up and Mom
was no more.

When my sisters and I
began going through her pos-
sessions we came across her
vases. I brought some home
and spring through summer I
put daffodils, lilies, azaleas,
and gardenias in Mom's deep
blue vases, so blue they're
almost black. Let sunlight
strike them though and the
blue flames up like indigo
afire.

On my Southern sojourns I
see abandonment. When I saw
this old shop my mind went
back to my Georgia home. I
knew this shop had long sent
forth happiness as blooms and
blossoms for weddings, birth-
days, and anniversaries.
Funeral arrangements deliv-
ered a different sentiment. "So
long, loved one."

Though death claimed this
old flower shop a long time
ago, the moment I saw it I
knew I'd write about Mom's
longing to own a flower shop.
In my mind and heart this
place was hers.

Ruth's Flower Shop is no
more, but I'm certain older
members of the Trenton com-
munity recall its lovely cre-
ations just as I recall my moth-
er's arrangements. They
brought beauty and sweetness
to my childhood.

How I wish I had known
this shop existed. I would have
taken Mom to see it in its glory
days. This shop night have
moved her to action despite
that physician's bad advice. A
little push might have helped.
Mom might have realized her
dream after all and what a dif-
ference that could have made.
You see, her name was Ruth,
and sometimes seeing is
believing.

The News & Press

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with your Darlington area news.

Judicial Center

Continued from 1A

These spaces would be available to citizens conducting court business or visiting administrative offices, which will remain in the current courthouse building on the Public Square.

"When you're parking around the Square, merchants need those spaces, restaurants need those spaces, lawyers need those spaces, juries need those spaces," said Stewart. He added that the gated lot for court personnel will have 15 parking spaces.

Clerk of Court Scott Suggs observed that this design represents real progress toward solving the numerous safety and space issues at the current courthouse.

"This is probably at least the fourth time we've went down this road of trying to do something that's safe, secure, looks nice – something for Darlington County to be

proud of," said Suggs.

City of Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines attended the meeting and said she was "pleased and excited" to see another major project planned for the city's North Main Street gateway.

"Between this and the \$4 million the Historical Commission received to put up a new (museum) building, it's going to really dress up our downtown. I love it!" said Hines.

Stewart said that with County Council's approval, the next step is to pursue a contract for full architectural and engineering plans.

Planning and construction costs would be covered by fund balance money the county already has on hand. Stewart added that once the first shovel of dirt is turned, it could take up to 36 months before the new judicial center is ready for occupancy.

Anniversary

Continued from 1A

Carraway, a well-known Darlington resident, was a 30-year veteran of the Florence Police Department.

Turner worked for the Florence County Sheriff's Department.

"We have strong people," McMaster said, "and those that we are celebrating are strong people. ... I get up and usually put on a tie in the mornings. (Law-enforcement officers) get up and put on a bulletproof vest. Sometimes two, because one bulletproof vest won't stop a rifle shot. It takes two."

In Darlington, a Fallen Officers' Memorial – honor-

ing Carraway and all other S.C. law-enforcement officers killed in the line of duty – is being planned at South Main Street and D Avenue.

A balloon release was scheduled at the site Oct. 3 in recognition of the anniversary of the tragedy. A balloon release was also planned Oct. 3 at Lake City High School, alma mater of slain officer Turner.

Florence County Council has declared Oct. 3 to be "Heroes Day," and a memorial to officers is also planned at the new Florence County Judicial Center. Officials have said the memorial is to have an "eternal flame" and room for community gatherings.

SAT scores

Continued from 1A

But encouraging more students to take the test caused scores to flatten out somewhat. The Darlington County School District's mean SAT score dropped 54 points, to 1011. (A perfect SAT score is 1600.)

Darlington High School's mean score dropped 33 points, to 899. Darlington-based Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology's mean score fell 40 points, to 1052.

Hartsville High School's mean score dropped 23

points, to 1069. The Hartsville-based Governor's School for Science and Math fell 8 points, to 1370.

Lamar High School's mean SAT score was 916, but last year's score was not available.

There was some good news for the Darlington County School District in the numbers, however.

Average SAT scores for Mayo, Hartsville High and the Governor's School were above state and national averages. (The state average is 1021; the national average is 1039.)

Report cards

Continued from 1A

They are the end-of-the-year gauges used to check students' understanding. The SC Ready tests are also significant factors in the report card ratings.

In a statement, Newman noted that all but one of 13 schools in DCSD that administered the SC Ready examinations in ELA and Mathematics saw gains over the previous year. Similarly, all four DCSD high schools saw improvement in English 1 and Algebra end-of-course testing, as well as increased high school graduation rates. "We believe these indicators are the true representation for measuring our students' successes and are reflective of the day-to-day classroom focus and achievement, regardless of how the items may be portrayed on a report card," Newman said.

Listed below are the absolute ratings given by the state for schools in DCSD. Also listed in parenthesis are last year's absolute ratings along with the change in numerical values of those ratings when compared to last year's report card.

Brockington Elementary Magnet School – Below average, (Below average), improved 3 points

Branson-Dargan Elementary School – Average, (Below average), improved 9 points

Carolina Elementary School – Good, (Average),

improved 9 points

Darlington High School – Average, (Average), improved 7 points

Darlington Middle School – Good, (Average), improved 6 points

Hartsville High School – Good, (Average), improved 3 points

Hartsville Middle School – Good, (Good), improved 1 point

Lamar High School – Excellent, (Good), improved 7 points

Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology – Excellent, (Excellent), remained the same

North Hartsville Elementary School – Good, (Below average), improved 19 points

Rosenwald Elementary School – Below average, (Below average), improved 4 points

Rosenwald Middle School – Below average, (Average), decreased 8 points

Spaulding Elementary School – Average, (Average), decreased 3 points

Spaulding Middle School – Excellent, (Excellent), improved 3 points

St. John's Elementary School – Good, (Below average), improved 17 points

Thornwell School for the Arts – Unsatisfactory, (Unsatisfactory), improved 8 points

West Hartsville Elementary School – Good, (Below average), improved 22 points



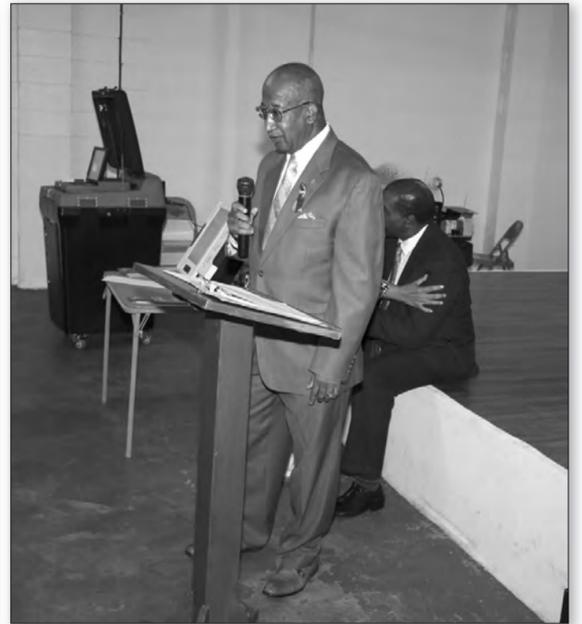
From last week's "Meet and Greet": City Councilman Bryant Gardner



Ernest Boston, City Council candidate



City Councilman John Milling



Winfred Herrington, City Council candidate

City council

Continued from 1A

"Let's say, 'This is what we're going to do,' and let's work toward doing that. ... I don't want to spend my time spinning my wheels on something that necessarily the council as a whole does not agree on. I want it to be something that everybody's united on and we move forward with."

"Let's do it," Andrews said. "Sit down with me; tell me what you want. I might not agree with it. You might not agree with me. But at the end of the day, we're going to do what's right. And we're going to do what's right by Darlington."

"There's a lot of needs as far as recreation goes," Andrews continued. "... We are Top 10 in the country as far as Little League charters go. ... I want you to think about that. In the United States of America, Darlington County is one of the Top 10 biggest charters in the country. And we're playing on ball fields that were built in the '70s, the '60s, with the same bathroom facilities."

In a related matter, the city will get to keep a softball field on the Old Florence Highway that originally was to be sold to Georgia-Pacific as part of a still-mysterious economic-development deal called Project Peach. Technicalities resulted in the softball field being dropped from the land purchase. But the

deed to the 5-acre property requires that it be used for recreation.

