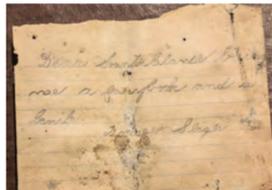


A LETTER TO SANTA
FROM 1904 ON B1



News & Press

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

DECEMBER 18, 2019

ESTABLISHED 1874

QUOTE

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

EDMUND BURKE

75¢

Vol. 145, No. 51
Darlington, S.C.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

'Just getting started': School board extends Newman's contract

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

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 confi-

dence 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. We fully anticipate great things for the Darlington County School District moving forward."

School board Chairman Warren Jeffords of Lamar explained: "There are seven areas of evaluation of the

superintendent, from relationships with staff, the community, leadership, finance and goals for the district. Dr. Newman exceeded or met expectations in all categories, especially strong in community relations, business and finance and personal traits."

Jeffords listed several things Newman has accomplished: Enrollment has risen at the Darlington County Institute of Technology; county schools have gone to a "block" scheduling plan; an apprenticeship program has begun; the school district made a "positive hire" with Larry Johnson, assistant

superintendent for administration and operations; and there's a good relationship with the Darlington County legislative delegation.

"He had a successful first year," Jeffords said. "We're looking forward to continued improvement in the years to come."

Newman receives an automatic 4 percent pay raise under the budget plan the board approved this past summer – all full-time school district employees were slated for at least a 4 percent pay boost. During his contract talks, Newman made an arrange-

ment so that the district will contribute 5 percent of Newman's salary to an annuity of his choosing as long as he keeps getting good evaluations.

In other business during last week's board meeting:

-- The board honored Mia Braddock, a 5th-grader at Spaulding Elementary School, for winning the district's annual Holiday Card Art Contest. Her illustration is on the school district's holiday cards for this year. The district will award the student \$50, and her art teacher, Dee Driggers, will receive \$100 for art supplies for her school.

-- The board honored three students who have earned a place in the S.C. Music Educators Association All-State Chorus. They are Dean Gerald, Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology; Hannah Rudick, Hartsville High School; and Leland Saxton, Hartsville High School.

-- The district received a "clean" audit on its general operations from auditors WebsterRogers that found no significant "material weaknesses" and only a few minor issues.

-- The board approved a \$250 net Christmas bonus for school-district employees.



Bernice Wilson receives a plaque commemorating his service to Hartsville City Council.

Hartsville welcomes Caldwell, bids farewell to Wilson

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
slyles@newsandpress.net

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.

"It's been such an honor to be in your presence and serve with you," said Mayor Mel Pennington. "We certainly wouldn't be in the situation we are now without you having gotten us there. We will forever be indebted to your passion and your fairness in your governance of this city."

"(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 Insurance Consultants. Though he kept his remarks brief, Caldwell expressed admiration and respect for Wilson, and said he was ready to get to work.

On his departure, Wilson offered a word of advice to Caldwell to help him deal with any challenges that lie ahead. "If you do your very best, there's nothing else for you to do but tell the people what you've done," said Wilson. "If you can do it, you do it. And if you can't, you let them know. Don't run and hide from them."

HARTSVILLE ON 3A



Bernice Wilson PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



After 7 years, Bojangles' bows out as Southern 500's top sponsor

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

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.

In a statement sent to WMBF-TV, Bojangles' said: "Bojangles' has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the team at Darlington Raceway. While we will no longer be the title sponsor for the Southern 500, NASCAR remains an important part of our sports marketing strategy, and we look forward to announcing our plans for 2020 in the near future."

SOUTHERN 500 ON 3A

Society Hill council's new policy: Miss a meeting, miss your check

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

Society Hill Town Council has adopted a "no excuses" policy for council members who miss monthly meetings.

At its Dec. 10 session, council unanimously gave final approval to a plan that will deny absent council members the \$100 they would have received for attending the meeting.

"This is what other towns

across the state have done," Mayor Tommy Bradshaw said. "It's pretty cut-and-dried."

Council was prompted to make the move after residents complained that too many members seemed to be missing too many meetings, in some cases leaving the five-member council with just barely enough for a quorum.

Members took a first vote on the plan at last month's meeting. Council members are paid \$1,200 a year to serve on the council that governs the town of 560 people, while the mayor makes \$3,600 a year.

According to the minutes

from last month's council session, council members Deborah Harrell and Tammy Gandy asked whether the attendance plan would apply if a member was out sick or out for some other legitimate reason.

Bradshaw said this type of "no exceptions or excuses" policy was being used in other S.C. towns.

