



# News & Press

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

EDMUND BURKE

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## Darlington County Year in Review

JANUARY 2019

**Washington's duties expand**By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington Police Chief Kelvin Washington will become the city's public-safety director, also assuming authority over the Fire Department, under a "reorganization" plan launched by City Council.

After a brief executive session during its Jan. 8 session, City Council voted unanimously, with almost no public discussion, to begin a reorganization that will allow Washington to remain in charge of the city's 24-person Police Department, but will also put the city's seven paid firefighters and 21 volunteer firefighters under his authority.

Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, who has run the department since 2012, will continue to serve as the city's fire chief, Washington said in a statement the day after the vote.

"I am excited about this new opportunity and look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Darlington," said Washington, who became the city's police chief last year. "Chief Cavanaugh will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Darlington Fire Department."

**New members join school board**

The Darlington County School Board Jan. 14 swore in two newly elected board members and two members who were re-elected to new terms.

New members Richard Brewer (District 5, Darlington) and Leigh Anne Kelley (District 1, Darlington) were sworn in by county Clerk of Court Scott Suggs. Kelley replaces Billy Baldwin; Brewer replaces Maureen Thomas.

Suggs then swore in Wanda Hassler (District 7, Hartsville) and Thelma Dawson (District 3, Darlington), two returning board members who were re-elected without opposition. Meeting for the first time in the new year, the board elected member Warren Jeffords as its new chairman. Jeffords succeeds Jamie Morphis, who had served for two years. Dawson was chosen the board's new vice chairman.

-- From staff reports

**'Just a mother that got 40 kids off a bus to safety'**By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

One firefighter gives thanks to God and a quick-thinking school bus driver for the fact that 40 Darlington County elementary-school students escaped injury Jan. 22 when a car slammed into their bus from behind, starting a fire that engulfed half the bus.

"That had all the makings of being a total disaster," said Thomas Spivey, chief of the Palmetto Rural Fire Department, which responded to the 6:30 a.m. accident on McIver Road near Wellman Industries. "The Lord was with us this morning."

And so was the driver of the bus, Bernadine Reed, a Darlington resident who'd been working as a school-bus driver for only 45 days. "The bus driver did a superb job of getting the students off there," Spivey said.

At a news conference the day after the accident, Reed

explained that she had just stopped for a railroad crossing when the car slammed into the rear of the bus, which was carrying 40 Brunson-Dargan and Cain elementary school students.

"A little girl from the back of the bus said, 'It's smoking,'" Reed told reporters. "I opened the door so everybody (would) be able to get off the bus. ... The only thought I had was getting them all off the bus to safety."

"They all know that if something happens, you have to follow my rules, so that's what they did," Reed said. " ... They all were nervous, screaming and crying. But after we got off the bus, we all huddled in a circle (and) they (were) fine."

Darlington County Schools Superintendent Tim Newman, who joined Reed for the press conference Jan. 23, said the new bus driver -- 45 days on the job -- had become his hero. Reed told reporters: "I'm just a mother that got 40 kids off a bus to safety."

FEBRUARY 2019

**Domino's driver slain: 'Shock and grief'**By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Domino's Pizza at 510 Pearl St. in Darlington was open for business last week, but it wasn't business as usual.

For one thing, employees were carrying a load of "shock and grief and sadness," said the restaurant's owner, Osman Qasim. "People walking around with a heavy heart."

For another, half of the restaurant's proceeds for the early part of last week -- Monday, Jan. 28, through Wednesday, Jan. 30 -- were being donated to the family of longtime Darlington Domino's employee Abdul McKenzie, who was shot and killed while delivering pizzas late at night on a rural Darlington County road.

McKenzie, 39, was found dead in a car on Rogers Road near Larry's Drive just before midnight Saturday, Jan. 26, according to the Darlington County Sheriff's Office and the Coroner's Office. Qasim said the vehicle was McKenzie's personal car, with a DOMINO'S sign on top.

McKenzie had worked for the Darlington Domino's for nearly 20 years, Qasim said. For most of that time, Qasim said, he had been a delivery driver: "He just liked to deliver."

"People are just shocked," Qasim said. "He was a wonderful, gentle team member for 20 years. Just a wonderful human being." And a big fan of Marvel's Spider-Man, Qasim



By the time this photo was taken, the fire was nearly extinguished. PHOTO COURTESY OF PALMETTO RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

said. "We lost a wonderful human being to something senseless. ... We just hope justice will be served."

**New coaches for DHS**By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

The Darlington High Falcons will take to the football field and volleyball court this year with new leadership at the helm.

DHS held a press conference Feb. 1 announcing Raymond Jennings as head varsity football coach and Cellina Epps as head coach of varsity girls volleyball.

"Both of these coaches are incredible educators and will be serving in the classroom as well as on the court and on the field, and we're excited to have them help our athletes grow in their classes and their sports to open up opportunities to them in the future," said DHS principal Cortney Gehrke. "We're very much looking forward to the things they're going to accomplish here at Darlington High School."

**Raising deputies' pay**By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

In 1993, when Sheriff Tony Chavis began his career as a trooper with the Highway Patrol, his starting pay roughly matched that of a present-day Darlington County deputy. Now, 26 years later, prices have gone up on everything, but a deputy's starting salary has not kept pace.

Chavis hopes to change that by asking the county to budget for pay increases this year. "These men and women put their lives on the line every day. We need to pay them, reward them with a good starting salary and pay increases for longevity," he says.

In 2017, a deputy's starting salary was \$26,547; now it is \$28,621. But that's before deductions and fringe costs cut that down to \$17,859, meaning that a deputy with a spouse and a child earns 14 percent below the U.S. poverty level. Chavis says this is unacceptable.

To that end, he has proposed a step increase that would boost deputies' salary over \$30,000, keeping DCSO in step with pay offered by police departments in Hartsville and Darlington. Chavis notes that young officers come to DCSO, require an investment of at least \$50,000 for training and equipment, and often leave within three years for higher-paying jobs with other law enforcement agencies.

**A \$4 million gift for history**By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

At Darlington County Council's Feb. 4 regular meeting, members voted unanimously to accept and secure a generous gift left in their care. Council approved receipt of a \$4 million bequest from the late Carolyn "Bet" Norment Phillips, which she set aside for the Darlington County Historical Commission.

"The estate bequeath was

Mayor Gloria Hines, left, presents Bernadine Reed a key to the city  
PHOTO BY BOBBY BRYANT

specific that we establish a Darlington County Museum, and that the residual funds after that's created would go to the care and maintenance of that facility," explained Brian Gandy, Darlington County Historical Commission director. "Now that the vote is official, we'll pick up some speed and as we progress along the way, we'll bring reports as to where we're at and what's going on."

**A show of respect for Stone**By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

A line of fire trucks and emergency vehicles, lights flashing, escorted the body of Jim Stone home from a Florence hospital last Thursday night.

Stone, who had worked with the Darlington Fire Department for 50 years, including more than a quarter-century as fire chief, died Feb. 7 after a long struggle with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), friends said. Stone, 78, had retired from the fire department in 2012.

Stone died at McLeod Regional Medical Center, where he had gone for treatment as his illness worsened. Within hours of his death, Darlington fire trucks and rescue vehicles arrived at McLeod and formed a funeral procession away from the hospital.

"It was extremely touching," said Stone's friend Rodney Langley, a former Darlington city manager. "It was a show of

respect for sure. ... I don't know how they got the word out" so fast. Stone received another rare tribute on Saturday, when his body lay inside a flag-draped casket in the lobby of the Darlington County Courthouse for about four hours during the afternoon and evening. Mourners filed past the casket.

**'These comments have gotten out of hand'**By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Citizens who want to speak before Darlington City Council would have to sign up six days beforehand, tell a city official what they want to discuss, limit their remarks to three minutes and make "no personal attacks" on council members, under a plan that won initial approval Feb. 12.

The ordinance, championed by Mayor Gloria Hines as a necessary way to limit damaging and divisive comments during the "public comment" portion of council meetings, would significantly tighten council's rules on "Citizens Wishing to Speak Before Council," as it's listed on the agendas.

"I have noticed for the past year that several comments that have been made by citizens and others have become personal and very offensive," Hines told council. " ... These comments have gotten out of hand and must cease at once if we are to move Darlington forward."



Abdul McKenzie, his wife, Trinity, and their three children.







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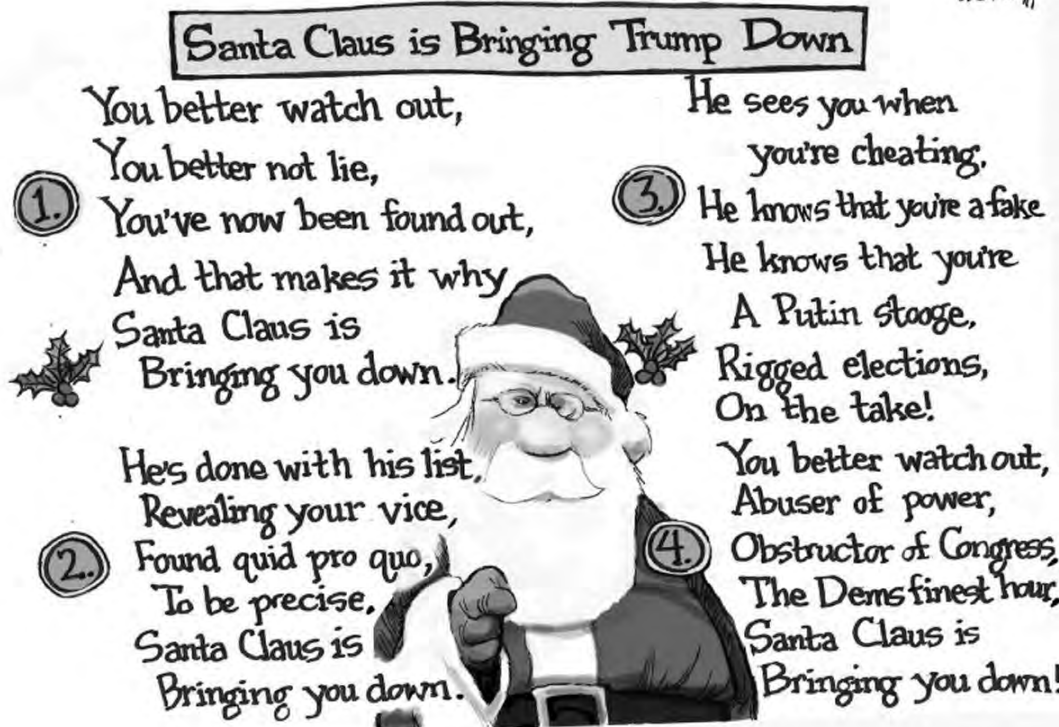
Word of the Week

punctilio - a minute detail of conduct in a ceremony

Merriam-Webster.com

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THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



OP - ED

## A new beginning

By Bill Shepard

The Christmas tree now lies in a heap or has been packed away in a dark cellar. It is doubtful that anything depreciates in value more quickly than a Christmas tree!

A new calendar has replaced the one that hung on the wall for 12 long months. The pages are crisp and clear.

There are no markings of things to do, appointments, or reminders of any sort. It is doubtful that it remains that way for long.

The words and the letters on each new page remind us that we are on the threshold of a brand-new year!

We have been here before and some of us, more than a few times. We are familiar with the feeling. It is a time of questioning what lies ahead.

There are none wise enough to answer those questions! The finger of time beckons for us to follow and we have no choice but to follow! We buckle up for the ride and slip out into the unknown.

The road ahead leads in one direction only, straight ahead. Take a quick glance backwards, if you must, and then move on!

You are traveling over uncharted territory. Be careful, watch out for the bumps in the road. Past experiences should have taught you there will be

some. Don't let your guard down; to do so could be costly. Remember that it is the unexpected happening on any journey that causes us the most trouble!

I recall an incident many years ago, when I was a young soldier. We were scheduled for a long march and were to carry a full "field pack." Fully packed, it would weigh approximately 60 pounds.

I decided I would cheat a little and lighten my load. Among the items I would leave out of my pack was my raincoat. No one would ever know, so I thought. A few miles into the march, it began to rain. The order was given to halt and put

on our raincoats, before continuing on.

The unexpected had happened. There I stood, shaking with being wet from the rain and the fear of what lay ahead. The sergeant came along, inspecting to see that all had their raincoats on.

I was indeed a spectacle, one in a long line. I was allowed to ride inside the ambulance that always was near, when such marches were made. I paid for being caught by serving KP duty for a full week.

On your journey ahead, do not be caught lacking the things you are most likely to need or some things you might just have chosen to leave

behind – those that might have been extra weights through the past year.

Leave behind any old prejudices that have been collected along with the jealousies and envying. Those little eaters can show up unexpectedly and spoil your travels.

Refuse to allow unkind thoughts of others a hiding place in your mind. Refuse to carry a load of self-guilt another day on your journey. Forgiveness is a must and that for others and for self! Having taken these from your pack, your load should be lightened already!

Now, you should have more room for the following items

you are sure to be in need of. Take with you a large supply of kindness! Folk you meet along your journey may not understand the things you say, but they will understand the way you say it.

One last resolve for your journeys ahead – be happy!

True happiness must come from within. It is not dependent upon the things that we possess or the things about us. It depends on the faith we have in the One that brought us to our journey!

Good luck in your travels. Straight ahead – 2020!

OP - ED

## Thinking on Time's Person of the Year

By Tom Jones  
The Poynter Institute

Let's get something straight. Time magazine's Person of the Year is just an honorary title. Other than publicity, the "winner" doesn't actually get anything. Those who don't "win" don't miss out on some big trophy or cash prize.

It's just something for fun — like a list of the top 10 movies or TV shows of the year.

It's also the perfect topic for debate, and there's plenty of that following Time's announcement that Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is its "Person of the Year." At 16, she is the youngest person to be recognized.

Time editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal wrote, "Thunberg has become the biggest voice

on the biggest issue facing the planet — and the avatar of a broader generational shift in our culture that is playing out everywhere from the campuses of Hong Kong to the halls of Congress in Washington."

The person of the year is supposed to go to "the person or persons who most affected the news and our lives, for good or ill, and embodied what was important about the year, for better or for worse."

You might look at the choice of Thunberg as a flawed, but safe selection. Not because she isn't deserving, but because there are others who feel more important and newsworthy at this very moment.

Specifically: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, President Donald Trump and most of all, someone known simply by a vague

name — The Whistleblower.

For just the fourth time in the history of our country, a U.S. president is undergoing impeachment proceedings. That has dominated the news for months and will end up being, by far, the biggest news story of the year.