City Council member Sheila Baccus had expressed interest in turning the property into a playground. Andrews investigated the options and found an opportunity for the city to buy \$41,000 worth of playground equipment on sale for half its original price.

Council voted last week to pursue the deal as long as issues could be worked out involving where the money would come from. Andrews had suggested using the hospitality tax, but some council members questioned whether a playground could be shown to have a tourism connection. Assuming the funding source is resolved to everyone's satisfaction, Andrews said, the property will be both a playground and a softball field.

In other business last week:

-- Council voted to donate \$5,000 in hospitality-tax funds to the Darlington Sweet Potato Festival. The 37th edition of the festival is Oct. 12. The request for the funds was made by Pilot Club members Judy Langley and Ginger Ridgill. "We really need some additional support," said Ridgill.

-- Council approved, on second reading, a plan creating a special property tax assessment for rehabilitated historic properties. "It would certainly create more incentives, especially in our downtown, but all over the city," said city planner Lisa Chalian-Rock.



Howard Nettles, City Council candidate PHOTOS BY BOBBY BRYANT

-- Council approved, on second reading, an outdoor-lighting ordinance intended in part to keep business' lighting (such as for parking lots) from spilling onto nearby homes. "This will help codes enforcement better

be able to serve the city," Rock said of the plan.

-- Council issued a proclamation in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which runs through the end of October.

SEEKING BIDS

The City of Darlington Planning Department is seeking a qualified contractor to install 62 trees across the City. Bid packets may be picked up at Codes Enforcement Office, City Hall, 400 Pearl St., Darlington. You may request a packet by email darlingtonplanner@gmail.com. Sealed bids are due by 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at City Hall where they will be opened and read publicly at 2:30 p.m. For questions, call 843-398-4000 x 103.



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For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Howe A 6.6

Obituaries

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Sandra Marie Graham

DARLINGTON – Sandra Marie Graham, 61, passed away suddenly at her home on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Oct. 2, at Grove Hill Cemetery. The family received friends Wednesday at Belk Funeral Home.

Born April 13, 1958, Sandra was the daughter of the late Robert "Bob" Graham and Hazel Cole Graham. She graduated from St. John's High School in 1976, and she worked for Fastrak convenience stores since 2003.

She was a hard-working woman who always made sure her work was taken care of. Sandra was an avid reader and a loving daughter and sister.

Surviving are her two sisters, Patricia Moore and Robin (Barry) Cunningham, both of Tennessee; nieces, Elicia Moore, Niki (Alex) McPherson, and Hannah Carneal.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

Carolyn Stephens Thomas

DARLINGTON – Carolyn Stephens Thomas, 86, passed away Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019. A graveside service was held Monday, Sept. 30, at Grove Hill Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

Born April 7, 1933, in Chesterfield, Carolyn was the daughter of the late Henry Stephens and Isarlee Bowers Stephens. She worked for American Can for 36 years. Carolyn was a member of True Light Church in Mint Hill, N.C., and was devoted to her church and her "church family."

Surviving are her son, Wayne (Judy) Thomas of Darlington; grandchildren, Jennifer (Allen) Beverly and Hunter Thomas; great-grandchildren, Hampton Beverly and McLaurin Beverly; brothers, Charlie (Betty) Stephens, Harrison Stephens and Rivers (Hazel) Stephens.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William S.

"Buck" Thomas, and her brother, Depree Stephens.

Memorials may be made to McLeod Hospice House, PO Box 100551 Florence, SC 29502.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

David Watson

FLORENCE – David Watson, 80, passed away in his home on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019. Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 7, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Florence Ward, with burial at the Latter-day Saints Cemetery in Society Hill, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

The family received friends Monday at the church.

Born Nov. 2, 1938, David was the son of the late James H. Watson and Clara O'Neal Watson. David served in the National Guard. He moved to California in 1958 and worked as a part-time police officer and for an aircraft production company, before moving back to Darlington in 1995 and worked

in the grocery business.

David was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he served as an Elder.

Surviving are his sons, David Alan Watson and Michael Anthony Watson, both of Florence; his daughter, Felecia Anne (Norman) Jones of Florence; grandchildren, David Alan Watson Jr., Anne Marie Poole, Ryan Cox, Charlie Cox and Chandler Watson.

Also surviving are his brother, Robert Watson of Darlington; sisters, Daphne Doane of Arizona, Jean (Johnny) Williams of Moncks Corner, and Helen Gause of Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Mildred Case and Elizabeth Hyman; brothers, James H. Watson Jr., William "Bill" Watson, McIver "Mack" Watson, Howard Watson and Ben Watson.

A guestbook is available online at belkfuneralhome.com.

Living on Purpose

Convictions and considerations

By Bill Holland



As just another messenger for God's kingdom, I'm eternally grateful for the privilege to serve Him. We are living in an hour where the window of His grace is open and there is much to do before Christ returns.

Basically, my writings are intended to inspire the readers to fill their lamps with oil and prepare their wedding gowns. This is another way of saying that I want people to know the Lord.

How many individuals consider Christ as their first love and are filled with anticipation and excitement to meet Him in person? I'm not trying to imply that I understand any more than anyone else; in fact, the more I learn, the more I realize I do not know.

I'm just convinced that everyone has the opportunity to walk by faith in Jesus if they so choose.

One of the greatest revelations I'm still trying to comprehend is that anyone can live as close to the Almighty as they want. The question is, "How close do we want to be?" Actually, this is answered every moment by our own free will.

There have been times in my life when being a messenger was discouraging as it seemed that very few were interested. However, in these difficult times, the Lord has always graciously rekindled the joy and excitement in my heart and strengthened my spirit to continue pressing forward.

On many occasions, He has spoken to me in the middle of the night and I have awakened to write down the insight He wanted me to know.

Scott Fitzgerald once said, "We do not write because we want to say something, we write because we have something to say."

Truly, there is a huge difference between our thoughts and what God wants us to relay.

His Majesty's order of communication is designed through carefully arranged divine appointments because God always has a plan and knows what it will take to accomplish it.

We love God and accept the calling of a sower to spread His seeds of holy truth.

Without a burden for lost souls we will not have an urgency to pray or care about evangelism. "Jesus spoke unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, do you love me? And he said unto him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said unto him, 'Feed my sheep.'" -- John 21:17.

I've been reminded lately that we are accountable for what we believe.

Some will say, "Of course we care what God thinks and what He wants," which leads us to another question: "How much do we care?"

In Luke Chapter 12, Jesus tells a story about a landowner who is planning a long journey and leaves one of his most trusted servants in charge while he is away. The owner returns unexpectedly and is very displeased to find the servant has neglected his work, was intoxicated and had even abused some of the other servants.

The punishment was decided according to what the servant knew along with his actions, as Verse 48 relays so eloquently: "For to whomsoever much is given, of him much will be required."

Likewise, as we discover what God wants us to be, we are faced with deciding how far we will go and how much we will do.

True, it's not a popular subject, but every person will be held responsible for what they comprehended, accepted or refused.

As we search for God's desires and seek the meaning and purpose of our lives, we will find the Lord waiting and willing to teach and lead us into His infinite wisdom and understanding.

We have heard the old saying, "We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are."

This indicates that our personal views have much to do with our perception, interpretation, and decisions.

These opinions, even when very sincere, mean very little because in reality, we can be sincerely wrong.

God is perfect wisdom and when it comes to serving Him, it will take a relentless commitment and perseverance as we can only embrace His absolute truth according to the level we are willing to obey Him.

Today let us be encouraged as we consider that, "Anybody can, everybody won't, but somebody will."

Jane Windham's recipe for Autumn Pumpkin Pound Cake

A delicious, moist pumpkin pound cake that is perfect for fall!

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 stick 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 cup chopped pecans

For the icing
1 3 oz. package cream cheese, softened
1/2 tsp vanilla
2 cups sifted powdered sugar

Instructions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

and grease a bundt cake pan. (I use Baker's Joy.)

Mix together the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, and cinnamon and set aside.

Using a mixer, beat together the butter and sugar until fluffy. To this mixture, add 1 egg at a time.

Next add and mix together half of the flour mixture, pumpkin, and yogurt.

Then add the rest of the flour mixture.

Stir in the chopped pecans. Bake at 325 degrees for 50-55 minutes.

Cool on a rack for 10 minutes and cool completely before icing (if desired.)

For the icing
Beat the cream cheese and vanilla on low speed until fluffy. Slowly add in the powdered sugar until the mixture is spreadable.



Recipe Notes

Note: Add a few drops of warm water to the icing if it starts getting too stiff.