In other business during last week's session, Bradshaw said that Diamond Communications LLC is planning to install a cellphone-transmission tower in Society Hill to improve residents' reception.

Lamar prepping for Christmas and future parks projects

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
slyles@newsandpress.net

Lamar Town Council convened their regular meeting on Dec. 9 and discussed holiday plans both present and future.

Council member Inez Lee said the rest of downtown Lamar's Christmas decorations would be installed and illuminated later in the week. Due to safety regulations and ongoing maintenance expenses, the town no longer strings multi-colored bulb lights over Main Street.

Instead, seasonal decorations are being placed along Railroad Avenue, and LED snowflakes will be mounted on utility poles downtown.

Lee, Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson and guests in the audience discussed the possibility of staging a Christmas

parade. McPherson suggested that volunteers could form a Christmas Committee and team up with the town to plan seasonal activities for next year.

Also at this meeting, McPherson said the town still plans to explore establishing small parks and painting murals that celebrate Lamar's history and diversity.

These suggestions came from a study done by Clemson University students, and McPherson said the town has secured a donor to purchase paint and is seeking to contract an artist for the murals. She also said that Darlington County Historical Commission director Bryan Gandy will attend Town Council's Jan. 13 meeting to talk about how local history can be highlighted in future parks projects.

Police Chief Carl Scott

announced that he has hired a second full-time officer. Scott noted that the three-man Lamar Police Department is working hard to address traffic concerns, mainly drivers speeding through residential neighborhoods, and they're also teaming with the Beautification Committee to enforce violations of town ordinances.

Lamar's quest for a permanent building inspection/permitting system continues. Mayor McPherson said in order to outsource building inspections to Darlington County, Lamar will need to formally adopt the county's regulations via ordinance. If the town pursues this course, people seeking building permits or inspections would pay Darlington County for these services and would be charged according to the county's fee schedule.





The Pee Dee's Oldest
Independently
Owned Newspaper

opinion

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

Word of the Week

mellifluous - having a smooth flowing sound

Merriam-Webster.com

DECEMBER 18, 2019 | PAGE 2A

THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



OP-ED

A Christmas memory

By Bill Shepard

Not much remains of the way that it was in the year of which I write.

The world has changed many times over, but a memory lingers and it is from that memory that I write.

The year was 1935, although it could have been any one of the late '20s or '30s. The Great Depression had a stranglehold on the world and a new president was searching diligently for ways to break the grip. It seemed an elusive search!

I was barely in my teens, unaware of the "hard times" that surrounded my everyday life. My dad was employed at the big mill in the center of the village and around which all the village life revolved.

So I had food on the table, clothes on my body and shoes on my feet. I had parents who loved me and the attention of two older brothers and two sisters, one of them too young to know I was alive. With all of this going for me, I felt little of the concerns that older people must have felt.

Thanksgiving had come and gone; now Christmas, the most celebrated holiday of the year, was fast approaching. Already signs of its nearness could be seen on the town square in Darlington where I lived.

The store windows were alive with displays, all designed to capture the attention of shoppers passing by. There were dolls, tea sets, cap pistols and holsters, and fireworks galore! All of the above were carefully displayed in a way to capture the fancy of the young.

In other store windows, there were displays of suits and furs, overcoats and warm jackets that would appeal to the older and perhaps more affluent. Not many of the villagers could afford the luxury of furs and overcoats.

There were a few strings of light wrapped around the lightposts on the town square, but nothing in comparison to what one sees today. Back in the village, a small tree with perhaps one string of lights, red, blue and green, might be seen here and there. It was hard enough to put something UNDER the tree, let alone decorations to put ON the tree.

School had closed for the long two-week holiday. That in itself was reason enough for me to be in a festive mood. It mattered little if nothing else happened. If Santa didn't show up at all, if the longed-for snowfall didn't come, and if the surprise visit from Grandpa did not happen, school was out until way next year!

This is the way the kind old principal had said it at the final assembly before letting out for Christmas. He had a way of dragging out the words "way next year," to make them sound like a much longer time than it really was.

All over the mill village, the boys, free from school, were scurrying here and there, seeking ways to earn some money to spend for Christmas goodies. It wouldn't take much, a dollar would go a long way, but dollars were hard to come by in 1935.

One most likely would have to settle for less. I recall going to the nearby woods in search of Christmas trees to sell. Two small pine trees, with a board attached to the trunk for a stand, netted me 50 cents!

I had scoured the village for buyers who would give me 25 cents each for the trees. I was lucky and I found two - whether for want of the trees or out of sympathy for me, I have often wondered. The thing that mattered was the two quarters in my pocket.