At first glance, it might feel as if choosing Thunberg is Time's way of staying out of the fierce political fray. The impeachment is splitting the country in two and choosing anyone directly involved likely will draw ire from at least half of Time's audience.

Choose Pelosi or the whistleblower and it looks like Time is favoring the president's removal from office. Choose Trump and it looks like the magazine is siding with the president. By choosing

Thunberg, Time can avoid the political mess and potential backlash.

When we look back years from now, might it seem ridiculous that the impeachment process had nothing to do with the person Time chose as the most newsworthy person of 2019?

Perhaps, although you could easily argue that the president of the United States, whoever that is, will always be the most newsworthy person of the year. For the record, Time's readers chose Hong Kong protesters in an online poll as their 2019 Person of the Year.

I see all these points, but I will make the argument that choosing someone like Thunberg is long overdue. When we look back years from now, it would have been pre-

posterous to NOT choose someone who is a leading voice in the most important issue facing our planet.

Detractors ask what Thunberg has actually accomplished. The Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin wrote, "I find it preposterous to assert that Thunberg had a unique, transformative impact on public opinion in a way no other person has."

Yet Thunberg's defiant, how-dare-you speech to world leaders at the UN Climate Action Summit was a game-changer, the most relevant and far-reaching speech on climate in recent memory.

It revitalized and greatly publicized a topic that needed to be revitalized and publicized. Thunberg's age and influence on others her age

make her the perfect figure to lead future generations who will be most impacted by the cause she is speaking out about.

Thunberg shared her honor with climate activists from around the globe. Her selection is a boost for them, as well.

So go ahead and have your debates about whether Thunberg was the right choice. Whether you agree or not, it's notable that we are talking about Thunberg. Most of all, we're talking about her cause.

Hmm, maybe the title of Time Person of the Year means something after all.

## Year in review

Continued from 1

The ordinance needs one more vote of approval by council before it can take effect. That second and final vote is expected at council's next regular session March 5. Under the new ordinance, these changes would take place:

-- Citizens wanting to speak before council would have to meet with City Manager Howard Garland six days in advance of the regular monthly council meeting and tell him what they want to discuss. Up until now, citizens could sign up to speak immediately before a council session.

-- Citizens speaking to council would be limited to three minutes. Up until now, they got five minutes, and some recent speakers have gone far past the five-minute rule.

-- "No personal attacks on (the) mayor, council members or staff will be allowed," the ordinance says.

## Vandalism reports draw a crowd

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Lamar Town Council's Feb. 11 regular meeting offered standing room only at Town Hall as many citizens came to show support for Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson after her vehicles were vandalized last week.

McPherson said that last Wednesday, Feb. 6, someone came onto her property and spray-painted on her car and her husband's car. Initially unaware of the vandalism, she drove her vehicle to work the next day, then later reported it to police. Lamar's acting police chief, Lt. Robert Kilgo of the Darlington County Sheriff's Office, said the incident is under investigation by SLED.

During the meeting, McPherson addressed Lamar's fraught history with racism, which includes incidents of riots and violence when public schools were integrated in 1970. She also spoke about racist rhetoric in the current national political climate and observed that such hostility can give rise

to crimes motivated by hatred.

Some guests spoke up about this possibility, offering reassurance that even if the vandalism was spurred by racism, Lamar's African-American mayor has support from her white neighbors. "I want you to feel that there's more good people in Lamar that will back you up just like your family ... and if we stick together as good people, we can overcome it," said one woman, drawing applause from the audience and thanks from McPherson.

## Another look at Blue Laws

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council member Bobby Kilgo made a suggestion at council's Feb. 18 work session that might provide local businesses with more commerce while protecting those who wish to reserve a day for religious observance.

"Darlington County can, if it chooses, move to exempt the Sunday Blue Laws," said Kilgo. "We've already done that for

alcohol. We had to do that by referendum; the people voted for it. I think we need to look at the possibility of doing the same thing for businesses."

Currently, Blue Laws restrict retail businesses in unincorporated areas of the county from opening on Sundays prior to 1:30 p.m. Kilgo explained that while businesses located within municipalities like Hartsville and Darlington are exempted by local statutes, stores outside city limits are still legally hamstrung.

"What this would allow is for all our Dollar Generals and Family Dollars out there in the county to fairly compete with Walmart in the cities," said Kilgo. "It would allow people who want to go shopping to do it on Sunday morning."

Council chairman Bobby Hudson observed that some stores in the county already open before 1:30 p.m. on Sundays, and council member Le Flowers quipped that changing the law would simply make legal what those businesses are already practicing.

YEAR ON 3

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Year in review

Continued from 2

Upgrades for the Courthouse

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Improvements to the Darlington County Courthouse are under consideration, and County Council discussed some of these plans at their Feb. 18 work session.

County administrator Charles Stewart said the county is looking at several repair options for the aged HVAC system. Council recently approved spending \$70,000 to fix a clogged coil system that leaked condensation from floor to floor, staining ceiling tiles, flooring and causing moisture issues. He added that it might cost close to \$1 million to change out all the old fan coil units and change to an electric valve system.

Stewart said staffers are waiting on quotes for several climate control improvements, including replacing a furnace original to the 1965 building, and installing a dedicated HVAC system for the vast 5th Floor courtroom. Stewart said this room is almost a microclimate unto itself, and controlling humidity and mildew presents a major challenge.

Members of council tossed around the idea of remodeling the large courtroom to make better use of the space and cut heating and cooling costs. Council member Bobby Kilgo, who practiced law for many years in the courthouse, suggested lowering the ceiling and installing new lighting to replace the current lights. "I almost need a flashlight to be able to do anything in there."

An installment plan for property taxes?

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council will consider allowing citizens to pay their property taxes in installments. This issue was one of many discussed at a Feb. 18 work session, and it drew varied responses from members of council.

"I commend you on how fast you are doing this," said Joyce Wingate Thomas, noting that a citizen very recently requested such a program for those enduring financial hardship.

Council member Le Flowers observed that tax installment payments had been discussed years before, but met resistance from retired county treasurer Belinda Copeland. "We've been talking about this since the last time Belinda was elected, and she would not even think about it," said Flowers.

It seems County Council is ready to proceed with trying installment payments now, and county administrator Charles Stewart pointed out that council has the authority to instruct the treasurer -- now Jeff Robinson -- to institute the program. Stewart added that as with all major changes to county policy, the program must be written up as an ordinance and pass three readings by County Council.

MARCH 2019  
‘I definitely want to start with the cameras’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The Darlington County School District is moving ahead with a nearly \$5 million plan to blanket the county's public schools with surveillance cameras and to have students start using electronic key cards.

At a work session Feb. 25, the county school board agreed that county Education Superintendent Tim Newman will develop detailed plans for rolling out a new and tighter security system over a two-year period, then bring those plans to the board for consideration.

The discussion at the board's work session picked up from where officials had left the debate in December, when the board was briefed on a

\$4.6 million proposal to tighten security at county schools. Some high schools would get more than 100 video surveillance cameras under that original plan, the board was told, and the cameras would account for most of the plan's costs.

The board appears to agree that security at county schools should be tightened, but members had many questions and concerns about exactly how that should be done, and some members were worried what might happen if the computer systems controlling the security network either malfunctioned or failed because of a power outage.

The discussion bounced back to the security cameras. "What we're talking about here, 85 percent is the cameras; 15 percent is the card access," Newman told the board. "I definitely want to start with the cameras."

Name that school

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

A new elementary school is being built in Darlington. Should we call it:

Cain, because it will replace Cain Elementary?

Brunson-Dargan, because it will also replace Brunson-Dargan Elementary?

Brunson-Dargan-Cain, or some variation on that, to honor both schools?

Some "place" name based on its location?

Something else entirely?

At a Feb. 25 work session of the Darlington County school board, county Education Superintendent Tim Newman indicated that committees that will consider new names for the Darlington facility and two other new schools might need clearer guidelines from the school board. The board's "preferred" policy is to name all county schools after geographical areas -- but that's not mandatory.

The board's informal decision: Wait until the committees come up with the names they want for the new schools, then think about whether the board needs or wants to change its "preferred-place-name" policy. The board took up the school-name issue largely "to begin the discussion," said board member Charles Govan of Hartsville. "... I don't think it's going to be a big issue -- but it could be. People can be territorial sometimes."

Speaking to council: Old rules remain

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington City Council's relaxed rules for letting citizens speak out during council sessions will stay the same, at least for now.

Minutes before starting a March 5 public hearing on new and tighter rules for public comments to council, Mayor Gloria Hines tabled a second and final vote on the changes -- effectively killing the new rules unless someone puts the issue back on the agenda.

Council let the public hearing continue as planned, even though it was now a moot point. The 10 people who spoke during the hearing were commenting on a plan that already had been withdrawn. "I did that at the last minute," Hines said the next day of her action. "... I'm going to let God handle it."

Hines said council will continue to discuss and study the best way to let the public comment during meetings, but said she didn't know if or when it would again come before council. "We are going to discuss it. ... I don't mind it staying as it is," said Hines, who plans to run for a second term as mayor.

County eyes Blue Laws

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council's March 4 meeting saw the first steps toward altering the county's Blue Laws and establishing an installment program for property taxes.

Council held a first reading (title only, no vote required) for Ordinance 19-01, which would give Darlington County citizens the option to pay their taxes on real property through installments. The payments would be for taxes due the following year, and would be based on estimates drawn from total property tax due the previous year. Credits and adjustments reflecting reduced value would be applied by the county assessor.

The ordinance proposes a schedule of six payments (each equal to 16 and 2/3 percent of the total estimated tax) due on Feb. 15, April 15, June 15, Aug. 15, and Oct. 15, with the remaining balance due on or before Jan. 15 of the following taxable year.

A first reading for Ordinance 19-02 revealed that the county plans to "indefinitely suspend Sunday work prohibitions" and allow businesses located in unincorporated areas of the county to open prior to 1:30 p.m.

Lamar, police and pollen

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

An overflow crowd at Lamar Town Council's March 11 meeting forced a relocation to the Fire Department truck bay. Several of the citizens in attendance voiced concerns over three topics: Lamar's lack of local police protection, the ongoing troubles with the town's water and sewer system, and the mayor's claim that her vehicle was vandalized in a possible hate crime.

Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson reported to police that on the night of Feb. 6, someone spray painted her car and her husband's car while they were parked in their yard. An incident report by the Lamar Police Department characterized the yellowish and powdery substance found on the vehicles as similar pollen, and the case was turned over to SLED for investigation.

The social media firestorm that followed (trackable under the hashtag "Lamar Pollen Challenge") was, in McPherson's words "hell in a handbasket." She apologized for any distress the incident has caused the community.

A citizen asked McPherson why she didn't make a public statement to allay concerns once the powder was determined to be pollen, and McPherson replied that the jury is still out on what the substance actually was. "The problem was, he (the responding police officer) did not take a sample," said McPherson. "But it was not pollen... what it was and how it got there, I do not know."

Other questions centered around how the town suddenly found itself without a police force. The previous week, Lamar's last two officers left the department and joined the Darlington County Sheriff's Office.

‘Universal happiness’ in Society Hill

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Coming to Society Hill within the next few years: A CareSouth Carolina office



Lamar Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson addresses an overflow crowd at the March 11 meeting of Town Council. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

building where at least 50 employees will work.

Society Hill's reaction: "Universal happiness," says Mayor Tommy Bradshaw. "It's great, great news. ... We'll be much, much better off. It's a great day."

On March 12, the Darlington County school board quickly and without debate voted to cut the legal red tape that for many years has restricted how Society Hill, a town of 560 people, could use St. David's Academy, a former school that was shut down in the 1980s.

That clears the way for Society Hill Town Council to convey the deed for the property to Hartsville-headquartered CareSouth, which wants to renovate the "eyesore" former school into an administrative office for at least 50 employees who will be relocated from other sites. The company and the town have been in talks about the project for about a year, Bradshaw said.

When opened for business, Bradshaw said, the CareSouth office will be by far Society Hill's biggest employer. "This is great news for our little town," Bradshaw said. "I'm just very, very pleased. It's just a win-win. It just seems to be very positive all the way around. ... It's something I've been dreaming of since I've been the mayor."

Hines and Bruce launch campaigns

By Bobby Bryant and Samantha Lyles

Saying that Darlington's potential is boundless, Mayor Gloria Hines officially announced March 12 that she will seek a second term. Two days later, City Council member and mayor pro tem Carolyn Bruce announced that she is also running for mayor, and she promised to use her "leadership and professionalism" to move the city forward.

Flanked by dozens of supporters during a brief speech on the grounds of the Darlington County Courthouse, Hines asked the city to make history by re-electing Darlington's first black and first female mayor.

"I have worked hard to harness the extraordinary opportunities available to our city," Hines said. "During my service as your

mayor, Darlington Wal-Mart and other local businesses have economically promoted and provided many jobs in the city. Many downtown merchants are restoring their storefronts."

She also cited new sidewalks being built on South Main Street and the city's moves to address stormwater problems. "My business going forward is for all of us -- and I say all of us -- to work together to guide our city into its next chapter," Hines said. "I am asking you to help put the shine back on the Pearl of the Pee Dee."

During Bruce's news conference, the councilwoman was flanked by supporters.

Bruce said: "We are at a time in our city where there is racial divide, name-calling, negative outside influences and finger-pointing. I stand before you today to offer my leadership and dedication to bridge the gap for a better Darlington."

"To lead this city," Bruce said, "the next mayor will have to work to gain the confidence of every part of our city." She said a leader should "measure and balance the needs of every neighborhood and every person."

A sidewalk for South Main

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Friday saw the end of a five-year quest to build a sidewalk along Darlington's South Main Street, making the trek to Walmart much safer for the city's pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mayor Gloria Hines says the new sidewalk makes the street more attractive and offers citizens a cleaner and easier path to the market, drugstore and other businesses along South Main. "I felt it was important because when we started talking about this in 2014, we kind of knew that Walmart was coming. We wanted people to not have to walk in the grass and walk in water," says Hines.

"Since the sidewalks run from Avenue F all the way to

Walmart, it's much easier and safer for those people who are walking." Hines acknowledges that state Sen. Gerald Malloy (District 29) provided crucial assistance in helping complete the project.

Malloy says the project was a team effort, and he hopes to work with the city more often to establish new infrastructure and other improvements as the U.S. 52 Bypass area continues to grow. "The Southeast Darlington sidewalk project is a five-year collaboration between the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the City of Darlington and my office," says Malloy.