This cake is just as good

without the icing, especially if you are conserving calories or sugar!

See more from Jane Windham at cottageatthecrossroads.com.

CHur CH neWs

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

A Call for the Church to COME ALIVE is coming up Oct. 13-16 at First Baptist Church, Darlington, for revival services.

Join us each evening at 6:30 for worship led by the Elevate Worship Band from Charleston Southern University and special guest preachers Rev. Jon Davis, Campus Minister at Charleston Southern University, and Rev. Frankie Tanner, retired pastor of Mechanicsville Baptist Church.

Mechanicsville Baptist Missions Fair
Mechanicsville Baptist Church Missions Fair BBQ fundraiser is Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 2364 Cashua Ferry Road, Darlington. Plates are \$8; eat in or takeout lunch deliveries.

Country store, bake sale, live and silent auctions, home-made cake auction at 6 p.m. Proceeds support the missions and ministries of MBC.

Emmanuel Community Church
Emmanuel Community Church, 1110 W. Lynch River Road, Lamar, celebrates 14th anniversary of Pastor C.E. Carraway and 1st Lady Beverly Carraway on Oct. 13, 4-6 p.m.

St. John UMC revival, homecoming

Please join the St. John UMC family for three nights of worship as we observe our annual revival and 50th Homecoming celebrations. Revival services are Oct. 7-9 at 6:30 each night.

Homecoming is Oct. 13 with Sunday school at 9 a.m. and worship service at 10. Rev. Frederick Yebuah, former pastor of St. John/Wesley Chapel Charge and currently superintendent of the Orangeburg District, will be the speaker. Fellowship meal will follow the morning's services. The church is at 214 W. Seven Pines St., Lamar.

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

Taste of St. James event is planned
St. James United Methodist Church in Darlington plans an Oct. 12 "Taste of St. James" at Pine Recreational Center, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Oct. 13 is Homecoming, 9:45 a.m. Guest speaker Rev. Mary L. Johnson.

Fall Summit is scheduled
The Woman's Pee Dee District Department of the Pee

Dee Baptist Educational & Missionary Association will have its Fall Summit Oct. 12 at Pee Dee Union Baptist Church, 92 Chestnut St., Cheraw. Registration is from 9-9:40 a.m. Spiritual Life Ministry (Devotion): 9:40-9:55 a.m. Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Mechanicsville Baptist Church
2364 Cashua Ferry Rd., Darlington. 843-393-1029. Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.-Worship Service

4 p.m.-Prayer Closet; 5:30 p.m. Evening Worship Services Monday: Monday Night Ministry (MNM)-Youth Fellowship & Meal Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. - Old Fashioned Chapel Service & Fellowship Meal; 6:30 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (all ages) and Youth Group Meeting.

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

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

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church
3123 W. Palmetto St.,

Florence. Worship Time: 11 a.m. (4th Sunday 8:30 a.m.) Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Phone: 843-601-3672.

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

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

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

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

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Ready to make you smile! Judy and Trudy are ready to tag team you and make you feel loved! This fun-loving pair of labby girls are sweet, social, friendly and a real joy to be around. Well balanced and never meeting a stranger, Judy and Trudy are about a year old and hoping you'll stop on by to see how perfect they could be for you! 45 pounds; lab mix; females

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous will hold an open meeting of big book and traditions studies weekly at 8 p.m. Monday nights at Trinity UMC on Pearl Street. Use Orange Street entrance. Info: 843-395-6897. Al-Anon is a fellowship of adult relatives and friends of alcoholics for mutual support. Visitors are welcome. Childcare is not available. Al-Anon meetings: Thursdays at 8 p.m. at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street. Info: 843-992-2981.

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon is a fellowship of adult relatives and friends of alcoholics for mutual support. Visitors are welcome. Childcare is not available. Al-Anon meetings: Thursdays at 8 p.m. at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street. Info: 843-992-2981.

Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Business Network International

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

Centennial Farmers Market

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

Crochet & Knit Clubs

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

Darlington Elks Lodge

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

Thursdays: Bingo at 7:30 p.m.
 Darlington Elks Lodge is located at 836 Timmonsville Hwy. For more info: 843-393-1451.

Darlington Library Programs

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

Hartsville Kiwanis Club

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

Hartsville Lions Club

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

Hartsville Rotary Club

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

Paws to Read

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

Pee Dee SCORE

Pee Dee SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers Free confidential counseling to America's small business, serving Darlington,

Florence and surrounding areas. Existing and start-up businesses can schedule an appointment by calling the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce at 843-332-6401.

Story Time

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

Monthly Events

American Legion

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

Darlington Branch NAACP

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

Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

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

Darlington County First Steps

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

Darlington County Historical Commission Meeting

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

Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

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

Darlington County Humane Society Board of Directors

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

Darlington Downtown Development Association Board of Directors Meeting

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

Free Vision Screenings

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

Head Start

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

Oct. 2019

37th South Carolina Sweet Potato Festival

Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Darlington Public Square. Fun for the whole family!

Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County School District Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington.

Joint City Boards Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 6-8 p.m. at the Darlington Police Department, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington, scheduled by the Planning Commission.

Connections at Breakfast - DCIT

Connect with DCIT at our first Connections at Breakfast on Oct. 17 at 8 a.m. Make connections with other business-people while learning about our programs, meeting our students, and touring our state-of-the-art facility.
 Members who attend have an opportunity to be drawn to give a 60-second infomercial about their business.
 This event is FREE.

Scare on the Square

Trick-or-treating downtown on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at the Public Square in Darlington.

Nov. 2019

Terrence Carraway Memorial 5k

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

Rusty Wallace Racing Experience

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

Historic Landmarks Commission

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

Darlington County Council Meeting

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

Pee Dee Workforce Development Board

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

Show Down in the Pee Dee IV

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

Darlington County Board of Education

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

Williamson Park Committee

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

Darlington City Council Meeting

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

The Toast of Darlington

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

Darlington Planning Commission

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

Beautification Board

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

Dec. 2019

Darlington County Council Meeting

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

Darlington City Council Meeting

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

Darlington County Board of Education

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

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Patriot Chevrolet in Darlington (formerly known as Auddie Brown Chevrolet) was the site of a Darlington Chamber of Commerce “Business After Hours” event Oct. 3. The dealership recently was bought by Christina Van Ness, a North Carolina resident whose father and grandfather both owned Chevrolet dealerships. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Darlington NAACP plans Centennial Celebration

The Darlington Branch of the NAACP will host its 2019 Centennial Celebration Gala Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. at the SIMT Conference and Event Center, 1951 Pisgah Road, Florence.

The theme for the event will be “Celebrating Our Past, Illuminating Our Future.” Keynote speaker for the event will be James G. Wingate, author and Darlington native.

The event will include dinner, entertainment, historical displays and historian awards. If you would like to become

a sponsor of the event, or buy advertising space in a keepsake program book, please call 843-713-2621 or e-mail darlingtonnaacp@yahoo.com

Sponsorships range from \$3,500 to \$1,000. Advertisements in the program book range from \$100 for a full-page color ad to \$25 for a quarter-page black and white ad, and \$15 for one-eighth-page business cards.

Deadline for advertising is Oct. 23.

Clemson experts say statewide drought will result in lower crop yields

Clemson University

CLEMSON — More than half of South Carolina is in a moderate to severe drought and another 26 percent is abnormally dry, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, and Clemson University researchers and Cooperative Extension Service agents say it is affecting crop yields.

Charles Davis, Extension row crops agent in Calhoun County, said hot, dry weather is plaguing late-season crops, such as peanuts. A total of 65,000 acres of peanuts were planted in South Carolina this year and the drought slowed maturation of the crop.

“Peanuts were shut down unless the crops were irrigated,” Davis said. “Digging conditions on tight soils have made the peanut harvest difficult for peanut producers.”

Dry fields have ramped up the state’s cotton harvest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service reports about 300,000 acres of cotton were planted in South Carolina.

About 20 percent of the state’s cotton crop and 47 percent of the state’s peanut crop had been harvested as of Sept. 29. The report shows adequate soil moisture in topsoil at just 15 percent, with 23 percent adequate soil moisture for subsoil.

Ben Fallen, soybean program leader at Clemson’s Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence, said the extent of which crops are affected depends on where they are located.

“Rainfall has been very isolated this summer which has had a big impact on crops,” Fallen said. “Soybeans are doing good, but we really need some rain to finish out the crop. We are in the pod-filling stage and now we need the rain more than ever. Cotton had a rough season early on then a good August, at least in the Pee Dee area. Then the weather was perfect for harvest.”

David Gunter, Clemson Extension feed grain specialist at the Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville, said the 2019 season “can’t end soon enough.”

“There might have been some decent early maturing soybean fields that are yielding pretty well,” Gunter said. “We should be hearing about those yields anytime now. However, the majority of our beans are planted in late May and June and are later maturing. These beans have battled this hot, dry

September and have bloomed countless times trying to put on a decent crop. Even the irrigated crops, which look much better still will not have top yields. The heat and dry weather during pod-setting and pod-filling was simply too much on crops statewide.”

South Carolina corn also is suffering.

“The season is over and the producers are taking another hit and it’s getting harder and harder for them to come back,” he said.

Gunter said moisture also is needed for small grains, such as wheat, rye, oats and barley, to seed.

“None of these will germinate without some rain and not just a one-time event,” he said. “We need normal rain, whatever that is.”

Irrigation can help farmers deal with drought, especially in South Carolina where much of the land is comprised of sandy soils that do not retain water. Clemson irrigation specialist Jose Payero said most of South Carolina farmland is dry land and less than 10 percent of the state’s farmland is irrigated.

“This makes us very vulnerable to droughts,” he said. “Drought is the most likely and potentially most devastating climate risk in agricultural production. Irrigation can significantly increase yields over dry land while reducing yield variability and stabilizing production and farm income across seasons.”

Irrigation can help by preventing water stress, which can significantly reduce crop yields and profits. Irrigation also provides water to activate herbicides and dissolves and transports crop nutrients so that they are available to the plant.

While the drought has been difficult for farmers, it is not uncommon, said Thomas Walker of the S.C. Water Resources Center.

“If the drought extends into the fall and winter without significant rainfall across South Carolina, then it is likely to become more of an exceptional drought,” Walker said. “Fall is the time of year when South Carolina generally has experienced the most rainfall, which helps replenish rivers, reservoirs and aquifers.”

Effects of the drought depend on which water-use sectors and which parts of the state are being considered. Reservoir levels are down across the state, but not to the levels of concern

seen in past significant droughts. Some localized effects are seen in some stream and river systems. Groundwater is used in times of drought to make up for rainfall shortages. Currently, some groundwater levels are below normal or low in parts of the state. But it’s not all bad.

“From a water resources quantity perspective, the state is still in relatively good shape,” Walker said. “It is concerning, however, especially if the state does not receive adequate rainfall this fall. It is too early to tell. Additionally, drought impacts can be very localized within basins and even within sub-basins. Sometimes the big picture may not capture the drought experience.”

Rain and cooler temperatures are needed to pull South Carolina out of the drought.

“South Carolina experienced a dry May this year and moved into drought conditions,” Walker said. “Then we experienced a wet June which got us out of that drought condition and helped prevent a more serious current drought situation.”



Hot, dry weather has made peanut harvest difficult for South Carolina farmers. CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

It may take a month or more of consistently wet conditions to pull South Carolina out of this drought this fall.”

To help state officials learn how to better respond to drought situations, members of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources state climatology office met with

Walker and others this past summer to create a plan to help the state cope with droughts. The group reviewed existing plans, ordinances and procedures relative to droughts. To learn more about droughts, drought types, ways to measure droughts and more, go to <http://www.scdrought.com>.

While the past few months have been brutal, October may be a redeeming month for South Carolina farmers. The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center predicts relief may be on the way with the state expected to receive above-average rainfall in October.



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South Carolina soybeans need more rain to finish out the crop. CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



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QUOTE

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

ANDY RODDICK

sports

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Wilson trounces Darlington in region opener

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

The Darlington Falcons opened up region play this past Friday night and like all of its other football games this season, it ended with a loss.

Heading into the game winless, the Falcons left Florence Memorial Stadium the same way, dropping to 0-6 overall, 0-1 in the region, losing 55-15 to the Wilson Tigers.

Wilson jumped on the Falcons fast and quick, going up 14-0 by the end of the first quarter thanks in part to the high-flying offense led by quarterback Zayshaun Rice.

His 13-yard touchdown pass and Chris Austin's one-yard touchdown run got the Tigers going and they did not look back.

With the Tigers leading by two scores, Darlington, which has shown some signs of improvement, answered one of Wilson's touchdowns with a touchdown of its own, as Chubby Williams rumbled on in on the first play of the second quarter from 10 yards out to make it a 14-7 game.

"We did try to answer a little bit," Darlington head coach Raymond Jennings said.

That momentum for Darlington following Williams' touchdown did not last long as

Wilson answered on the first play of the following drive as Rice connected with Yavin Smith on a screen that resulted in a 69-yard touchdown.

The Tigers pushed their lead to 35-7 in the second quarter before Darlington scored again, with Williams running in from six yards out this time, but Wilson, determined to not be outdone, finished off the quarter by scoring the final 10 points before half.

Wilson was in such control that the Tigers put in their reserves at the 1:36 mark before the half and the starters never came back in for the rest of the game.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, but Wilson did add to its lead in the fourth quarter as the Tigers added 10 more points to their already massive total with another punt return touchdown and another field goal.

Wilson was not shy when it came to scoring.

The Tigers had four passing touchdowns by Rice, two punt return touchdowns, one by Timothy Robinson and the other by Demarcus Bailey, a rushing touchdown by Austin and two field goals, a 33-yarder and a 37-yarder by Vraj Patel.

For the Falcons it was a great sight to see Williams back

in the lineup after missing the last two games due to injury. His two rushing touchdowns were the first time this season that Darlington had scored over one touchdown in a game.

"He came back and finished the game and staying healthy is a key for him, trying to keep him downhill," Jennings said. "He had a couple plays there that allowed us to keep getting first downs, moving and stay on the field."

"Those are the things you have to do if you want to reduce the plays on your defense."

Numbers once again were a problem for the Falcons.

At the start of the game Darlington dressed out only 25 players, down from one the week before. And by the end of the game, only 21 players were available.

"I'm just proud of them for finishing," Jennings said. "We stretched with 25 and we had 21 right there. It's just what it is."

Unfortunately for the Falcons, things are only going to get harder this week as they travel down to the coast to take on defending 4A champ Myrtle Beach.



Clemson-bred agricultural technology company puts down roots in the Pee Dee

Clemson University

FLORENCE — The seed of an idea that sprouted from Clemson's Advanced Plant Technology (APT) Program is blooming where it was planted near the university's Pee Dee Research and Education Center.

Carolina Seed Systems is relocating from Greenville to co-locate with Clemson's research station in Florence — one of six strategically located across the state's distinct soil and climate regions — to serve growers along the Interstate 95 corridor and rural South Carolina. A spinoff of the APT Program, Carolina Seed Systems is working to address a lack of feed grain hybrid crop development and a regional feed shortage.

"This is the vision we've had for a spinoff company and we're just executing that vision and partnering with Clemson to advance the land-grant mission by moving to a region where our stakeholders are located," said Carolina Seed Systems founder and Chief Executive Officer Zachary Brenton. "It's really kind of a transition from an idea into the actual execution of a tangible impact."

That transition is being funded by a \$10 million award to Steve Kresovich, director of the APT program and lead principal investigator on the project, through the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), as part of a program called Transportation Energy Resources from Renewable Agriculture to prioritize the commercialization of the science and products.

Kresovich said the transformation of the project from a concept into a tangible product is in keeping with "the truth breath" of Clemson's land-grant mission to provide unbiased, research-based information to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

"Our goal is to do good science at Clemson and provide the foundation for those companies, particularly Carolina Seed Systems, to advance and serve the crop agriculture needs in the southeastern United States, but most importantly to have a positive effect on the rural economy in the I-95 corridor," he said.

An agency in the U.S. Department of Energy, ARPA-E is charged with overcoming long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

Krish Doraiswamy, ARPA-E

technology-to-market adviser, said the agency focuses on transformational energy projects that can be meaningfully advanced with a small amount of funding over a defined period of time.

"Academic entrepreneurship is a key driver of energy innovation," he said. "ARPA-E has funded hundreds of projects at colleges and universities across America, advancing high-potential, high-impact energy technologies that are too early for private-sector investment. The project with Clemson is an example of one such initiative."

Grain sorghum is a cereal grain that is often used as a substitute for corn and feeding rations in the animal industry. Because of its drought tolerance and nutrient efficiency, grain sorghum can lower farmers' seed cost and increases their profitability.