Residents reject ‘Sgt. Carraway Street’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

"Sgt. Carraway Street" won't be a Darlington residential address after all.

After objections from longtime residents, the city's Planning Commission last week rejected a proposal to rename Southern Pine Street after Sgt. Terrence Carraway, a Darlington resident and 30-year veteran of the Florence Police Department who was killed Oct. 3 when a gunman ambushed law-enforcement officers.

The four Planning Commission members in attendance at a March 19 public hearing on the name change voted unanimously against the proposal after several people objected to the plan, said Darlington planning director Lisa Chalian-Rock.

No one had anything against Carraway, who has been hailed as a hero many times since the shootings that killed him and another officer, Rock said. But residents didn't want to go through the trouble and cost of changing their addresses on driver's licenses, passports and the like, she said.

YEAR ON 6

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**In observance of New Year's Day, City Offices will be closed Jan. 1.**

**Residential city trash collection will run on its normal schedule. The Wednesday commercial city trash collection for Jan. 1 will run on Jan. 2.**

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ePheSIAnS 5:1-2

# obituaries

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**Marjorie Howle Davis**

DARLINGTON – Marjorie Jacquelyn Howle Davis, 91, daughter of the late Jennings Heyward Howle and Nell Parnell Howle, died peacefully in her home in Florence on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019.

A funeral service was held at Black Creek Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 22, with burial in Black Creek Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends prior to the service at the church and other times at her daughter's home.

Marjorie graduated high school in Dovesville. She worked as a switchboard operator for Southern Bell and AT&T, and retired after 42 years.

She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers and contributed to their work of providing for nursing home patients, veterans and the elderly. One of Marjorie's greatest joys was setting up and operating the library at Calvary Baptist Church in Darlington where she attended church for many years.

Marjorie loved her two children and family as well as the dogs she nurtured over the years. She not only cherished her many dogs, but volunteered at the Darlington Human Society until she was 85; she also contributed to many charities assisting animals, veterans and people in need. She additionally donated time and supplies to many local animal rescues.

Marjorie excelled as a gardener and was a certified Master Gardener where she volunteered at plant sales and events held by the Darlington group of Master Gardeners. She maintained beds of beautiful flowers at her homes.

When Marjorie's children were young, she volunteered as both Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader. Marjorie was a member of the Women's Auxiliary at the Darlington Chapter 72 of the Disabled American Veterans Association and volunteered at fund raising events for the Chapter.

Marjorie loved her family and friends including her siblings, nieces, her nephew, and greatly enjoyed the family gatherings. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Jennings Howle Jr.

She is survived by a daughter, Linda Davis, and son, Perry "Tex" Davis III, all of Florence; her sisters, Frances Dutton of Murrells Inlet, Shirley (Marion) Wallace of Florence; nieces, Dawn Dutton (Ken) Sumner of Florence, Debra Dutton (Cecil) Chandler of Surfside Beach, Vanessa Howle of Annapolis, Md., Rebecca Howle of Los Angeles, and nephew Kenneth Wallace of Socastee.

The family would like to thank Amedisys Hospice for their love and care.

Memorials may be sent to the Darlington County Humane Society, PO 503, Darlington, SC 29540.

A guestbook is available



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The visitation was Monday, Dec. 23, followed by the funeral service, both at Belk Funeral Home in Lamar. The Rev. Garland Hart officiated. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial gifts to Manning United Methodist Church, the Covenant Place HEG Fund, or the charity of your choice.



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Living on Purpose

## A new year with unlimited possibilities

By Bill Holland

Do you believe that God intervenes in the affairs of mankind or do you consider the philosophy where He stands back and calmly watches everything happen?

I admit that sometimes it seems like He chooses to not be involved but I'm convinced the Bible reveals His passionate desire to personally help and guide everyone's life.

The Deist concludes that the Creator allows each person to control their own destiny and the deciding factor in every event is associated with man's deliberate decisions. This concept places mankind as the pilot and captain of his own fate and eliminates the need to call or depend on God.

This is true to a certain extent according to freewill but there is another theological view which also declares that He is always available to respond as the Omnipotent Creator who is in total control and the ultimate authority of all things.

I believe that God gives every person the choice to decide their own destiny, but this does not mean we are alone and drifting on the sea of random chance. There are several variations of these world-views but in general, followers of Christ understand and accept that Jesus went to the cross to redeem and restore the fellowship between God and mankind with the intention of Him becoming a personal Lord and Savior to those who believe.

If your prayer life is like fighting a battle, then congratulations, you are perfectly normal. We have worthy spiritual intentions but our flesh is weak and it's very difficult to ask and believe for a miracle from someone we cannot see.

Unfortunately, humans have a tendency to spend their time trying to figure things out on their own. It seems that men especially feel compelled to use their own strength to fix everything and manage their own problems because they believe it's their responsibility to lead and provide.

Human nature has a built-in desire to use intelligence and logic to find a solution even if it means settling for less and being wrong. I've personally seen individuals throughout their life always grab the bull by the horns and attempt to force their problems into submission instead of yielding to God and trusting Him to take care of their problems.

What the follower of Christ needs to consider in every circumstance is that it's much better to have God as our highest priority as we invite Him to



intervene and lead us in the way He wants us to go. There is no shame or embarrassment to admit that we are unable to carry our burdens and that we desperately need God to help us every moment.

The Lord perfectly realizes we are very limited in power which is why Paul proclaims that God can be strong in our weakness if we will just let it go and trust Him. "But He said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." -- II Corinthians 12:9.

It's important to consider our spiritual life within our own conscience in order to advance in our spiritual relationship with God. I propose the first question we must ask ourselves is how much do we really care about God and our soul?

Yes, of course we have questions about the Bible and prayer, like how do we know if we are praying according to His will and does having more faith mean that we are more likely to receive our request?

Just because people speak loudly or pray for long periods of time does not necessarily mean God listens to them more than someone whose prayers are quiet and short. So, what makes the difference? With prayer, it's a matter of motives and the attitudes of our heart.

Matthew 17:20 reminds us that if anyone has even the tiniest amount of faith, they can move mountains and nothing will be impossible to them. Nonetheless, we are also reminded in Psalm 66:18 about the importance of purity and sincerity: "If I choose to harbor sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Wherever you are in your journey, you can talk to God anytime as He longs to be your best friend. This coming year is filled with unlimited possibilities and He is waiting for you to embrace Him as the Lord and Master of your life!

online at belkfuneralhome.com.

**Annie Lou Hill Colclough Stewart**

Surrounded by loving family members, Annie Lou Hill Colclough Stewart died peacefully on Dec. 20, 2019, at Tuomey Hospital in Sumter, following a brief illness.

The daughter of Thomas Roland and Pearle Huggins Hill, Anne, as she liked to be called, was born in Lamar on Nov. 24, 1926.

She was preceded in death by her first husband Benjamin Davis Colclough Jr., her second husband John Leland Stewart Sr., and her son John Leland Stewart Jr.

The beloved center of her large extended family, Anne is survived by her daughter Anne Colclough Little and her husband Robert, her son Benjamin Davis Stewart and his wife Sandy, and her son Samuel Christopher Stewart, all of Manning; her son Thomas Fenton Stewart and his wife Tiffany of Azle, Tex.; her grandchildren Lisa Kaye Little of Venice, Calif., Stephanie Little Ladeira and her husband Paul of San Jose, Calif., Ericka Stewart Woods and her husband Benjamin of Cashiers, N.C., Brandi Anne Stewart of Florence, Blake Colclough Stewart and his wife Jennifer of Florence, John William Andrew Stewart of Kingsville, Tex., and Christina Brooke Stewart of Columbia; her sisters Priscilla Hill Bochette of Florence and Helen Hill Lee of Birmingham, Ala.; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Anne was a faithful member of Highland Park United Methodist in Florence and later, Manning United Methodist Church. She served on and headed various committees in each church and was active in Sunday school classes, women's circles and the Nelle Wells outreach project with the Manning Council on Aging.

She was a talented seamstress who enjoyed creating intricate and beautiful clothes for her daughter and granddaughters, as well as crafts for church bazaars. Most memorable was the delicious food that she cooked with ease for family dinners and church events.

The family would like to thank the staff in Independent Living and most recently in Assisted Living at Covenant Place for their cheerfulness and devotion in keeping her active and engaged. The care she received in the Skilled Nursing Facility and the Rehab Center after an earlier fall and illness enabled her to regain her strength and resume an active life.

Anne will be deeply missed and will be remembered for her sense of humor, strength, kindness, positive outlook, happy disposition, devotion to family; and her ever-present examples of kindness and courage.

**Rev. Edward C. Middleton**

DARLINGTON – Rev. Edward Carl Middleton, 84, passed away Monday, Dec. 23, 2019.

Funeral services were Friday, Dec. 27, at Betha Baptist Church, with a graveside service at Florence National Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends Friday at Belk Funeral Home.

He was born in Darlington County, the son of the late Audrey Carl and Fannie Campbell Middleton. A graduate of Timmons High School, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

After leaving the Air Force, Rev. Middleton attended Mississippi College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. Ed and his wife, Ann, spent the following summer as student summer missionaries in Waukesha, Wisc.

Rev. Middleton received the Master of Divinity degree in 1966 from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Rev. Middleton would pastor several churches prior to entering the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps in 1968.

While in the Navy, Chaplain Middleton served duty stations within California and South Carolina, finally retiring as Chaplain of the Naval Hospital in Beaufort. Chaplain Middleton was appointed by Gov. Richard Riley to the Governor's Task Force for Critical Human Needs and taught at Beaufort Technical College.

Chaplain Middleton was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, among other accolades. Chaplain Middleton stated he traveled around the world three times and touched the lives of over 100,000 men and women.

After retirement from the Navy, Rev. Middleton pastored Faith Baptist Church in Hartsville and later served as chaplain of Betha Baptist Retirement Community in Darlington.

Rev. Middleton was the second Silver Haired Legislator for Darlington County; a member of Darlington County Council on Aging; and Chaplain of the Civil Air Patrol Florence Composite Squadron for 10 years. He was twice chosen as South Carolina Civil Air Patrol Chaplain of the Year. Chaplain Middleton was a volunteer Chaplain for many



years for McLeod Regional Medical Center in Darlington.

A member of First Baptist Church in Darlington, Rev. Middleton was elected a Deacon, served as Men's Ministry Coordinator, and led the church basketball team, and was a member of Renny Johnson's Sunday school class.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ann; his children, Beth Goodyear (Brett) of Surfside Beach, Jerry (Christina) Middleton of Florence, Susan Davis (Gary) of Clinton, and Wendy Chico (Leonardo) of New York City.

Rev. Middleton was grandfather of Morgan Goodyear, Hayes Goodyear, Wyatt Middleton Goodyear, Leigh Ann Middleton, Erica McKensie Middleton, Taylor Middleton, Tyler Middleton, Carson Edwards, Austin Gardner, Gray Gardner, and Gabrielle Gardner; brother, Donnie of Florence.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Hubert and Herbert Middleton; sister, Sarah Middleton Smith, and brother-in-law, Harry Smith, sister-in-law, Jean Middleton.

**George Oliver Jr.**

FLORENCE -- George Lyles Oliver Jr., 92, passed away Dec. 24, 2019. He was born in Richmond, Va., Dec. 3, 1927.

His parents were George Lyles Sr. and Marion Stoneman Oliver. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 65 years, Nell Griggs Oliver of Society Hill, also four children: George Oliver III, William Oliver, Pete Oliver, Julia Oliver; six surviving grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He graduated from VMI class of 1950-B with a degree in Civil Engineering. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the S.C. National Guard. He worked for General Electric in Lynchburg, Va., and later started Oliver Engineering services from which he retired.

George's passion was farming and agriculture. He loved collecting antique Oliver Tractors. George also loved his family deeply and spending time together was important to him.

Visitation was Friday, Dec. 27, at Presbyterian Home of Florence in the Hood Terrace Dining Room. The funeral was Saturday, Dec. 28, at Welsh Neck Baptist Church in Society Hill, with burial in the church cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Welsh Neck Baptist Church of Society Hill or the Presbyterian Home of Florence.

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



**Chur Ch News**  
Please send your church news and photos to: editor@newsandpress.net

**Mechanicsville Baptist Church**  
2364 Cashua Ferry Rd., Darlington. 843-393-1029.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.-Worship Service  
4 p.m.-Prayer Closet; 5:30 p.m. Evening Worship Services  
Monday: Monday Night Ministry (MNM)-Youth Fellowship & Meal  
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. - Old Fashioned Chapel Service & Fellowship Meal; 6:30 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (all

ages) and Youth Group Meeting.

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

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

601-5230 by Feb. 7.

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

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

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

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

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

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## PETS OF THE WEEK



Sweet Carolina is one gorgeous girl with her striking hazel eyes and pale brindle coat. But beauty isn't all this great gal has going for her, she's the total package of looks plus personality! Carolina has met a variety of other dogs and is always happy and willing to meet a friend, be it male or female. Her tail is always wagging and she is eager to meet other dogs and get to know them. She also enjoys the company of our volunteers and enjoys getting love and attention and petting from them. Dog friendly, check! People friendly, double check! Gorgeous and just a great over all dog, triple check! Carolina will make a wonderful addition to the home who steps up for her, give this great gal a chance and we think you'll always look back on the day you made her yours and be so glad you did. Bull mix; 1 year ; 49 lbs; female

Davey is one fun, happy soul and you can't help but feel good when he is by your side. He's never met a stranger and makes folks feel like his #1 new best friend. His nick name is "Play Station" as he loves playing with toys so very much and simply running and romping around. Davey would be an excellent match for a family pre-stocked with kids and other dogs. Ask for Davey today won't you? 35lbs; 2 yrs old; lab mix; male



### Have you lost or found a pet?

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

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

## Area Happenings

### Weekly Events

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

#### Al-Anon Meetings

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#### Board of Zoning Appeals

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

#### Business Network International

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

#### Centennial Farmers Market

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

#### Crochet & Knit Clubs

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

#### Darlington Elks Lodge

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

p.m.

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

#### Darlington Library Programs

Summer Reading Program, Darlington Library, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

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

#### Darlington Kiwanis Club

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

#### Hartsville Kiwanis Club

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

#### Hartsville Lions Club

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

#### Hartsville Rotary Club

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

#### Paws to Read

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

#### Pee Dee SCORE

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

#### Story Time

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

### Monthly Events

#### American Legion

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

#### City of Darlington Board of Zoning Appeals

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

#### Darlington Branch NAACP

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

#### City of Darlington Design Review Board

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

#### Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

The Darlington County

Disabilities and Special Needs Board will meet on the following dates and times in 2019. All meetings will begin at 2 p.m. The agenda and meeting location will be posted monthly.