Doraiswamy said renewable energy through biofuels is a particular area of focus for ARPA-E. Significant improvements to the productivity and efficiency of biofuel crops are needed to produce the large volume of biomass needed for economic biofuel production, and that's where Clemson can help, according to Doraiswamy.

"Clemson University has been leading a multifunctional, multi-institutional team that is integrating the agriculture, information technology and engineering communities to design and apply new tools to the development of improved varieties of energy sorghum, a crop used to produce biofuel," he said. "These tools will be equally applicable to the cultivation of sorghum and other crops for other end uses. The team's goal is to create sorghum varieties that are adaptable to the environment and soils specifically in the American Southeast and thereby create new options for bio-energy and agriculture in that region."

The metaphorical seed for Carolina Seed Systems was planted when, as graduate students in the APT Program, Brenton and Richard Boyles evaluated grain sorghum characteristics and began working to exploit natural variations in the plant's genetic material to determine what genes are responsible for adapting it to the climate and production systems in the Southeast.

APT is a key part of an overall effort at Clemson to

optimize plants for production for all agricultural stakeholders — from large-scale producers to small-scale landowners who work with heirloom varieties for restaurants, brewers, distillers and more.

After completing their Ph.D. work, Boyles took a job as an assistant professor at the Pee Dee research station, while Brenton left to pursue Carolina Seed Systems, which licensed the intellectual property from Clemson through the Clemson University Research Foundation.

Now, the company has taken the next step in bringing its product to the marketplace by teaming up with Bloomfield Robotics, the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and Hi Fidelity Genetics. The goal of the proposed research and development program is to develop superior crop hybrids by fully leveraging the extensive global sorghum gene pool.

"Our goal was to develop a sorghum variety that goes into a grower's field where they can compete and grow their business and we can grow ours as well," Brenton said. "It's not only creating jobs, it's not only giving farmers a different option to make money, but it's also bringing and enhancing the research and development infrastructure and that kind of startup incubation environment, so it serves a lot of purposes. But our focus is continuing to serve the land-grant mission by creating a private sector entity focused on grower success."

The project consists of two overarching themes. First, the team will develop a new crop improvement paradigm through advances in robotics, sensors, computing and genomics that they will then share with the public. Next, they will use what they learn for sorghum crop improvement and commercialization.

"Our team will optimize and deploy hybrid vigor in the sorghum gene pool to find more valuable traits, speed up the breeding cycle and increase the impact of elite germplasm of this leading bioenergy crop," Kresovich said.

Smithfield Foods Chief Science & Technology Officer Terry Coffey, also serving as a scientific adviser for Carolina Seed Systems, said one of the objectives of his team is to identify and evaluate feed ingredients that can be produced closer to mid-Atlantic food animal producers.

Currently, most feed ingredients are produced in other regions of the country and shipped great distances to the East Coast. For example, the Carolinas import about 300 million bushels of grain each year from the Midwest.

"This results in a large deficit of grain production compared with demand in the region," Coffey said. "The result is a cost disadvantage for livestock producers and a marketing opportunity for row crop farmers in the area."

Carolina Seed Systems seeks to fill that void, in part, by delivering to farmers regionally adapted grain sorghum hybrids, which Coffey said is a crop that has greater tolerance for dry conditions that often occur in the area.

"We do have high amounts of average rainfall per year, but extended dry periods of days and weeks during our hot summer months can damage these crops during critical periods of development," he said. "This year is a perfect example of that. CSS is developing crops that are well-suited for these types of soils and this region and will benefit farmers by producing more reliable yields in our climate conditions and fill the local market demand for livestock

feed."

Kresovich said that locating the project along the I-95 corridor and in proximity to the Pee Dee REC shows Brenton's commitment to the mission of the APT program: to improve agriculture in South Carolina by using a variety of technologies to advance crop agriculture in the state.

"Zach, with the company's formation, has had the opportunity and has had discussions with people who would love to have him at Research Triangle

Park in North Carolina or potentially in St. Louis at their science and technology park that's oriented towards agriculture and with people in California, but he and Rick Boyles altruistically have been committed to this concept," he said, "and probably against better judgment for making money in the short term, they want to have it in Florence and to be a home-grown company that contributes to this region rather than to sort of start it up and fly away."



Grain sorghum, a cereal grain that is often used as a substitute for corn and feeding rations in the animal industry, grows in a field at Clemson University's Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence. CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

The Toast of Darlington

PRESENTED BY MANHEIM DARLINGTON

Thursday, November 14, 2019

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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2019 Darlington Elks Parade



Pee Dee United Elks Lodge 1679 & Excelsior Temple 790 held their annual parade on Saturday, Oct. 5, featuring national and state officers, the Darlington High School Marching Band, political candidates and WPDE-TV personality Tonya Brown as Grand Marshal. PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



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2019 Darlington Clean-Up Day



The City of Darlington Beautification Board and Darlington Garden Club held the fall Clean Up Darlington Day from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 5, in preparation for the S.C. Sweet Potato Festival. Teams of volunteers painted parking space lines, freshened pine straw beds and plantings, picked up trash, and swept intersections to tidy up our town. PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



Community to clean up historic cemetery

The Darlington Memorial Cemetery Association has organized a Community Clean-Up Day beginning at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the cemetery on D Avenue.

Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, weed eaters, chain saws, lawnmowers, or trailers if they have any. Water, Gatorade and hot dogs will be provided.

At the August Clean-Up, more than 50 volunteers worked well into the afternoon, cutting grass and removing debris.

"We are asking all the sororities, fraternities, Masons, Eastern Stars, Elks, veterans, Shriners, Mayo High School alumni and graduates, and especially those with fam-

ily members buried there to come out and donate some time to help restore the cemetery," says City Council member Sheila Baccus. She has been assisting the association as it tries to rejuvenate this historic site located within her ward.

The late 19th-century African-American cemetery was established by the descendants of those buried there. Macedonia Baptist Church, Bethel AME Church and St. James Methodist Church put together 16 acres over the years, beginning with just 5 acres in 1890. The site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, served as the only African-American cemetery within the city limits of Darlington until 1946.

One of the oldest and largest private burial sites in the Pee Dee region, the Darlington City Cemetery, as it is also known, contains 5,000 interments both marked and unmarked.

Members of the association have said, "How we take care of our ancestral monuments reflects how we care for and think about ourselves. If we do not protect our cemeteries, no one else will."

In 2009, the city worked with this organization and the S.C. Department of Archives and History to create a master plan for the cemetery. The city continues to look for grants to enact this plan.

The cemetery has several prominent figures buried on site, including religious lead-

ers, public servants and educators, specifically Rev. Isaac P. Brockenton, James Lawrence Cain, Edmund H. Deas, Lawrence Reese, and Dr. Mable K. Howard. Among the buried are veterans from the Confederate States of America Army, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, Korean War and Vietnam War.

The organization also is soliciting donations to fund the ongoing maintenance needs of the property. Make donations payable to the Darlington Memorial Cemetery and mail to P.O. Box 1494, Darlington, SC 29540.

For information or questions, call Baccus at 843-307-2287 or email shelabig@yahoo.com.

Rotary Club of Hartsville buys new shoes for 100 students

For the second year in a row, the Rotary Club of Hartsville recently hosted Darlington County School District students at the Shoe Store and purchased each student a brand new pair of shoes - 100 pairs, to be exact.

That's far more than the Rotary Club could fund last year. The two-day "Happy Feet" event was welcomed by the students, who came from several schools in the Hartsville area. The partnership with the Shoe Store is also in its second year.

Charles Saverance, president of the Rotary Club of Hartsville, said the group's members enjoy working to help the community.

"The Rotary Club of Hartsville adopted 'Happy Feet' as our Signature Project in 2018," Saverance said. "Seeing children take off their shoes, which may be a couple of sizes too small or that may have holes in them, and watching them walk out of the store with a brand new pair makes it all worthwhile. Sometimes this is the first new

pair of shoes they have ever owned. Rotary Club exists to do good in the world, and that always starts at home."

Student volunteers from Hartsville High School (HHS), who are members of Ready 2 Interact (R2I), also helped out with the event. R2I is the Rotary Club's branch organization at the high school. R2I members guided the younger students around to try on different pairs of shoes and helped them check out.

Cierra Hillian, president of R2I and a senior at HHS, said

helping other Darlington County School District students proved rewarding.

"Happy Feet is such a wonderful opportunity that R2I looks forward to each year," Hillian said. "It is such a fun and heartwarming chance to be able to help children find a pair of shoes. For many, it is just a simple part of life to get a new pair of shoes, but to other it can mean the world. We are so thankful to be a part of that."