Meetings: April 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 26.  
No meeting in December.

#### Darlington County First Steps

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

#### Darlington County Historical Commission Meeting

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

#### Darlington Kiwanis Club Board Meeting

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

#### Darlington County Humane Society Board of Directors

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

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

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

#### Free Vision Screenings

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

#### Head Start

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

#### Small Business Professionals Roundtable

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

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

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

### Jan. 2020

#### Prestwood Polar Bear Plunge

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

#### Blood Drive at Carolina Pines

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

#### Darlington City Council

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

#### Williamson Park Committee

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

#### Beautification Board

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

#### Connections at Breakfast - Habitat for Humanity

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

#### Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

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

### Feb. 2020

#### Darlington County Historic Landmarks Commission

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

#### Darlington City Council

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

#### Williamson Park Committee

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

#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

#### City of Darlington Tree Board

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

#### Inside GSSM

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

### March 2020

#### Darlington City Council

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

#### Williamson Park Committee

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

#### Speed & Feed BBQ Festival

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#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

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

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

### April 2020

#### Darlington City Council

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

#### Williamson Park Committee

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

#### City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

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Year in review

Continued from 3

APRIL 2019

‘Our body-camera program is fully implemented’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Notice anything different about the Darlington County sheriff's deputies you've seen on patrol this week? All the county's patrol deputies, investigators and any deputies who interact with the public finally have their body cameras.

It's the payoff of an effort that Darlington County Sheriff Tony Chavis began in January 2017, said Chavis' spokesman Lt. Robby Kilgo. As of the end of last week, Kilgo said, the Sheriff's Office had 65 body cameras "in the field" and another 10 in case they are needed.

"Our body-camera program is fully implemented," Kilgo said. "... That is a promise (the sheriff) made - that our deputies would have body cameras - and now they do." Grants from the state (\$112,000) and federal government paid the \$122,000 cost of the program, Kilgo said.

Pay raises in county budget

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Pay raises may be in store for Darlington County Sheriff's Office deputies, correctional officers, EMS workers and CDL drivers, if County Council approves the budget proposed at an April 3 work session.

The fiscal 2019/20 budget offered by county administrator Charles Stewart includes a 6.5 percent pay increase for DCSO law enforcement certified hourly positions currently below the rank of lieutenant. Correctional officers working at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center and Darlington County Prison Camp in certified hourly positions currently rank of sergeant or below would receive a 4 percent raise.

Full time EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) assigned to Darlington County Emergency Medical Services ambulances in certified hourly positions would also receive a 4 percent pay hike, as would licensed CDL drivers with Environmental Services and Roads & Bridges.

Stewart said he proposed these pay increases in hopes of improving employee retention, since deputies, guards, EMTs and CDL drivers frequently leave Darlington County for higher pay with neighboring counties. "These positions are always advertised. Anytime you pull up our website, you're going to find we're looking for these people because they come and go," said Stewart. "One of the big reasons they come and go is that the pay is low for the jobs they do."

Boyd makes it three in mayor's race

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Businessman Curtis Boyd, 54, has become the third candidate for Darlington mayor. Boyd held a cookout/press

conference April 4 and announced his intent to enter the race, where his opponents will include Mayor Gloria C. Hines and Darlington City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Bruce.

Boyd first made clear that he has relocated his residence to within city limits to qualify as a candidate. He spoke about building his Fitness World gym business -- a process that taught him the importance of delegating duties and building strong working relationships.

He encouraged everyone to support local businesses and restaurants so that Darlington can continue to grow, and he cautioned against publicly deriding the city with negative comments. "We need an attitude that we're going to support our city, we're going to be proud of our city, we're going to stand up for our city, and we're going to truly love our city," Boyd said.

"Everyone says we need change, but we're at a point where we need more than change for our city," said Boyd. "We need a leader that's going to bring everyone together to make a difference in our city."

‘Things went down that we had no control over’

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Lamar Town Council received a report on the 2019 Egg Scramble Jamboree at their April 8 meeting, and the news was mostly good ... with one exception.

"Everything went extremely well until Saturday evening, and things went down that we had no control over," said Nell Bradley, chair of the Egg Scramble Committee.

Bradley recounted how every festival activity - including night and day parades, concerts, the Taste of Lamar and other regular events - went off without a hitch. But as night approached on Saturday, tensions mounted between two groups of young men. One witness described hearing the groups shout obscenities at each other, and she asked them to refrain because there were children nearby.

They complied for a while, then observers noted to Bradley that they felt "something was about to happen." She says she went to find a deputy and the tensions finally erupted into violence. Bradley said she was only a few feet away from the skirmish and witnessed pushing, shoving and punches being thrown.

The fighters crashed into one vendor's stall and upturned a fryer filled with hot oil, which fortunately did not burn anyone. Though the young men assaulted each other, Bradley said the violence never escalated to gunplay.

Closer to courthouse renovations?

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council convened a brief special meeting last Friday to approve the next step toward renovating parts of the county courthouse.

In session only long enough to pray, pledge allegiance to the American flag, and vote once, council agreed to pay \$42,228

for design and engineering firm Michael Baker Inc. (MBI) to formulate a renovation plan for the fourth and fifth floor court facilities.

For several years, judges and attorneys have lobbied County Council to address security concerns for all court facilities, including 4th Circuit Court proceedings and Family Court. Each court facility has its own challenges -- cramped quarters, dangerous proximity between opposing parties, judges and defendants crossing paths, etc.

County Administrator Charles Stewart says this plan will incorporate input from committees and meetings with staff regarding the needs and wants of each department.

According to the Scope of Work proposal submitted by MBI, the total project renovation area on floors 4 and 5 is approximately 17,298 square feet over two floors, each approximately 8,649 square feet. The existing building is a multistory, nonsprinklered, protected steel-framed structure with a masonry finished exterior and casement windows. The structural grid and column spacing are approximately 18 feet on center, each way. There are five occupied stories above grade, a basement level and a mechanical penthouse.

Dedicating a memorial to fallen officers

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

A dedication ceremony was held April 16 for the planned Terrence Carraway Fallen Officers Memorial Park at South Main Street and Avenue D in Darlington.

Local businessman Curtis Boyd donated the land to the Carraway Foundation, which plans to erect a statue of the late Sgt. Carraway, a monument engraved with the names of South Carolina law enforcers killed in the line of duty, and a teardrop wall.

"We'll have spots for all 377 officers that have given their lives," said Boyd, adding that the park will also memorialize 10 K-9 dogs that died on the job.

Boyd said the park will feature a flower garden, a six flag display, a basketball court and a parking space reserved for the use of any law enforcement officer.

"Terrence lived every day like it was his last, encouraging others with words and a smile to top it off like no other. The love he had for his home, his family and community will always be in our memories," said his widow, Allison Carraway. "In honor of Terrence and the fallen officers, we must help each other in times of need."

MAY 2019

Facing the ‘Lamar Riots’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

They waited 49 years for these 12 minutes.

On April 30, Hartsville Sen. Gerald Malloy led the state Senate in a recognition of the six black Darlington County students who were terrorized March 3, 1970, when a mob of about 200 white people turned over their school bus in Lamar during a riot protesting school desegregation.

Three of those former students -- David Lunn of Detroit, Mich., Clarence Brunson of Hartsville and Ronald Bacote of Virginia -- stood in the Senate chamber with family members as Malloy recounted what happened during the "Lamar Riots."

He introduced a resolution hailing the six as "an incredible group" long overdue for recog-

nition "for their role in the fight for desegregation and for their outstanding resilience in the face of trauma." Two others aboard the overturned bus -- Edward Lunn of Texas and Woodrow Wilson Jr. of Columbia -- could not attend the Senate session. A third person on the bus, Sally Wilds, is deceased.

No installment plan for property taxes

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

At their May 6 meeting, Darlington County Council voted to allow businesses to open early on Sundays, but scrapped a plan to let residents pay property taxes via installment payments.

Council deadlocked at four "ayes" and four "nays" on third reading for Ordinance 19-01, which would have given Darlington County citizens the option to pay next year's property taxes through installments.

During discussion prior to the vote, county administrator Charles Stewart explained that instituting this program would require the purchase of an \$8,500 software module and around \$1,500 in annual maintenance costs.

"I just don't see where it's worth \$10,000 of taxpayers' money to set up an installment payment," said council member Le Flowers (District 5, Swift Creek Area). He expressed doubt that the program would generate adequate participation to offset the expense.

A backlash against officers’ memorial?

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The widow and brother of slain police officer Terrence Carraway appeared before Darlington City Council last week to defend a planned park honoring slain S.C. officers after a resident showed council what she described as a petition, signed by 200 people, opposing the project.

Betty Jackson, who told council she lives near the park and memorial planned at South Main Street and D Avenue, appeared before council May 7 to argue that residents don't want the project, which is spearheaded by mayoral candidate Curtis Boyd, a longtime friend of the Carraway family.

"We all want to honor and praise Officer Terrence Carraway ... (but) to put another park in the busiest intersection in this city seems excessive and unnecessary," Jackson told council. "The inclusion of a basketball court and picnic tables in a basically senior-citizen neighborhood will be noisy and distracting."

And displaying a sheaf of papers filled with signatures, Jackson added: "And I have over 200 names already signed for a petition by my neighbors."

Allison Carraway told council: "Sgt. Terrence Carraway paid the ultimate sacrifice -- he died to protect those that could not protect themselves. ... I never thought that I would be standing here, defending the validity or intentions of this project, much less its purpose," she said.

Lamar mulls municipal-service rates

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Lamar residents will soon see increases on their monthly municipal services. Town Council met May 13

and moved toward raising rates for garbage pickup and water and sewer service.

Council member/Mayor Pro Tem Lang Howell said that currently, residents receive garbage pickup service eight times per month for \$10, and he observed that there is "no way in the world" the town can meet expenses this way. He proposed raising garbage pickup rates to \$18 per month, with no changes in services. Council agreed and passed first reading of this increase; second and final reading should take place at their June 10 meeting.

Howell said that since Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority (which provides water to the town) is raising rates by 5 percent, the town needed to raise rates to keep pace. Following a brief discussion, council agreed to levy a 10 percent increase on municipal water and sewer service. Second and final reading of this change will take place in June.

Also, council member Angele White Bradley proposed raising the wastewater acceptance rate Lamar charges Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority. She noted that for every 1,000 gallons of wastewater the county pushes into Lamar's oxidation pond, Lamar charges only \$1.95.

‘If he could help, he would help’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

"If he could help, he would help," Dariasha James says of her cousin Milton B. McGee of Society Hill. On May 21, that urge to help cost McGee his life.

McGee, a 47-year-old truck driver, was trying to aid the driver of a disabled tractor-trailer on U.S. 52 in Society Hill when a pickup truck slammed into him and killed him, officials said.

"It was a devastating day yesterday in Society Hill," James said the day after the predawn accident. "You could feel the vibe," she said. "He was well-known around Society Hill. ... It was a sad day. You could tell everybody was down, shocked, upset, crazy. It was a mess."

The incident began about 5 a.m. last Tuesday near the intersection of U.S. 52 and U.S. 15, officials said. The tractor-trailer driver -- a relative of McGee's, according to James -- had pulled out of a private driveway when his rig broke down. Lanes of traffic were blocked, officials said. The S.C. Highway Patrol said that a "pedestrian," later identified as McGee, approached to help the driver. McGee was standing near the disabled tractor-trailer when he was struck by the driver of a Dodge pickup truck traveling southbound on U.S. 52, officials said.

JUNE 2019

‘We didn’t hear the gunshot because we had somebody singing’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Pine Ridge Holiness Church pastor Randall Harrelson and his congregation didn't hear the gunfire a few hundred feet away from their Darlington County church.

"We didn't hear the gunshot because we had somebody singing" during the church's Memorial Day weekend Sunday-morning services on May 26, Harrelson told the News & Press. "We think it happened about 11:30," right in the middle of services.

Just down the highway from the church near Hartsville, a 24-year-old Hartsville man had been killed outside a Markette convenience store at West Bobo Newsome Highway and West Old Camden Road. The victim, Desmond Coe, had been on a motorcycle in the road when he was shot. Officials said Coe "retreated" to the Markette after he was hit, leaving his motorcycle behind.

When the 40 or so parishoners at the nearby church left the building, they walked out onto the remnants of a crime scene, with the fallen motorcycle roped off with yellow tape and backed-up traffic on Bobo Newsome Highway beginning to be cleared out.

A salute to Stone

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

At a special ceremony May 26, the Cashua Street building housing "Our Pat" (the city's first fire engine) was dedicated in memory of the late Darlington Fire Chief Jim Stone, who served 50 years with the department.

Speakers included Mayor Gloria Hines, Darlington Fire Department Chief Pat Cavanaugh, City Council member John Segars, Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee, First Baptist Church Pastor Brian Sherwood and Jason Stone, who donated his father's fire helmet to display with "Our Pat."

Each speaker shared memories of Stone as a witty and charming man, a prankster, and a dedicated public servant who deeply loved his city, his family and his firehouse.

Stone died on Feb. 7 at age 78. His body lay in a flag-draped casket at the Darlington County Courthouse before his funeral services -- a rare honor.

Cavanaugh and Darlington City Manager Howard Garland unveiled a custom plaque that bears Stone's likeness and relates a brief history of the small brick building (the city's first fire station) and the antique horse-drawn fire engine it houses.

YEAR ON 7

City of Darlington 2020 Meeting Schedule

**City Council:** 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month except where noted (\*). Dates are January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 10\*, and December 1.

**Beautification Board:** 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month with no meeting in July or December. Dates are January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, August 19, September 16, October 21, and November 18.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** 5:30 p.m. Mondays on an as-needed basis, coordinated through the Codes Enforcement Office  
**Historic Landmarks Commission:** 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 3, May 4, August 3, and November 2

**Historic Landmarks Commission:** 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 3, May 4, August 3, and November 2

**Planning Commission:** 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday every other month and on an as-needed basis. Dates are January 21, May 19, July 21, September 15, and November 17.

**Design Review Board:** Meets on an as-needed basis, coordinated through the Codes Enforcement Office

**Tree Board:** 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 24, May 11, and September 28; 10 a.m. Friday, December 4; and on an as-needed basis

**Williamson Park Committee:** 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders St. Dates are January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8.

**Joint Board Meeting of All City Boards:** Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m., scheduled by the Planning Commission.