Governor's School students work with Habitat for Humanity in Darlington County

The mission of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics in Hartsville is to prepare students to "engage as ethical leaders with the world's most significant issues."

Providing greater access to affordable, quality housing is one of the world's most significant issues. However, GSSM students are already making an impact throughout the Hartsville community regarding this concern.

Students from GSSM are partnering with Darlington County Habitat for Humanity during the 2019-20 school year to complete multiple

homes in the Hartsville community.

A group of GSSM students kicked off this year's efforts Sept. 11 by helping to paint the interior of a family home on Sumter Street.

Since 2017, GSSM students have contributed to the construction of six homes in Hartsville, including the 50th home built by Darlington County Habitat for Humanity since its founding in 1996.

Student work on homes has included framing, installation of cabinets and flooring, painting, landscaping, as well as home dedications.

The work ethic and positive

attitude that GSSM students are known for in their academic work carry over into their volunteer efforts. "It is always great working with GSSM. The students are so talented and jump right on any task assigned," said Mark Haenchen, executive director of Darlington County Habitat for Humanity.

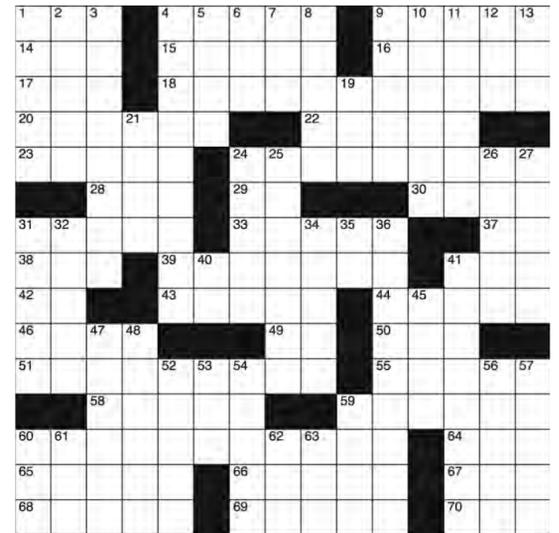
Working on these homes helps students apply practical applications of their lessons from class while providing a change of pace from the regular daily tasks of high school.

"Habitat for Humanity provided us with a much-needed respite from school while giv-

ing us a chance to give back to the community that welcomed us," said Richard Sandvoss, GSSM Class of 2019.

In addition to the rigorous coursework and research projects, GSSM students participate in a wide variety of community service projects. GSSM students recognized the partnership with Habitat for Humanity as the "Best Community Service Project" for the 2017-18 school year at their annual Student Follies awards.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Google certification
4. Cloths spread over coffins
9. Disorderly
14. "Star Wars" hero Solo
15. Toward the rear
16. The order of frogs
17. Alternative pain treatment (abbr.)
18. "Wolf of Wall Street" star
20. Evoke
22. Units of metrical time
23. Helps to predict eclipses
24. Some say they attract
28. Pitching statistic
29. Baseball box score (abbr.)
30. Force unit
31. Repaired shoe
33. English theologian
37. Commercial
38. Exchange money for goods or services
39. Give off
41. One from Utah
42. Computer department
43. Begets
44. English navigator
46. C C C
49. Of I
50. Pouch
51. Add notes to

55. A way to fall into ruin
58. Cunning intelligence
59. Blood disorder
60. Disgraced CBS newsmen
64. Tax collector
65. Type of grass common to the Orient
66. Cosmic intelligence
67. No (Scottish)
68. People who rely on things
69. Stairs have them
70. Mathematical term (abbr.)

24. Academy Award statue
25. Distinct unit of sound
26. Relative on the female side of the family
27. Passover feast and ceremony
31. The brightest star in Virgo
32. Made with oats
34. Subjects to laser light
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Neatly brief
40. The Great Lakes State (abbr.)
41. Soon to be released
45. Swiss river
47. Become involved in
48. More dour
52. They're on floors
53. Boxing's GOAT
54. Swarms with
56. Quantum mechanics pioneer
57. Facilitated
59. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
60. Regional French wine Grand
61. Owns
62. Tell on
63. Precedes two

DOWN

1. Clarified butters
2. Primitive Himalayan people
3. Completely
4. Steep cliffs along the Hudson River
5. Assist
6. Language spoken in Laos
7. Type of screen
8. An attempt to economize
9. Volcanic craters
10. Still outstanding
11. Takes responsibility for another
12. California think tank
13. Former Rocket Ming
19. A pigeon noise
21. Central part of

WORD SEARCH

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

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| AUTUMN | CULTIVATE | GRANGE | ORCHARD |
| BUSHEL | EROSION | GRASS | PICK |
| COMMODITY | FALLOW | HARVEST | SOWING |
| CORN | FARM | HAY | TILLING |
| CRADLE | FEED | HUSK | |
| CROPS | FLAIL | MANURE | |
| | FORAGE | MILL | |

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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.

Date of Death: 7/25/2019
Case No: 2019-ES-16-433
Personal Representative: Marcus Benjamin

Address: 36 Bellows Falls Drive, Greer, SC 29650
Attorney: Charlie J. Blake, Jr.
Address: Post Office Box 1317, Florence, SC 29503

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Date of Death: 9/8/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600444
Personal Representative: Barbara Willoughby

Address: 3525 Willoughby Lane, Florence, SC 29541

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Date of Death: 9/7/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600441
Personal Representative: Dawn F. Ellen

Address: POB 22, Bishopville, SC 29010

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Date of Death: 1/24/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600455
Personal Representative: Bill Steve Hutchinson, Jr.

Address: 5909 Wichita Drive, Knoxville, TN 37921

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Estate: Janie Kinley
Date of Death: 9/1/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600446

Personal Representative: Jenelle K. Davis
Address: 205 Union Street, Society Hill, SC 29593

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Estate: Deone Shanard Scott
Date of Death: 9/7/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600443

Personal Representative: Falana Scott

Address: 523 Potato House Road, Darlington, SC 29532

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Estate: Tran Powell White
Date of Death: 8/20/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600449
Personal Representative: Robert Randy White

Address: 3504 Timmonsville Hwy., Timmonsville, SC 29161

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Estate: Louise Faulkenberry Williamson
Date of Death: 8/6/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600440

Personal Representative: David Lin Williamson
Address: 1710 Sweet Maple Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Faye Sumner Yarborough
Date of Death: 8/12/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600550

Personal Representative: Alison Yarborough Evans
Address: 612 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Yogi Pramukh, LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and off premises consumption of beer & wine at 1424 S. 5th Street, Hartsville, SC 29550. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than 10/10/2019. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

(1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;

(2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied;

(3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);

(4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,

(5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, Attn: ABL, PO Box 125, Columbia, S.C. 29214; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

The following mobile home was abandoned on June 3, 2019 at 1837 Lakeview Blvd. Hartsville, S. C. 29550 described as 14 X 70 3 bedroom P1038606 T Schult model. Amount due for fees \$12,400 to date. Owner is asked to call 813-965-7669. If not claimed in 30 days, it will be turned over to magistrate's office for public sale.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

The following camper 3 slide out 2012 serial # 2779161 8X34 ft. Windjammer Model Rockwood was abandoned at 2229 Lot #11 Robinson View Dr. Easterling Boat Landing, Hartsville, S. C. 29550 June 2012. Amount due for fees and storage is \$21,000 to date. Owner is asked to call 813-965-7669. If not claimed in 30 days, it will be turned over to magistrate's office for public sale.