Unless otherwise noted, these meetings take place at City Hall, 400 Pearl St. For information, call 843-398-4000x103 or email rock@cityofdarlington.com



Curtis Boyd announces he will run for mayor. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

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QUOTE

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Coker Drops Heartbreaker to No. 20/21 Queens (N.C.)

HARTSVILLE, S.C. - The Coker University men's basketball team battled No. 21/20 Queens (N.C.) until the final buzzer, but the Royals came away with the buzzer-beater 70-68 victory on Dec. 18.

No. 21/20 Queens jumped out to an 8-3 lead through the first media timeout, before eventually extending their lead to 16-3 six and a half minutes in. The Royals would continue to control the game, leading 19-8 at the under-12 media timeout. Coker got back within 11 with under 11 minutes to play, before the Royals would build their lead back up to 16 with 10 minutes to play. Queens continued to control the first half, before Coker would go on a run and get back within seven with under four minutes to play and force a Queens timeout. The Royals would build their lead back up to double-digits as they headed to the locker room, leading 39-27 at the break.

Queens held a double-digit lead for the first five minutes and change, before a Malcolm Kennedy three-pointer got Coker back within nine with under 15 minutes to play. The Royals would build their lead back up to 12 with 12 and a half minutes to play, before the Cobras would counter and get back within four with nine minutes to play. Queens quickly re-gained its 10-point lead, before the Cobras would slowly begin to chip away possession by possession. The Cobras narrowed the gap to five with six min-



McDonald's Player of the Game: Jaylin Stewart

utes to play, before eventually battling back to get within two on a Williams Onyeodi layup with three and a half minutes left. Layups from Onyeodi and Dakota Jennings tied the game at 68 with a minute and a half to play, before both teams would get possessions in the final minute. Coker held possession with 32 seconds left, but was unable to cash in the go-ahead bucket. The Royals held the final possession, playing the ball in with six seconds left on the clock. After Jermaine Patterson missed the mark with a three-pointer, Gavin Rains was there to tip the ball back up and in as the horn sounded, giving the nationally-ranked Royals the road victory.

Jaylin Stewart paced the Cobras by tying a career-high with 12 points, while Jennings and Chandler Lindsey each chipped in 11 points and Royce Hunter also added 10. Four other Cobras contributed scoring in the

game. Jennings led the effort on the glass with eight rebounds, while Hunter pulled down seven and Onyeodi also grabbed six. Four other Cobras were active on the glass in the game. Onyeodi, Stewart and Lindsey each dished out two assists, with Onyeodi tying a career-high. Jennings, KJ Harris and Kennedy each contributed one assist in the game. Onyeodi, Jennings and Lindsey each recorded two steals, while Harris and AJ McQuaige each had one in the game. Onyeodi and Jennings each registered one block in the game.

Coker is back on the floor on Jan. 4, 2020 at Lenoir-Rhyne in South Atlantic Conference action. Tip-off for that contest is slated for 4:00 p.m., with video and live stats available at [www.cokercobras.com](http://www.cokercobras.com).

Cobras Fall to Queens (N.C.) in Conference Action

HARTSVILLE, S.C. - The Coker University women's basketball team fell to visiting Queens (N.C.) Dec. 18 in South Atlantic Conference play by a score of 77-63.

The teams went back and forth for the first few minutes, before Coker put together a run to go ahead 14-8 at the halfway point of the frame. Queens would get within two with three minutes to play in the quarter, before Coker would extend its lead to six and then to the frame's final score at 23-15

Queens would get back in the game by winning the second quarter 19-8. The Cobras extended their lead to double digits over the first three minutes of the period, before Queens would chip away over the next few minutes before finally taking the lead with a three-pointer from Kelsey Leedle at the two-minute mark. Queens would stretch its lead to five in the final minute, before a layup from Erin Houser with 24 seconds left served as the quarter's final bucket. Queens took a 34-31 lead to the half.

The Royals would open the third quarter by stretching their lead to five, before Coker would tie the game up at 36 less than a minute and a half in. The two teams later played to a 41-41 tie, before the Royals would build a six-point lead with three and a half minutes to play in the quarter. The Royals would build a seven-point lead in the quarter's final minutes, which they would take to the final period.

Queens would build its lead to double-digits two and a half minutes into the



McDonald's Player of the Game: Saquita Joyner

fourth quarter, while keeping Coker at a distance of at least nine points. Coker would get back within 10 with a minute and a half to play, before Queens would come away with the road victory.

Saquita Joyner paced the Cobras with a career-high 22 points, while Ashauntee Nelson added 13 points in the contest. Six other Cobras contributed to the scoring in the game. Joyner also tied a career-high with 11 rebounds to complete the double-double, while Erin Houser also

pulled down 11 boards in the game. Eight other Cobras were active on the glass in the game. Nelson dished out four assists in the game, while Jalah Horton tied a career-high with four assists. Joyner also added two assists in the game. Joyner, Nelson and Amanda Cherry each recorded two steals in the game, while Hope Richardson, Horton, Avahna Baker and Hayley Kropp each had one steal in the game.

Year in review

Continued from 6

City wrestles with budget issues

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington residents will pay slightly higher property taxes and \$1 more a month for garbage pickup under a budget plan that got preliminary approval from City Council last week.

The city's \$6.8 million budget plan for next fiscal year, which needs one more vote to become final, raises the city's tax millage rate by 3.2 mills – from 131.41 to 134.61. That means the owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$13 more per year in property taxes, said City Manager Howard Garland.

The millage increase will raise \$57,000 to be used for paving roads owned by the city. During a series of work sessions on the budget, council members indicated they wanted road improvements, and Garland offered council a millage increase as an option.

Council's decision to raise garbage-collection fees means the fee for trash pickup in the city goes from \$21.50 a month to \$22.50. Garland recommended the increase to council because the city has had to buy a new trash truck and other equipment.

Raises all around for school district

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Every employee in the Darlington County School District gets at least 4 percent more pay under the district's new budget plan, which quickly won final approval from the school board June 10.

The 2015 million budget for fiscal 2019-20 also gives teachers in the district raises averaging 6.8 percent, officials said. The budget sets the starting salary for new teachers at \$39,000; new teachers also

get a \$1,000 sign-up bonus.

School-board members have said they were pleased with the budget-writing process, especially the “much-deserved” raises for all employees.

Lamar enlists new police chief

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Lamar's Town Council chamber rang with applause on June 10 as Carl Scott was introduced as the new chief of police. The town has been without a chief – and without local officers – for several months, but the hiring of Scott brings a close to that chapter.

Scott, 43, is a native of Lake City and a career law enforcement officer who served 15 years with the Florence County Sheriff's Office and has worked for the past six years with the Kingstree Police Department.

Scott said he has also subcontracted with the U.S. Marshal's Service, and has contacts and good relationships with several agencies, which he hopes to utilize to Lamar's benefit. He revealed that he is already revamping the application process and screening candidates to fill openings for police officers with the goal of finding officers who will “fit the Town of Lamar.”

Scott voiced an open-door policy and encouraged any members of the public to come visit him when they have concerns or just want to talk. He said he plans to publish his e-mail address in the next town newsletter (included with monthly water bills) for those unable to visit in person. Scott added that he wants the community to buy in and help the department fulfill its main mission: public safety.

Festival fears in Society Hill

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Over the Memorial Day

weekend, a community group held a small festival in the parking lot outside Society Hill's Town Hall building. The event featured food and games for the kids and the county fire department sent over a fire truck for extra entertainment. Firefighters helped children shoot jets of water into the air, and kids played in the “rain” created by fire hoses.

There were only two problems: The town's government didn't know about this event on town property, and the festival's organizers didn't have insurance in case anyone accidentally got hurt. Now, Mayor Tommy Bradshaw plans to have the town of 560 people start regulating public events on town property to protect Society Hill's government from potentially disastrous legal liability.

At the Town Council's June 11 meeting, Bradshaw announced that the town would develop an application process for any group seeking to hold a public event on town property. A form would be filled out and the town would issue a permit if no problems are found. Any group wanting to have a public event on town-owned property would be required to arrange \$1 million worth of liability insurance.

JULY 2019

Name that school: 6 choices

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Can you name one school for three educators?

A committee considering a name for Darlington's new elementary school thinks not. The panel has narrowed the list of possible names for the new school to six, and none of the options attempts to work in the names of all three educators whose names grace the schools this one will replace.

When you get to vote on the new school's name late this summer, you'll have the option of sticking with

Brunson-Dargan Elementary or J.L. Cain Elementary – the names of the two schools that will be folded into the single new elementary now under construction and set to open in 2020. But none of the six options combines all three names.

Here are the final options that will later be presented to residents and to affected students, parents and school employees: EAST DARLINGTON ELEMENTARY. FIRST STREET ELEMENTARY. BRUNSON-DARGAN ELEMENTARY. J.L. CAIN ELEMENTARY. DR. WILLIE BOYD SR. ELEMENTARY. C.C. WEARING ELEMENTARY.

Nucor's new deal

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Nucor Corp. plans to invest \$75 million in new land and equipment, and Darlington County Council voted unanimously in favor of a tax incentive package to help facilitate the company's plans. The vote took place at council's July 1 regular meeting.

Due to confidentiality requirements, all prior readings of Ordinance 19-10 referred to the 50-year-old steel mill as “Project Heat Wave.” The final reading of the ordinance revealed that Nucor plans to invest \$75 million over five years, mostly by acquiring new land and purchasing new machinery to grow their local operations. There are no new jobs associated with the expansion project at this time.

Nucor will be granted a fee-in-lieu-of-taxes (FILOT) agreement, assessing the expansion at 6 percent annually for 30 years. Nucor will also receive a special source revenue credit of \$25,000 a year for the first 10 years. The ordinance states that Darlington County will receive an additional \$8.5 million in revenue from the FILOT over the 30-year term.

YEAR ON 10



Sheriff presented bloodhound puppies

Darlington County Sheriff Tony Chavis was presented with two male bloodhound puppies Dec. 20 by breeder Ty Neal of Darlington. The puppies were born Oct. 29 to Tracey and Trooper. They come with a certified pedigree by the American Kennel Club.

“It is wonderful to have community members like Mr. Neal who are willing to donate to law enforcement,” stated

Chavis. “These animals will be a great benefit to not only us, but to the people of Darlington County.”

Chavis is asking for the community's assistance naming the two puppies. You can send a message to the department's Facebook page.

The bloodhounds and their deputy handlers will begin training together after the New Year.

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CERTIFIED GROWN





The 2019 inductees of the Block "M" Club Alumni Chapter of Mayo High School. Pictured left to right: Front: Michael Lloyd, Coy Washington, Daniel Blathers. Back: David Hudson, Ralfenel Scott, Derek Flynn, Pete Green, Andre Grooms. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A ribbon-cutting was held Dec. 19 for Safe Haven Insurance LLC at 321 North Main St., Darlington. The owner is Gerry Robinette. The company offers auto, home, life and renters insurance, among other services.

## Backyard Stargazer

### A new year for old stars

By Frances Parnell



2020 is going to be a spectacular year for planet watching!

Jupiter and Saturn are close together in May; in December they'll have the closest conjunction they've had in centuries! Also, Venus passes through the Pleiades, an open star cluster in Taurus, the Bull.

That will be a great event to observe in binoculars or a small

telescope! We'll even have two full Moons in October, the second being a Blue Moon.

Looking southwest on the 1st, dazzling Venus is about 25 degrees above the horizon at sunset and sets 2 hours 45 minutes later. By month's end, it's 34 degrees high and sets 3 hours 30 minutes later.

On the 5th at 2:48 a.m., Earth is at Perihelion, its closest point to the Sun all year, at 91,398,199 miles. We're 3 percent closer to the Sun than at Aphelion in July at 94.5 million miles.

At dusk on the 7th, the waxing gibbous Moon is between the horns of Taurus, the Bull. Aldebaran, the bright red eye of the bull, is about 4 degrees to the right.

At dawn on the 22nd, a very thin lunar crescent rises in the southeast with Jupiter trailing it about 6 degrees. Catch the pair before the Sun drowns them out.

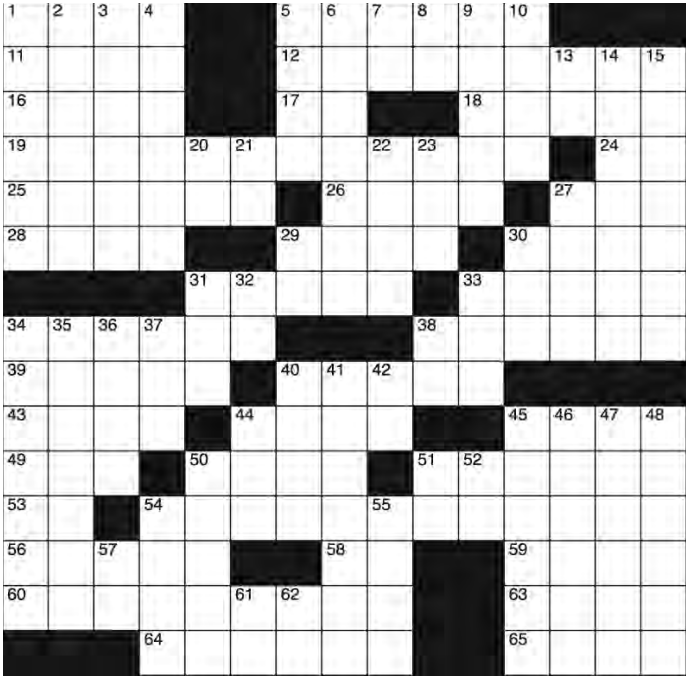
Looking west on the 27th, Venus is 6 degrees north of the slim waxing crescent Moon. The next night the Moon is approximately the same dis-

tance to the upper left of Venus.

**FAST FACT:** In the future, if spacecraft have their own atomic clocks onboard, it will cut in half the time it takes to determine its position. Based on lab tests, the Deep Space Atomic Clock is so accurate it loses only 1 second in 10 million years. That's 50 times more accurate than the current GPS satellite's clocks.

The stars belong to everyone, so let's "Keep looking up!"