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Estate: Joey Steve Atkinson
Date of Death: 8/5/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600452

Personal Representative: Johnny Lloyd Atkinson
Address: 1709 Mohawk Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550

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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: Annie Amerson Dority
Date of Death: 9/9/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600453
Personal Representative: Alice Dority Hair
Address: 618 Lee State Park Road, Lamar, SC 29069

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Estate: Rita Faye Johnson
Date of Death: 9/9/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600461

Personal Representative: Casey Gwen McInville

Address: 1717 Beaverdam Road, Hartsville, SC 29550

SUMMONS (Deficiency Judgment Waived) (Mortgage Foreclosure) Non-Jury

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CASE NO. 2019CP1600626
Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., Plaintiff, -vs-
The Estate of Willie James Bacote; The Estate of Jessie Lee Bacote; South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; All Unknown Heirs of Willie J. Bacote, Deceased or Jessie Lee Bacote, Deceased, and all other persons entitled to claim under or through them being a class designated as Mary Roe; All Unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein, being a class designated as Jane Doe; also any Unknown persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and Any Unknown minors, persons under a Disability or persons incarcerated, being a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendant(s)

TO THE DEFENDANT(S),
The Estate of Willie James Bacote; The Estate of Jessie Lee Bacote; and all other persons entitled to claim under or through them being a class designated as Mary Roe; All Unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein, being a class designated as Jane Doe; also any Unknown persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and Any Unknown minors, persons under a Disability or persons incarcerated, being a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendant(s)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices, 1640 St. Julian Place, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for a judgment by default granting the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDE(S), AND/OR TO PERSON UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY, INCOMPETENTS AND PERSONS CONFINED:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Summons

and Complaint in the above-captioned action were filed on June 10, 2019, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI AND NOTICE A GUARDIAN AD LITEM APPOINTED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT an action involving real property known as 825 Harrell Road, in which you may have an interest, has been commenced in the Court of Common Pleas for Darlington County, South Carolina and that, by Order of the Clerk of Court filed therein on , Kelley Yarborough Woody, Esquire has been appointed as the attorney to represent any unknown Defendants that may be in the military service represented by the class designated as John Doe and Guardian ad Litem Nisi for all minors and persons under legal disability as a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendants herein.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

THAT, unless you or someone on your behalf apply to the Court for appointment of a suitable person to act as Attorney or Guardian ad Litem herein, within thirty (30) days after service by publication of this Notice, the appointment of Kelley Yarborough Woody, Esquire as Guardian ad Litem shall be made absolute.

LIS PENDENS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT an action has been commenced and is now pending in this Court upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage of real estate given by Willie James Bacote and Jessie Lee Bacote to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Equity One, Inc. dated April 21, 2006, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County on May 3, 2006 at 10:25 am in Book 1043 at 4382 The premises covered and affected by the said mortgage and the foreclosure thereof, were, at the time of making thereof and at the time of the filing of the Lis Pendens, as described on the attached Exhibit "A".

EXHIBIT "A"

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in Lydia, in the County of Darlington, State of South Carolina and designated as Lots Nos. 66

and 67 on a Map prepared by Jack D. Epperly, P.L.S., dated November 23, 1992, a copy of which Map is attached. Said lots have such shapes, metes, courses and distances as are shown on said Map. Lot No. 66 fronts 50 feet on Harrell Road, its northwestern boundary; it runs by Lot No. 67 for a distance of 100 feet, its north-eastern boundary; it runs for a distance of 50 feet by Lot No. 62, its southeastern boundary; and it runs for a distance of 100 feet by an alley road on its southwestern boundary. Lot No. 67 fronts 50 feet on Harrell Road, its northwestern boundary; it runs for a distance of 199 feet by Lot No. 68 on its northeastern boundary; it runs for a distance of 50 feet by Lot No. 71, its southeastern boundary; and it runs for a distance of 199 feet by Lots Nos. 60, 61, 62 and 66, its southwestern boundary. This being the same property conveyed to Jessie Lee Bacote and Willie James Bacote by deed of Robert Arthur and Thelma Arthur, dated April 12, 1994 and recorded April 21, 1994 in Book D68 at Page 347 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Darlington County, South Carolina. Crawford & von Keller, LLC. PO Box 4216 1640 St. Julian Place (29204) Columbia, SC 29240 Phone: 803-790-2626 Email: court@crawfordvk.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Columbia, South Carolina September 23, 2019

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Estate: Robert Rollins Culpepper
Date of Death: 9/3/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600463

Personal Representative: Nancy I. Culpepper
Address: 117 Kalber Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550
Attorney: William G. Newsome, III
Address: 1501 Main Street, Suite 601, Columbia, SC 29201

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Estate: Elizabeth J. Franklin
Date of Death: 9/14/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600465

Personal Representative: Harvey L. Franklin
Address: 3133 Greystone Drive, Florence, SC 29501

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Personal Representative: Harvey L. Franklin
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become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Linda Bell Chapman
Date of Death: 9/17/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600470
Personal Representative: Gene Chapman, Sr.
Address: 1345 Lee State Park Rd., Lamar, SC 29069

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119 Brittain Road—3 BR, 2 Full & 2 Half BA, 3612 SF—**\$289,500**
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104 N. Warley Street—2 BR, 2 BA, 1231 SF—**\$137,500**
401 Bacote Street—3 BR, 1 BA, 1536 SF—**\$34,000**
1725 Harry Byrd Highway—3 BR, 2 BA, 2900 SF—**\$224,900**
722 Spring Street—4 BR, 3 BA, 2456 SF—**\$100,000**
111 Virginia Drive—5 BR, 4 BA, 4290 SF—**\$324,900**

LAND

31.5 Acres Ashland Road—**\$110,000**
TBD Cashua Ferry Road—**.57 Acres—\$15,900**
Dewitt Circle—**29.58 Acres—\$236,640**
TBD Evangeline Drive—**.31 Acres—25,000**
TBD First Street—**.37 Acres—\$12,900**
1011 Pearl Street—**1.59 Acres—\$150,000**
Hoffmeyer Road—**154.45 Acres—\$387,000**
Tract A Hwy 52 By-Pass & Road 409—**.7 Acres—\$12,000**
Tract B Hwy 52 By-Pass & Road 409—**1.38 Acres—\$25,000**
117.89 Acres New Hopewell Road—**295,000**
Lot 68 Nez Perce Drive—**.95 Acres—\$24,900**
Pink Dogwood Street—**2 lots—\$24,000 each**
TBD Smith Avenue—**7 Acres—\$325,000**
TBD Swift Creek Road—**60.52 Acres—\$223,900**
00 Swift Creek Road—**3.47 Acres—\$24,900**
Lot 13 Wildshall Road—**.84 Acres—\$27,000**
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SHAMEKIA JACKSON
Storage #48
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Total due: \$215.00

CHELSEY RUBIN
Storage #71
Household items
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109 Laurel Avenue - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,475 sq ft - **\$136,900**
609 Heathwood Drive - 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 1,440 sq ft - **\$129,900**
502 Sherin St - 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 1,140 sq ft - **\$114,900**
3433 Bethel Rd (Hartsville) - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,840 sq ft, inground pool. **\$96,000**
653 Hidden Lane - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,800 sq ft - **\$89,900**
248 Woods St. - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,144 sq ft - **\$62,000**
114 Tedder St - 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,125 sq ft - **REDUCED \$62,500**
MOTIVATED SELLER BRING ALL OFFERS
2759 Cashua Ferry Rd - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,000 sq ft - **\$62,000**
704 Wire Rd - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,100 sq ft - **\$62,000**

LAND AND LOTS

50 acres Cashua Ferry Rd - land is located on the GREAT PEE DEE RIVER - **\$45,000**
4 acres on GREAT PEE DEE RIVER - beside boat landing River Frontage - **\$35,000**
1.05 acre lot in Wildshall S/D - S/D Restrictions apply - **\$26,500**
Lot B Dovesville Hwy - 2 acres mobile home allowed - **\$20,000**
Floyds Road - .94 acre lot Septic tank and county water - **\$15,000**
Lot 56 Kant Avenue - 1 acre, mobile home allowed **\$9,000**
motivated seller make an offer

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. It would make a great church, restaurant, or banquet hall 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**

1033 Pearl Street - If you have been looking for commercial property in Darlington then look no more! This is a large commercial building with 5,363 sq ft. 3 restrooms, lots of great storage space, attached studio apartment with exterior access, lots of open space and much more! Large backroom is currently being used for storage with double door access to exterior and also has bathroom and washer and dryer hookup. Property sits on a 1/2 acre corner lot. Property is currently being used as a Salon and Boutique, but would make a great warehouse, apartments, school or daycare. Lots of possibilities. Property being sold "As Is" **PRICED @ \$170,000**

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

CHARLES WATSON
Appraiser CR-2868
Cell: 245-3103

JENNIFER BYRD
Realtor
843-495-3630

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

HOMES FOR SALE

House for Sale by Owner - 242 Syracuse Street in Darlington. Remodeled white brick ranch w/brick fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, new kitchen, new paint inside and out, original hardwood and new flooring. Central H/V/AC, huge fenced yard. \$49,000 or best offer. Possible Owner Financing. Call (919) 303-1445. 9p5

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted: Carpenter's Helper - 1 year minimum experience. Must have own transportation and must pass drug test. Call: (843) 615-2583 or (843) 617-5342 11p4

HOMES FOR RENT

133 Norwood Circle, Small brick house, \$600/month, (843) 393-7545 50ctfn
1318 Ebenezer Road - 2 Bedroom house, remodeled. \$500/month. (843) 393-7545 11ctfn
409 Eastburn Court - 3 Bedroom brick house. \$650/month. (843) 393-7545. 11ctfn
211-2 Edwards Ave - 1 bedroom downstairs apartment, gas stove & refrigerator provided, gas heat, window a/c unit, NO washer/dryer hook up, water included, \$400/deposit, \$400/rent, call (843) 393-8084. 13c3
2043 Longleaf Drive - 2 bedroom, 1 bath singlewide approximately

ESTATE SALE

Estate Moving Sale - 300 Rosemount Drive, Florence, SC - Saturdays, Oct. 12 & Oct. 26, 7am-until, clothes, furniture, glassware, Christmas decor, kitchen appliances, and much more! Everything must go!!! 13p1
ANNOUNCEMENTS
BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 844-524-2197
Still have life insurance? Need

Answers from 2B

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Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association presented the residential Pride of Darlington award to homeowners Danny and Kimberly Purvis for their stylish revamp of a basic brick ranch home on Spring Street.

"It was a blank slate," Kimberly says of the home the family moved into six years ago.

Improvement projects tackled by Danny, Kim and their son Dylan included a new olive green paintjob and black Bahama shutters to give the house a relaxed, beachy feel. Landscaping was also a labor of love, and the cultivated a variety of flora, like roses, mums, Japanese maples, ferns, ivy, Indian hawthorne, banana trees, nandinas, cedars, crape myrtles and palm trees.

DDRA presents the Pride of Darlington award to residents and businesses in recognition of special efforts to beautify the city. Nominations for the Residential and Business Pride Awards can be sent to City Planning, P.O. Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540, called in to 843-398-4000, ext. 103, e-mailed to darlingtonplanner@gmail.com.



(left to right) Laura Burns, Linda Beckham, DDRA executive director Lisa Rock, Ronda Brown, Danny Purvis, Delette Jordan, Kimberly Purvis, Dylan Purvis and Mayor Gloria C. Hines. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

Filling one crack at a time: Key part of DOT's plan to 'fix' S.C.'s bad roads

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

Although state transportation officials claim they are making serious progress in fixing South Carolina's bad roads and bridges with gas-tax-hike money, their own numbers continue to tell a different story.

Newly released S.C. Department of Transportation records show that of the \$311.3 million in total vendor payments through August under the gas-tax-hike law that took effect July 1, 2017, at least \$115.6 million, or more than 37 percent, was not spent on major road reconstruction or repaving projects.

Instead, that amount was spent collectively on "preservation" projects, which, accord-

ing to DOT's website, include such things as "crack sealing" and "chip sealing"; and on "safety improvement" projects, such as widening shoulders and adding guard rails.

The total rate of spending in those categories has remained in the 30-percent-plus range so far this year, The Nerve's latest review found.

In passing the gas-tax-hike law, which raised the state gas tax 12 cents per gallon over six years and increased other vehicle taxes and fees, lawmakers promised that the revenues would go toward fixing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

DOT has said 80 percent of the state's approximately 42,000 miles of roads needs repaving or rebuilding, and

identified 465 out of 750 "structurally deficient" bridges to be replaced.

Yet as of Aug. 31, the cash balance in a special fund created with the gas-tax-hike law was \$451.7 million, or 54.5 percent of the \$828.1 million in collected revenues over the 26-month period, DOT records show.

The Nerve in August revealed that DOT was planning to complete about 2,300 miles of road repairs by the end of 2021, though that number represented less than 7 percent of the approximately 33,600 miles of state roads that the agency says have to be resurfaced or reconstructed.

Of the \$716.6 million in identified "pavements" projects through August, \$133.4 mil-

lion, or 18.6 percent, had been completed, according to agency records. In more than half of the state's 46 counties, the completion rate in that category was less than 20 percent.

DOT has identified nearly \$1.1 billion in project "commitments" with gas-tax-hike revenues, though contrary to what lawmakers pledged in pushing for the increases, \$246 million, or nearly a quarter of the total, is designated for interstate widenings - which the agency began to more clearly acknowledge after The Nerve in January revealed those plans.

Bad roads can result in thousands of dollars in car repairs and serious injury or death. The Nerve last month reported that DOT, through the state Insurance Reserve Fund, since

last year has paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars in pot-hole claims.

The Nerve's latest review found that in 10 counties, at least half of the total vendor payments as of Aug. 31 collectively was for "preservation" and "safety improvement" projects. Following is a list of the 10 counties with the highest percentage of total vendor payments for those projects:

- Laurens: 94.76 percent
- Lexington: 88.38 percent
- McCormick: 76.79 percent
- Orangeburg: 72.69 percent
- Abbeville: 66.97 percent
- Jasper: 63.35 percent
- Horry: 59.77 percent
- Richland: 58.81 percent
- Georgetown: 58.80 percent
- Clarendon: 55.46 percent

Lexington County led all counties in the total collective amount spent on "preservation" and "safety improvement" projects - \$13 million - through August, with Jasper (\$11.8 million), Horry (\$10.3 million), Orangeburg (\$8.1 million) and Aiken (\$4.9 million) counties rounding out the top five, The Nerve's review found.

Brundrett is the news editor of The Nerve (www.thenerve.org). Contact him at 803-254-4411 or rick@thenerve.org.

Follow him on Twitter @RickBrundrett. Follow The Nerve on Facebook and Twitter @thenervesc.

Legals

Continued from 4B

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: Sandra Marie Marie Graham Date of Death: 9/28/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600468 Personal Representative: Robin Cunningham Address: 1625 Fair House Rd., Springhill, TN 37174 (13p3 leave in thru 10-23-19)

NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CASE NO. 2019-CP-16-00798
First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc., Plaintiff, -vs- Chandrakant D. Patel, Sapanakumari G. Patel, South Carolina Department of Revenue, KMS Distribution Service Inc. dba North South Wholesale and Pravin Patel, Defendant(s).
BY VIRTUE of a judgment heretofore granted in the case of First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc. vs. Chandrakant D. Patel, Sapanakumari G. Patel, South Carolina Department of Revenue, KMS Distribution Service Inc. dba North South Wholesale and Pravin Patel, I, Benjamin D. Moore, Esquire Special Referee for Darlington County, will sell on November 4, 2019, at 12:30 pm, at the Darlington County Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington,

SC 29532, to the highest bidder:
All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate, lying and being near City of Hartsville, County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, and being more particularly designated as Lot No.9 as shown on a Plat prepared by J. E. Tucker, Jr., R.S., dated 4/7/1975 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County, South Carolina, in Plat Book 66 at Page 93; said lot measuring and being bounded as follows:
NORTH: By Kimberly Drive, for a distance of 100 feet, more or less;
EAST: By Lot No. 8 (n/f of Billy Michael Smith), for a distance of 206 feet, more or less;
SOUTH: By lands n/f of C. W. Newsome, for a distance of 100 feet, more or less; and,

WEST: By Lot No. 10 (n/f of Kathleen D. McInville) for a distance of 206 feet, more or less.
Being the same premises conveyed unto Chandrakant D. Patel and Sapanakumari G. Patel by Deed of Rameshchandra C. Makwana and Bharti R. Makwana dated March 14, 2016, and recorded March 17, 2016 in Book 1077 at Page 9530 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County, South Carolina. TMS #: 036-10-02-006
SUBJECT TO DARLINGTON COUNTY TAXES
TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee at conclusion of the bidding, five (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, the same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be for-

feited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of the bid or comply with the other terms or the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the former highest bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available

sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. A personal or deficiency judgment having been demanded by the Plaintiff, the sale of the subject property will remain open for thirty (30) days pursuant to Section 15-39-720, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976; provided, however, that the Court recognizes the option reserved by the Plaintiff to waive such deficiency judgment prior to the sale, and notice is given that the Plaintiff may waive in writing the deficiency judgment prior to the sale; and

that should the Plaintiff elect to waive a deficiency judgment, without notice other than the announcement at the sale and notice in writing to the debtor defendant(s) that a deficiency judgment has been waived and that the sale will be final, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. The successful bidder will be

required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.625% per annum.
Benjamin D. Moore, Esquire Special Referee for Darlington County
Theodore von Keller, Esquire B. Lindsay Crawford, III, Esquire
Sara Hutchins
Columbia, South Carolina Attorney for Plaintiff
E m a i l :
court@crawfordvk.com
(14 leave in thru 10-23-19)



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