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Database management system
- Soft blue-gray mineral
- Algerian coastal city
- A healthy redness
- El \_\_, border town
- Part of the mind
- Female body part
- Atrocities
- You can call Paul Simon this
- Copyread
- Large integers
- Large, flightless bird
- Bread and whiskey are two
- Indicate pain or discomfort
- Worry
- Wild goats
- Belittle
- More supernatural
- Wakes up
- Intestinal pouches
- Popular dance
- American state
- CSI actor
- Having a keen enthusiasm for
- Swiss river
- Restaurant item

- Intense unhappiness
- Unit of loudness
- Increase in velocity
- Mesoamerican religion
- Early multimedia
- Forearm bone
- An unprincipled person
- Swarming with
- Shellfish
- Root of taro plant

### DOWN

- More silly
- Adult beverage
- Iron used for lofting
- Noses
- Smile
- One who examines closely
- Lethal dose
- Denotes past
- "This Is Us" actor Fitch
- Dabbling ducks
- Polish beer
- A type of cat
- Shows respect for
- Of I
- Commercial
- Chai and chamomile are two
- Lodging option
- Geological

- Unit of electrical inductance (abbr.)
- Where G-men work
- Hot beverage
- One of the six noble gases
- Southern constellation
- South American nation
- Suitable for use as food
- The back
- I (German)
- Blood group
- Fit to stand trial
- Praise excessively
- Female's title
- EU predecessor
- Acutely insightful and wise
- Disguised
- Improved the appearance of
- Generator
- The real \_\_, the genuine article
- Male's title
- Home of the Hawkeyes
- About aviation
- At all times
- Military peace officer
- College degree
- Indicates position

## WORD SEARCH

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

AIR MASS	COLD	FRONT	TEMPERA-
ALTITUDE	CONDENSA-	FROSTBITE	TURE
ARCTIC	TION	FROZEN	
BAROME-	CRYSTAL-	GALE	VISIBILITY
TER	IZATION	HYPOTHER-	
BLACK ICE	DEGREE	MIA	WINDCHILL
BLIZZARD	FOG	MERCURY	
CLIMATE	FREEZING	SNOW	WINTER

Answers on 11

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# Man charged in armed robbery

Darlington Police have a suspect in custody after an armed robbery Dec. 21.

Randall Taylor Douglas Jr. is charged with armed robbery after police say he threatened a victim at Young’s Convenience Store on 601 N. Main St. in Darlington, according to local media reports.

# 2 bodies found in Darlington County

From Staff Reports

Authorities were investigating the discovery of two bodies in separate locations in Darlington County last week.

On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, “a deceased individual” was discovered in a field near Bay Branch Road and Plaza Road near Lamar, the Darlington County Sheriff’s Office said.

County Coroner Todd Hardee ruled the death a homicide. He said the incident most likely took place Christmas Eve. He identified the victim as Zyshonne Kaveon McCullough, 21, of Bishopville.

If you have any information on the case, you are asked to call Darlington County sheriff’s investigators at 843-398-4920 or

Crime Stoppers of the Pee Dee at 1-888-Crime-SC. You do not have to reveal your identity to leave information.

And in a separate case, multiple agencies were investigating a body found Dec. 21 in Darlington County woods.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources says deputies were alerted to the body off Oates Highway early that morning, according to local media reports. One report said the incident might have begun with a hunting trip.

The name of the victim was not immediately known.

# Weapon pulled on cashier at Sonic



A woman has been charged with pointing a gun at a teen-age cashier at Sonic in Darlington, police say. Daisha Green is charged with pointing and presenting a firearm at a person and unlawful carrying of a weapon, according to the Darlington Police Department. Green reportedly became angry because the Sonic’s credit-card machine was not working right. PHOTOS COURTESY DARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Woman facing 2 felony DUI charges

A Darlington-area woman has been charged with two counts of felony DUI and two counts of reckless homicide in a September crash that killed two people in Darlington County, WPDE-TV reports.

The station quotes the S.C. Highway Patrol as saying that Patrice Latoya Watson McFadden is facing charges in the crash on Society Hill Road near Mont Clair Road.

Officials had said that McFadden’s vehicle crossed the center line and hit a pickup truck carrying two Society Hill residents, one a 94-year-old man and the other a 71-year-old man.

# BOOKINGS REPORT

W. GLENN CAMPBELL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 16, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 26, 2019  
INMATE NAME/AGE/BOOKING OFFENSE

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

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

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

- Deannie Michelle Brewer, 47, of 443 Hibiscus Rd, Lamar, Fail to Appear After Release for a Misdemeanor
- Keshawn Damon Evans, 24, of 401 Penn Circle, Hartsville, Speeding More than 25 MPH Over the Speed Limit; Transp Alcohol in Motor Veh w/Seal Broken; Violation of Beginner Permit
- Rashawn Ahree Henry, 28, of 547 Jessamine St, Darlington, Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; Operating Unsafe Vehicle; Operating Motor Vehicle w/o License
- Kellie Vaughn Hodges, 39, of 801 14th St, Hartsville, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree
- Steven Dennis Huggins, 33, of 1352 Samuel Benjamin Ave, Darlington, Drugs/Possession of Cocaine 1st; Grand Larceny >\$2000 <\$10,000; Petty Larceny <\$2000; Burglary Second Degree
- Byron Gee Jeffords, 41, of

## CHARGES

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

- 68 Phil Jar Ln, Bishopville, No Charge Data
- Deshaun Nicholas Jordan, 30, of 710 Cashua St Apt 7, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension (DUI) 2nd Offense; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st
  - Joshua Maurice Lighty, 36, of 417 James Avenue, Hartsville, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree; Non Support
  - Dashon Isiah Pendergrass, 20, of 417 Logan Avenue, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning; Breaking Into Auto/Tanks Where Fuel Stored
  - Alex McKenzie Sergeant, 18, Homeless, Florence, Burglary Second Degree
  - Jesse William Sparrow,

- 35, of 936 W Billy Farrow Hwy, Hartsville, Grand Larceny >\$2000 <\$10,000; Burglary First Degree
- Jahquan Shallah Jones, 19, of 206 Roundtree Drive, Elizabeth City NC, Safekeeping
  - Brenda Patrice Patterson, 42, of 124 Reid St, Darlington, Probation Violation
  - Jonte Dominic Scott, 34, of 529 Hunter Drive, Hartsville, Use of 911 Number Unlawfully
  - Phillip Dontavis Wallace, 26, of 813 Kant Ave, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension; Giving False Information; Traffic/Too Fast for Conditions; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation 2nd Offense; Operating Vehicle Which is Not Registered/Lic
  - David Lee Williams, 46, of 522 Hawkins Road, Hartsville, Safekeeping
  - Jason Ashby Chavis, 40, of 1324 E Home Ave, Hartsville, Malicious Injury to Property; Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony; Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony
  - Steven M Fornari, 28, of 3861 Masters Circle, Florence, No Charge Data
  - Keri Anne Gainey, 44, of 1715 Candy Lane, Florence, Shoplifting <\$2000
  - Marquis Zandui Hawkins, 25, of 1318 Larry Dr, Darlington, Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony; Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony; Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony; Failure to Appear After Release for a Felony
  - Marvin Deloren Lloyd, 45, of 143 North St, Darlington,

- Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st
- Jaquad Desmond Roary, 19, of 408 Marion Avenue, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000; Common Law Robbery Strong Arm Robbery
  - Erica Dianne Simmons, 33, of 188 Townsend Rd, Society Hill, Public Disorderly Conduct
  - Bryan Harris Young, 32, of 1416 Fox Hollow Dr, Hartsville, DUI <10 1st Offense
  - Kevin David Branham, 29, of 2301 Gilchrist Rd, Darlington, Domestic/Domestic Violence 3rd Degree
  - Jason David Felkel, 42, of 2949 New Market Road, Hartsville, Computer Crime >\$1000 <\$10,000 2nd Deg 1st; Grand Larceny >\$2000 <\$10,000; Criminal Conspiracy
  - Nathan Johnson Jr., 39, of 405 East Main St Apt B, Timmonsville, Weekender
  - Anita Jalisa Keels, 24, of 155 Boone Lane, Bishopville, Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent
  - Sonny Lavioris Mack, 42, of 234 Dovesville Hwy, Darlington, Assault and Battery 1st Degree
  - Patrice Latoya Watson McFadden, 44, of 3865 Society Hill Rd, Society Hill, Felony Driving Under Influence, Death Results; Felony Driving Under Influence, Death Results; Reckless Homicide, Death Resulting w/in 3Yrs; Reckless Homicide, Death Resulting w/in 3Yrs
  - Raymond Vincent Newsome, 35, of 123 Golf Course Rd, Hartsville,

- Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 3rd or More; Entering Premises After Warning; Habitual Traffic Offender; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 3rd Or More; Reckless Driving; Habitual Traffic Offender; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation
- Meghan Robinson, 25, of 214 W Main Street, Lamar, Criminal Conspiracy; Computer Crime \$1000/Less 3rd Deg 1st Off; Burglary Second Degree; Accessory Before the Fact to a Felony; Kidnapping; Accessory Before the Fact to a Felony
  - Lloyd Henderson Seiler Jr., 68, of 1809 Spring Valley Rd, Hartsville, Weekender
  - Michael A Squire, 53, of 1041 East Carolina, Hartsville, Weekender
  - Marquita Junell Thomas, 36, of 3428 Wall Flower Lane, Darlington, Non Support; Non Support
  - Kimberly Joyce Walters, 45, of 2338 Sampit Rd, Hartsville, Failure to Appear After Release for Felony; Non Support
  - Roosevelt NMN Williams, 58, of 636 E Jackson St, Lamar, Weekender
  - Terrance Antinous Brunson, 36, of 3549 E National Cemetery, Florence, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st; Driving Under Suspension; Transp Alcohol in Motor Veh w/Seal Broken; Fail to Maintain Proof of Insurance in Vehicle; Improper Use of Dealer Tag
  - Charlena Durant-Williams, 70, of 323 Marlboro

- Avenue, Hartsville, Children/Neglect of Child or Helpless Person
- George Edwards Jr., 58, of 3041 Marcus Dr, Hartsville, Public Drunk
  - Clintonio Hunter Jr., 19, of 1615 Indigo Dr, Darlington, Breach of Trust <\$2000; Breach of Trust w/Fraud Intent <\$2000
  - Patrick Rashod Johnson, 34, of 505 Hunter Dr, Hartsville, DUI 2nd; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd
  - Douglas Randall Taylor Jr., 27, of 921 Dovesville Hwy, Darlington, Armed Robbery Armed with Deadly Weapon
  - Shakema Nicole Bell, 42, of 403 Redwood St, Darlington, Disorderly House
  - Quadarius Javon Black, 22, of 2112 McKay Jowers Loop, Jefferson, Fail to Maintain Proof of Insurance in Vehicle; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 3rd or More; Failure to Possess Registration Card; Vehicle With Missing/Incorrectly Displayed Tag; Traffic/Temporary License Plate-Casual Seller
  - Alvin Andrew Cole, 32, of 2012 Candy Lane, Florence, Malicious Injury Property >\$200
  - Tonja Renee McRae, 43, of 1329 Syracuse Street, Darlington, Shoplifting Less Than \$50
  - Brad Everette Smith, 28, of 2223 Ashlen Rd, Hartsville, Poss Firearm by Convicted Violent Felon; Unlawful Carrying of Weapon
  - Darryl Laverne Gregg, 57, of 1005 S Six St, Hartsville, Public Disorderly Conduct
  - Tanner Holloman, 19, of 1728 Wisteria Circle, Hartsville, Unlawful Carrying of Weapon

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Year in review

Continued from 7

Here come the cameras

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

A nearly \$5 million plan to blanket Darlington County public schools with surveillance cameras should be ready to launch by November, a school-district official said last week.

All of the district’s nearly two dozen schools, including the three elementary schools under construction, will be part of this web of cameras that are far more sophisticated than what the district has now, Diane Sigmon, executive director of technology for the district, said in an interview.

“We have a standard, and it (will be) implemented in every school, equitably,” Sigmon said. “That’s how we always approach it. . . . We worked with each principal, particularly at the high schools, because they know where the nooks and crannies are that kids like to hide.”

“We have figured out the number of cameras for every school, because every school gets (the new) cameras,” Sigmon said. “We should be complete by November.”

Kids and computers

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Thousands more students attending Darlington County public schools will be allowed to

take home their school-issued computers starting this fall.

Until now, only students in grades 9-12 were able to take their school-issued laptop computers home with them. Under a new plan approved July 8 by the county school board, students in grades 3-8 also will be allowed to take home iPads issued to them by the school district.

Kids in grades 3-8 will be required to pay the district \$20 a year to cover possible damage to iPads owned by the district. High-school students must pay \$50 a year for insurance coverage on their school-issued laptops.

‘Fear of flooding’ meets the mayor’s race

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

After a summer of sudden thunderstorms and ferocious flooding in parts of Darlington, “fear of flooding” has become an issue in the race for mayor.

Last week, mayoral candidate Curtis Boyd said on his Facebook page that the constant flooding problems were keeping business investments out of the city.

“I was approached . . . and told by a very large business in town, by their manager, that they have money to expand in Darlington, but with the drainage issue, they WOULD NOT spend money here,” Boyd said on Facebook. He did not name the company.

“I assured him that this is a serious issue that has been let go too long and will be one of our TOP priorities,” Boyd continued.

“The businesses and citizens of Darlington have the right to feel secure in their surroundings without fear of flooding every time rain comes to our town.”

Boyd, a businessman seeking to unseat Mayor Gloria Hines in her bid for a second term, posted photos of flooded streets on his Facebook page July 13 and said: “How many years? All over town. Two hours of rain. This has to be addressed. This has gone on for years. Please be careful out. Already seen five cars towed. Broad St. Russell St. Main St. Pearl St. Please do not drive through it.”

AUGUST 2019 Library reaches for the stars

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Kids who excelled in the Darlington County Library System’s summer reading program helped the library launch its latest educational program and cut the ribbon on a new portable planetarium, dubbed the Darlington Discovery Dome.

On Aug. 2, the Darlington Library unveiled the 18-foot StarLab inflatable dome and welcomed two outstanding readers and their families inside for a preview of the space exploration-themed show. Obtained with support from the Sonoco Foundation, the planetarium will provide an immersive educational experience designed to fire the imaginations of future scientists and explorers. Best of all, the planetarium is conveniently located and show admis-

sions will be free.

“Not everybody has the transportation or the resources to go to the planetarium (at Francis Marion University) . . . so we worked with the Sonoco Foundation to bring the planetarium experience to Darlington County,” said Jimmie Epling, Darlington County Library System director.

‘Darlington is drowning’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

“Darlington is drowning,” one resident told City Council last week in asking for help with continuing flooding problems.

She was one of two citizens who addressed council during its monthly meeting Aug. 6, and both asked the city to make more use of its “vac truck,” a specialized vehicle for cleaning out storm drains and sewers. “That truck should be out there every day because Darlington is drowning,” resident Rose Pruitt told council.

“I don’t think for an instant that I’m the only area that floods in town,” she said. “I’m aware that those big storms have caused some problems. However, I’ve (had) 2 feet of water at the end of my driveway . . . I’ve got water lapping at siding that was recently replaced because of this flooding damage.” She lives in the West Broad Street area.

“It’s not just my property,” Pruitt said. “It’s all my neighbors’ property. It’s escalating. We’ve got cars stalling out. We’ve got crazy people trying to go 100

miles an hour and hydroplane. And this time . . . somebody tried to go around the flooded street, and they’re going down the sidewalk.”

School district misses a chance for ‘eLearning’ program

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The drill for hurricanes and winter storms is going to remain the same for Darlington County public-school students – time off now, make-up days later.

The Darlington County School District didn’t make the state’s list of districts being allowed to join a pilot program to test “eLearning,” which lets students do lessons from home, by computer, even when a weather emergency shuts down their schools. This would let schools shed the burden of make-up days.

Darlington County was one of 23 school districts that had applied to join the five districts already testing the program -- Anderson 5, Kershaw, Picken, Spartanburg 1 and Spartanburg 7. But only 10 more districts were allowed to join in for this year, and Darlington County was among those passed over.

Lamar takes the Internet leap

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Last December, Spectrum Cable and Charter

Communications announced plans to install a state of the art fiber network in Lamar, bringing cutting-edge online service to a town that had lobbied 10 years for better connectivity. On Aug. 13, Spectrum execs came back to town to celebrate the completion of the network and offer gifts to help local residents merge onto their new online expressway.

“Today is truly a celebration. We are connecting Lamar, South Carolina, to Spectrum’s high-speed Internet network,” said Ben Breazeale, Spectrum’s Senior Director of State Government Affairs.

Spectrum customers in Lamar will now be able to access a 200 mbps Internet connection – the same speed available in top markets like New York City, Los Angeles, and other major cities. Company reps said the Lamar project is part of Spectrum’s commitment to improve communications infrastructure in rural communities. In 2018, Spectrum expanded their network to provide broadband to 500,000 additional homes and businesses across the nation, with 34.6 percent of those customers living in rural areas.

“With faster Internet speeds, especially in more rural areas of South Carolina, the doors will be open for future business investments, expanded educational opportunities, and will attract more people to live here in South Carolina,” said Charter Communications Assistant VP of Field Operations Tony Siero.

YEAR ON 11

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Opaline Dozier Atkinson Date of Death: 10/9/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600586 Personal Representative: John Atkinson Address: 1024 Ashland Road, Hartsville, SC 29550 (23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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#371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Onell N Young AKA Onell Nichols Johnson Date of Death: 11/15/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600575 Personal Representative: William Terry Johnson Address: 2461 Antioch Road, Hartsville, SC 29550 (23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Hazel McQueen Date of Death: 8/27/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600533 Personal Representative: Alvin Dewayne McQueen Address: 1243 Meadowlark Lane, Darlington, SC 29540 (23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Tracey Curtis Mouzon Date of Death: 9/4/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600585 Personal Representative: Karen Mouzon Address: 302 Jasper Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550 (23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of

any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Kurt Russell Scholl Date of Death: 12/9/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600589 Personal Representative: Mary L. Heck Address: 39534 Dorchester Circle, Canton, MI 48188 (23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL

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

CASE NO.: 18-DR-16-0688 Karen Liles, Plaintiffs, vs. James Brandon Jolly and Sara Kathryn Tyner, Defendants. In Re: Kison R J (xx/xx/2018) A minor under 14 years of age TO: DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at his office located at 702 W. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550 within thirty (30) days after the date of service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time allowed, Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for judgment by default granting the relief prayed for in the Complaint.

Cody T. Mitchell Attorney for Plaintiff 702 W. Carolina Avenue PO Box 1408 Florence, SC 29501 Tel: (843) 332-5050 Fax: (843) 332-5105 ctmitchellsc@gmail.com Hartsville, South Carolina 9/25/2018 (23c3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: McCleery B. Cunningham Date of Death: 11/8/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600587 Personal Representative: Elizabeth C. Gault Address: 2531 Shiland Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29732 Attorney: John Jay James, II Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540 (23p3 leave in thru 1-8-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Henry Neronald Graham, Sr. Date of Death: 10/20/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600590 Personal Representative: Angela Graham Address: 2425 Explorer Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550 (24p3 leave in thru 1-8-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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SUMMONS AND SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

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

Carolina, 29503 within thirty (30) days from the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service; and in case of the failure to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for DARLINGTON County on October 10, 2019 at 3:58 PM, for purposes of quieting title, as described in the Complaint.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Pursuant to an execution and subsequent levy, the Tax Collector of Darlington County, South Carolina, acting in her official capacity, offered for sale the real property of Thelma T. Moore for non-payment of 2007 real property taxes. The property is described as follows: All those certain pieces, parcels of lots of land lying, situate and being in the County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, known and designed as Lot Nos. 243 and 244 in Section 1, as shown on a map made by W. R. Banks, Registered Surveyor, dated January 21, 1960, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County in Plat Book 31, at page 61. Reference is also made to a map made by Robert E. and Lori B. McElroy by Lind, Hicks & Assoc., Surveyors, Inc. dated July 8, 1997, and recorded in the above-mentioned office in Plat Book 169, at page 315. Said lot being bounded as follows, to wit: On the North by Lot Nos. 245 and 246 for a combined distance of 100.00 feet, on the East by Lot No. 242 for a distance of 200.00 feet; on the South by Greystone Drive for a distance of 100. feet; and on the West by Lots Nos. 232, 231, 230 and 229 for a combined distance of 200.00 feet. Reference being had to the above mentioned maps for a more complete and accurate description.

This being the same property conveyed to Thelma T. Moore by Deed of George L. Wilcox and recorded in Deed Book 1040 at page 238 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County. TMS# 2019-01-039 October 10, 2010 s/CHARLIE J. BLAKE, Florence, South Carolina CHARLIE J. BLAKE, ESQUIRE S.C. Bar No.: 16980 FINKLEA LAW FIRM 814 West Evans Street Florence, SC 29501 Phone: (843) 317-4900

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

It appearing unto the satisfaction of this Court upon reading Plaintiff’s Petition to Appoint Guardian ad Litem Nisi, and Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Post Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, having consented to act as Guardian ad Litem Nisi and to represent the Defendants including all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in and to the real property located in Darlington

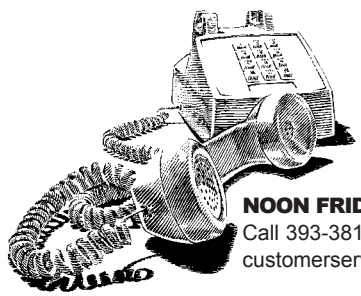
County, South Carolina, and designated as TMS#: 218-09-01-039 any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being classes designated under the fictitious names of John Doe and Richard Roe, hereinafter referred to as “Defendants,” and that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interests of such Defendants and has no interest herein adverse to the interest of said Defendants and is not connected in business with the Plaintiff in this action or with their counsel. IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Posts Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, be and he is hereby designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Defendants and she is hereby authorized to appear in and defend such action on behalf of said Defendants and to protect their interests, unless said Defendants, or any of them, shall within thirty (30) days of the service of a copy of this Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service as herein provided, apply to this Court for the appointment of another competent and discreet individual of their choice to serve as Guardian ad Litem for them, for the purposes of this action. Upon the failure of such application, within the specified time, this Order shall automatically become final and absolute. IT IS SO ORDERED.

Darlington, South Carolina s/PAUL M. Burch, Judge #2048 December 5, 2019 Circuit Court Judge (24c3 leave in thru 1-8-20)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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**JANUARY 1, 2020 | PAGE 11A**  
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—\$269,900

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**123 Erinvine Court**—Great office space with large reception area, three nice offices, kitchen, two restrooms, lots of storage throughout for only **\$850 per month.**

## RESIDENTIAL

**218 Athol Street—3 BR, 2 BA, 1193 SF—\$109,900**  
**108 Wyandot Street—4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2760 SF—\$269,900**  
**119 Brittain Road—3 BR, 2 Full & 2 Half BA, 3612 SF—\$289,500**  
**416 Spring Street—3 BR, 1.5 BA, 1137 SF—\$107,000**  
**722 Spring Street—4 BR, 3 BA, 2456 SF—\$100,000**  
**111 Virginia Drive—5 BR, 4 BA, 4290 SF—\$319,900**

## 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**  
**Lot 15 Wildshall Road—.80 Acres—\$27,000**  
**Lot 17 Wyandot Street—1.07 Acres—\$32,000**

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**TBD Watson Street—\$47,000**  
**123 Erinvine Court—\$850/Monthly**

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**108 Woods Street** - Cute brick 2 bedroom 1 bath home in the city limits of Darlington. Home has 1,414 sq ft of living area. Hardwood flooring throughout home and Tile in the kitchen. Fenced yard and workshop. Perfect starter home. **Priced @ \$104,900.00**

## RESIDENTIAL

**123 Spring St** - 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 3,438 sq ft, inground pool.

Home is on the National Registry of Historical Homes in SC - **\$289,000**

**123 Nez Perce** - 4 bedrooms 3 1/2 baths, 3,420 sq ft, inground pool - **\$299,900**

**109 Laurel Avenue** - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,000 sq ft - **\$136,900**

**2223 Bracey Ave** - 3 bedrooms, s baths, 1,000 sq ft - **\$129,900**

**248 Woods St.** - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,000 sq ft - **\$69,900**

**114 Tedder St** - 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,000 sq ft - **\$62,500**

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**2759 Cashua Ferry Rd** - 2 bed-rooms, 1,000 sq ft - **\$62,000**

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**4 acres on GREAT PEE DEE RIVER** - beside boat landing River Frontage - **\$35,000**

**Lot B Dovesville Hwy** - 2 acres mobile home allowed - **\$20,000**

**Lot 56 Kant Avenue** - 1 acre, mobile home allowed **\$9,000**

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## COMMERCIAL

**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**

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## Year in review

Continued from 10

### Robbers raid Dollar Generals

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

It was a brutal 36 hours for Dollar General employees in Darlington County.

On Aug. 18, two men swiped money from an open cash register at the Dollar General on Main Street in Lamar. The next day, a man entered the Dollar General at 904 Lamar Highway, showed a weapon, demanded cash and escaped with an undetermined amount of money.

That string of incidents in a day and a half has prompted the Darlington County Sheriff's Office to reach out to Dollar General's corporate office to try to establish a dialogue about what might be done to strengthen security at the company's stores in the area. Lt. Robby Kilgo, a spokesman for Sheriff Tony Chavis, told the News & Press, "We have reached out to Dollar General to see if they will go over their security measures and provide suggestions."

### Police roll out new utility vehicles

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

When responding to calls in flooded or confined areas, officers of the Darlington Police and Fire Departments now have greater ability to access and navigate these scenes, thanks to three recently acquired utility vehicles.

Honda donated a new Big Red side-by-side UTV to the Darlington Police Department, and the Darlington Fire Department received two used

Gator utility vehicles through a South Carolina Forestry Commission grant program.

Kelvin Washington, City of Darlington Public Safety Director and Chief of Police, says the used vehicles only required a little TLC to get them ready for duty.

"The guys at the Fire Department are amazing and very resourceful. They were able to go in and work on these vehicles...with a couple of guys from our office, they've torn them down and made repairs. Most of this free equipment has very little wrong with it, so it's mostly body work and wiring and small repairs," says Washington.

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### Airport reaches for the sky

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Planned improvements to the Darlington County Airport

(DCA) could lure larger, heavier aircraft in for a local landing. Starting this September, a project to upgrade the field's main runway will triple its current weight capacity, opening up options for current tenants and enhancing the airport's appeal to new ones.

"We applied for a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to come in and basically do an overlay on our runway," says airport manager Barry Kennett. "The asphalt on the runway is over 20 years old, and generally that's about the lifespan for asphalt surfaces."

Kennett says that due to age and the regular traffic of heavy aircraft on hot asphalt, the runway has developed ruts. Engineers recommended an overlay to repair the surface, and DCA applied for a federal grant to help cover the estimated cost of \$4 million- \$5 million. The project will mill down between 2 and 7 inches of asphalt and lay a thick pad of concrete along the 5,500-foot-long run-

way, providing a more durable and hardy surface. "That's going to triple our weight-bearing capability," Kennett says.

### Bethae plans \$23 million project

Bethae Retirement Community in Darlington last week broke ground on a \$23 million, 60,000-square-foot health care and rehabilitation facility.

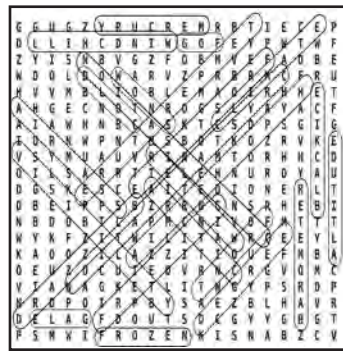
The project, to be completed in the fall of 2020, is "a piv-

otal moment, a life-changing event, in the future of every resident and staff (member) of Bethae," said Tom Turner, CEO and president of the S.C. Baptist Ministries of Aging. Bethae is a ministry of that group. Bethae held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 27 on the project.

The facility, when complete, will encompass 88 private rooms, 22 of them for short-term care and 66 for long-term care.

YEAR ON 12

## Answers from 8





## Year in review

Continued from 11

Also included will be a rehab therapy gym (3,000 square feet), a primary care office (1,500 square feet), screened porches and an ice-cream parlor. The design will allow private living for residents who have previously had semi-private rooms.

The design features four “households,” groups of 22 residential rooms; each “household” is to have a kitchen and recreation area.

-- From staff reports

### Hurricane? What hurricane?

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington County hunkered down last week for an assault by Hurricane Dorian, but the area mostly just got a steady rain and moderate winds.

“We were very fortunate,” said Molly Odom, emergency management coordinator for the county. “It’s much better than expected.”

“The rain has been less than they forecast,” Odom said last Thursday as the county began moving out of the peak danger zone from the storm. “We’re experiencing significantly less impact than what was forecast.”

Forecasts had called for up to 4 inches of rain in the county and wind gusts of up to 40 mph. According to local media reports, the Darlington area got 2.3 inches of rain; the Florence area, 2.8 inches.

### David Self, Deputy of the Year

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Earlier this summer, Darlington County Sheriff’s Office Deputy David Self was selected by the South Carolina Sheriff’s Association as 2019 Deputy of the Year. Last week, Darlington County Council passed a resolution honoring the officer and celebrating his outstanding work.

“I just want to say how proud I am of this young man, and that he’s a deputy in his home of Darlington County, serving the people,” says Sheriff Tony Chavis.

Self’s father served as a deputy, and he followed in the family tradition by joining the North Charleston Police Department. From there, he applied to the DCSO and Chavis says he was happy to welcome Self to the department.

“I’m so glad we were able to bring him back home. His work is really speaking for itself,” says Chavis.

### Hugo: 30 years ago

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Thirty years ago, Darlington County was a wreck.

Trees were down on houses. Trees were down in roads. The power was out. Phones were out. Even water service was out in some places.

Grocery-store shelves were stripped bare. Frozen food rotted in dead refrigerators and freezers. Store awnings on Darlington’s Public Square were stripped off. Hundreds of evacuees took shelter at four public schools in the county; all the other schools were shut down.

Some 3,000 homes in the county were damaged; some simply collapsed. Cleanup of the whole mess was going to take two or three months, officials estimated. This was where we were 30 years ago this week after Hurricane Hugo roared across South Carolina Sept. 21-22, 1989.

“THE LONGEST NIGHT,” the News & Press called it in a headline. Another headline said, “Hugo takes no prisoners.”

## OCTOBER 2019

### Deputies kill ‘man with a gun’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington County sheriff’s deputies shot and killed a “man with a gun” last week after he refused to drop his weapon and kept walking along New Market Road near Hartsville, officials said.

Daryl Strickland, 65, of Hartsville, died in the Sept. 25 incident, said Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee. Sheriff Tony Chavis has asked the State Law Enforcement Division to

investigate the slaying; SLED routinely handles officer-involved shootings.

The Darlington County Sheriff’s Office released the full incident report on the shooting Friday. It deletes the names of three officers involved in the incident, but otherwise provides a full account of what took place according to the deputies on the scene.

The report states that at 6:38 p.m. last Wednesday, the unnamed deputy responded to the area of 847 New Market Road in response to a call about a “man walking with a gun.” At 6:51 p.m., the report says, the unnamed deputy and two other officers “made contact” with the man “walking on New Market Road with a gun in his hand.”

“All deputies approached the suspect and gave verbal commands to drop his weapon . . . which suspect ignored,” the report says. “The suspect continued to walking,” the report continues. “The suspect then stated something . . . which this deputy did not understand. When the suspect turned, he was fired upon,” the report says. “The suspect was struck with gunfire and dropped to the ground.”

### Judicial center plans reviewed

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

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 longstanding 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.”

### Judicial center plans advance

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Plans to build a new \$14 million courthouse in downtown Darlington will move forward, as Darlington County Council voted unanimously at their Oct. 7 regular meeting to pursue the project.

With this vote on Resolution No. 709, council granted Darlington County administrator Charles Stewart permission to “engage and seek an engineering and architectural contract for the design, construction and completion of a new judicial center for Darlington County.” The proposed build site is on North Main Street, in front of the Historical Commission.

At a special meeting on Oct. 2, members of council and the public got their first look at artist renderings and floor plans for the new 38,000-square-foot building, which would feature improved security for judges and court personnel with a separate entrance and elevator, gated 15-space parking lot, and sequestered office space.

### City’s only Bi-Lo fades out

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Darlington’s only Bi-Lo grocery store is being closed because it’s “underperforming,” parent company Southeastern Grocers said last week. The store, at 508 Lamar Highway, will close “on or before” Nov. 11, the company said in a statement Oct. 10.

“We realize that the closure of an underperforming store in your community can be challenging,”

Southeastern Grocers said. “We do not take these decisions lightly, and only make this tough choice after careful consideration of its impact on our associates and our customers has been made.”

Employees at the store “were the first to know of this decision and have our dedicated support during this transition,” the Florida-based company said. However, when the News & Press called the store shortly after receiving the company’s statement, employees said they had not been told the store was to be closed.

### MUSC: The doctor is in

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Patients seeking a primary care health practice have a new option with the opening of MUSC Primary Care Darlington, which held a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 9 in conjunction with the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce.

“It’s a good day in Darlington County. We are happy to have MUSC as part of our community,” said Rep. Robert Williams (S.C. House Dist. 62). “We are so happy that they’ve made Darlington part of their strategic plans.”

Darlington Mayor Gloria C. Hines shared the excitement and expressed confidence that the community will quickly warm to Canadian-born primary care physician Dr. David Sherwin. “The welcome that I’ve had here in Darlington has been overwhelming. I am very much looking forward to serving the community and advocating for my patients’ health,” said Sherwin.

### Name that school: Down to one favorite

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The public didn’t have to look far to find its favorite name for Darlington’s new elementary school.

Nearly 1,000 people – community members, students, parents, school district employees – turned in valid “name that school” ballots to the Darlington County School District. And the clear winner was “J.L. Cain Elementary,” the same name as the school that sits next to the new school’s construction site on First Street.

“Cain” got 454 votes out of 958 valid ballots submitted to the school district. The current Cain Elementary will be absorbed into the new school next year, along with another school, Brunson-Dargan Elementary. But only 49 ballots favored “Brunson-Dargan” for the new facility’s name. After “Cain,” the public’s No. 2 choice was “Dr. Willie Boyd Sr. Elementary,” which got 223 votes.

### A disturbing checkup

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

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

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

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

The highest life expectancies were found in the Clyde community, with an average of 77 years, and the lowest expectancies were found in the city of Darlington, where the average lifespan is around 69.5 years. Areas of Hartsville varied notably, with those living west of town near Bobo Newsome Highway averaging 76.8 years and South Hartsville residents averaging 70.1 years. Life expectancies in Lamar and Society Hill were 75.2 and 75 years, respectively.

The leading causes of death are familiar culprits: heart disease, cancer and stroke. Increased risk factors for these chronic diseases -- including obesity and smoking -- are keeping our numbers elevated. The report says that 39.1 percent of county adults are obese, and 21.8 percent still smoke cigarettes.

## NOVEMBER 2019

### ‘The spirit here is so strong’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Race day in Darlington embodies the kind of “spirit, excellence and competition” that makes South Carolina special, Gov. Henry McMaster says.

“I’ve brought people over here,” the Republican governor said last week at a cookout celebrating Darlington Raceway’s sell-out crowd for the 2019 Bojangles’ Southern 500 Sept. 1. “And they look out, they look over at the infield, they look at the people tailgating.”

“And they say, ‘I cannot believe such spirit down here in this place, this small place’ — it’s not the biggest place in the world, one of the best — ‘The spirit here is so strong — the people, they act like they’re family.’ I say, ‘They are family.’ Most everybody is related. . . . Everybody knows everybody.” “So what we see here — the kind of spirit that is demonstrated, and the excellence and the competition that’s exhibited every time we have race day here in Darlington — is an enormous positive reflection on the state of South Carolina.”

McMaster was a guest Oct. 29 at the raceway’s Cale Yarborough Cup Garage for a celebration of the sellout crowd that attended the rain-delayed Labor Day weekend race.

### Meet the new mayor

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Early in the morning on Election Day Nov. 5, Curtis Boyd posted a message on his Facebook page about how his day began.

“God started me off today with a beautiful message from a friend,” Boyd wrote. “Then I walk out the house to see God’s soldiers, the Darlington and Hartsville F3 (fitness) group, stop and pray with me this morning. Now a pastor called me and prayed for me.”

By 8:45 that night, Boyd had been elected the new mayor of Darlington.

Boyd, an athlete and owner of a chain of Fitness World gyms in eight cities, defeated Gloria Hines, Darlington’s first black and first female mayor, with 58 percent of the vote, a solid win that avoided the runoff election most people had expected.

Hines, a cosmetologist and longtime council member who was elected mayor in 2015, finished the race with 622 votes (32 percent) to Boyd’s 1,134 votes. Another challenger seeking the mayor’s seat, City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Bruce, received 195 votes (10 percent). Bruce, who also was running to keep her at-large seat on council, lost that race as well.

Two other council members, Bryant Gardner and John Milling, were re-elected to their at-large seats. The fight for Bruce’s council seat now goes to a Nov. 19 runoff between newcomers Howard Nettles and Ernest Boston.

“I just want to say thank you,” Boyd told the News & Press. “I’m more than humbled by the support and love that’s been shown by everybody. We prayed for these numbers and God gave us above and beyond what we asked for. . . . I’m looking forward to going to work.” Asked if he could point out one thing he did that was key to winning the election, Boyd said: “I would say if I had a single thing, it was putting God first. I left it in God’s hands and He led me in the right direction.”

### Name that school: Cain!

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The discussion took about a year. The decision took about a minute and a half.

With no debate, the Darlington County school board last week made it official: Darlington’s new school, opening in fall 2020, will be called J.L. Cain Elementary School, and its mascot will be a tiger.

The Nov. 11 vote ended roughly a year-long, painstaking process of forming a committee, gathering suggested names for the new school, getting input from school district employees, students and the public, and distributing ballots asking people to pick a favorite name. Results were given to the board Oct. 14, and Cain was the overwhelming favorite.

Cain got 454 votes out of 958 valid ballots given to district officials. Location might have been a big factor in the public’s vote: The

new \$20 million school is being built next to the current Cain Elementary, named for black educator James Lawrence Cain.

### Nettles wins council runoff

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Aided by an endorsement from Mayor-elect Curtis Boyd, Howard Nettles claimed an at-large seat on Darlington City Council in a runoff election last week.

Nettles, director of community outreach and marketing for Genesis Health Care, got 554 votes to defeat Ernest Boston Sr., who works for Generation 3 Powersports and who received 430 votes in the Nov. 19 runoff. (These election numbers are unofficial.)

Nettles said he only fell four votes short of winning outright in the Nov. 5 elections. “A runoff takes a lot of extra time and a lot of effort from a lot of people. I’m just happy we were all able to get it together and the voters came out,” Nettles said.

### New center: It’s a deal

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council held a special called meeting on Nov. 20 to officially contract architectural and engineering services for a new \$14 million courthouse.

Council voted almost unanimously to work with Columbia-based design firm Michael Baker International Inc. (MBI). The lone “nay” vote came from Albert Davis III (District 6, Hartsville).

According to the contract, the county wishes the cost of the new building to be \$13 million. MBI will be paid \$1,226,560 to supervise the design and construction of the facility.

At a special meeting held Oct. 2, council reviewed preliminary conceptual designs for the new judicial center. As depicted in artist renderings and floor plans, 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.

### ‘Tax increase ... different for different people’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Yes, residents of the city and county of Darlington, your property taxes have gone up. And depending on where you live and the house you live in, the effects are going to range from mild annoyance to a painful surprise.

“There is a tax increase,” said Darlington County administrator Charles Stewart. “(But) it’s different for different people, it really is.”

It’s all a result of a complex stew of relatively small changes that in some cases are adding up to a painful hit on residents’ property-tax bills -- and in other cases are barely being noticed.

Bottom line: If you live in the city of Darlington, you’re going to notice a hike in your property-tax bills more so than if you live in the county. If you live in an expensive home, you’re going to notice it more than if you live in a modest one. And if you live in an expensive home in the city, it’s likely going to sting.

### ‘I’ll still be up here all the time’

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

Gloria C. Hines effectively ended her four-year tenure as Darlington’s first black and first female mayor with a fast flurry of awards and hugs at last week’s City Council session.

“I’ll still be up here all the time,” Hines said during her final council meeting Dec. 3 -- a quick, 40-minute session with a routine agenda. “You know what? It’s in my blood.”

When council holds its first regular session in January, Mayor-elect Curtis Boyd will be sworn in and council member-elect Howard Nettles will take the at-large seat now held by Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Bruce. Hines lost her bid for a second term, and Bruce lost her bid for the mayor’s job, in the city’s Nov. 5 elections. Bruce also lost her race for re-election to her council seat.

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., sent a message congratulating

Hines and Bruce for their service on council, and council members also thanked them for serving. Hines was a longtime council member before being elected mayor in 2015, and Bruce has been on council four years.

### Coming up: New fire trucks

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council convened their final regular meeting of 2019 on Dec. 2, and members voted to make some key purchases for the Fire District, E-911 and Environmental Services.

Without objection, Council approved a \$1.3 million purchase of three new fire trucks for the Darlington County Fire District.

This includes two Pierce Pumper/Tankers with Freightliner chassis (\$698,594) and a Pierce ENCORE rescue vehicle (\$599,016).

One new pumper tanker will replace an older unit at Society Hill Station #11, and the other will be deployed from Dovesville Station #13.

### Newman’s contract extended

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The Darlington County school board has extended Education Superintendent Tim Newman’s \$180,000-a-year contract through June 2022.

In a unanimous vote Dec. 9, the board gave Newman a “satisfactory” evaluation for the 2018-19 school year -- his first at the district -- and renewed his contract. The board has held executive sessions over its past few meetings to talk about Newman’s contract.

“I feel honored that the board has expressed confidence in the direction that the district is moving,” Newman told reporters after the board’s vote. “I’m very encouraged because we’re just getting started with many good opportunities in the Darlington County School District,” he said. “ . . . I think this year was an excellent year for the district, but it’s just a start.”

### Hello, goodbye in Hartsville

By Samantha Lyles  
Staff Writer

Hartsville City Council’s Dec. 10 meeting was a bittersweet occasion, as council welcomed a new member and said goodbye to a beloved, long-serving member.

After holding the District #2 seat since 2007, Councilman Bernice Wilson elected not to run for re-election this year, and this was his last official meeting. Wilson received a plaque commemorating his service, and the occasion drew expressions of respect and affection from his fellow council members.

“(I am) a person who loves this city. Born and raised here, wouldn’t trade Hartsville for nothing. I love the citizens of this place,” said Wilson. “I just want to say to my fellow council members that I’ll miss you and I love you, but I’ll be here to check on you every now and then.”

Bryson S. Caldwell was sworn in as the new District # 2 representative. Caldwell is a Hartsville High School graduate and owner/president of Caldwell Insurance Consultants. Though he kept his remarks brief, Caldwell expressed admiration and respect for Wilson, and said he was ready to get to work.

### In search of a new sponsor

By Bobby Bryant  
Editor

The Bojangles’ Southern 500 is no longer the Bojangles’ Southern 500.

The fast-food company, which has been the title sponsor of Darlington’s signature NASCAR race since 2012, has ended its sponsorship deal.

The most immediate fallout from Bojangles’ exit can be seen on the Darlington Raceway’s website -- the Southern 500 logo featured there no longer displays the name BOJANGLES’. The logo now simply says Darlington Raceway Southern 500, with no sponsor, at least for now.