Another lady, a widow who lived nearby, hired me to split a load of pine slabs she had bought at the sawmill. The wood was used for fuel in the big wood-burning stove in her kitchen. After splitting and stacking the wood in pigpen fashion for quick drying, I was asked to rake the leaves that had fallen from the large oak tree in her back yard.

Instead of the quarter that had I been promised for my work, I was given four shiny dimes. My Christmas earnings now totaled 90 cents! If I didn't earn another penny, I could purchase a gift for every family member.

We had candy bars for Christmas. What a sweet feast we all had as we sat around the open fireplace and listened to Grandpa's tales of faraway places. Then Grandpa left as unexpectedly as he had come. To this day a sort of mystery hangs over that visit. It was the last Christmas visit Grandpa would make to our house.

By nightfall a deafening hush would have fallen over the village. Children, too tired for play and too full to want to eat, were now ready for bed. The noise from one last firecracker would resonate through the street and the lights would go out.

Tomorrow would dawn and Christmas would be a whole year away. The coldest part of winter was yet ahead. The warm sweaters, socks and long-handle underwear Santa had left behind would be put to good use. The leftover cakes and pies soon would be gone and another Christmas would become just a memory - a place to visit over and over again.

OP-ED

Stop saying local news is dying

By Kristen Hare
The Poynter Institute

We started 2019 with Gannett layoffs at local newspapers, we're ending 2019 with Gannett layoffs at local newspapers. It's quite the end to quite a decade.

News deserts, or places without news, have spread in the last 10 years, and they've most seriously hurt places that have poor and underserved populations, said the University of North Carolina's Penny Muse Abernathy, who has tracked news deserts. Less local news has also led to lower voter turnout and increased political polarization.

The business of local news is in trouble, Clara Henderickson wrote in a recent report for The Brookings Institution. "This is a serious public problem; those who read, listen, and watch the news are not just consumers, but citizens that rely on news publishers to meet the demands of living in a democracy."

The headlines this year have been in agreement - local news is dying.

But those headlines are wrong.

When they say "local news is dying," they really mean local newspapers. And even that's not specific enough, when it's really about hedge fund- and chain-owned newspapers.

Local newspapers, specifi-

cally those that are locally and independently owned, are not dying. They are changing.

It's rough.

But it is not death. In Whiteville, N.C., the tiny News Reporter has replaced money lost from advertising with money made from subscriptions, publisher Les High told me in September, "almost to the dollar."

The Gazette-Mail in Charleston, W.Va., recently doubled digital subscriptions after a rough run that included bankruptcy, a sale and layoffs. By the end of 2020, publisher Jim Heady expects digital subscriptions will make up 20 percent of circulation revenue.

The Seattle Times raised more than \$4 million in four years to cover critical issues, and this year turned its approach for harnessing philanthropic money for local news into investigative journalism. That fund has, so far, raised more than \$700,000. And it's being copied by the Miami Herald, a McClatchy paper, and the Tampa Bay Times, which Poynter owns.

OK, let's talk about what's happening with local news online.

You probably know that Texas Tribune is thriving. Did you know it's just created a local news and revenue training lab to help other local news sites thrive, too?

You maybe knew that the Institute for Nonprofit News

now has more than 230 members, and that Local Independent Online News has about 250. Did you know that LION just got \$1 million grant to help its members become sustainable?

You might have heard that Berkeley, Calif., raised \$1 million from its community in a direct public offering. Did you know it's now expanding to Oakland with funding from the American Journalism Project and Google News Initiative?

And the growth isn't just online.

In November, my colleague Rick Edmonds reported that between 2011 and 2018, NPR affiliates added 1,000 full- and part-time journalists. Today, Edmonds reported that, thanks to political ads coming next year, local broadcast news is preparing to rake in money.

And while newspapers shriveled, online crept toward sustainability and radio started to grow, staffing at local broadcast newsrooms has remained solidly steady.

Here's one more thing that might help you change out of your mourning clothes: We're now seeing partnerships that benefit local newsrooms and, more importantly, local communities.

They're between national and local newsrooms, like ProPublica's Local Reporting Network and the nearly 30

newsrooms it's partnered with to cover critical issues. They're between national organizations and local newsrooms, including Report for America, which is adding new local statehouse positions, or the Pulitzer Center's Bringing Stories Home project, which gives local newsrooms a resource boost, or the American Journalism Project, which just announced \$8.5 million to help 11 local newsrooms grow.

And they're between local institutions and communities, such as the ecosystem the Lenfest Institute is fostering in Philadelphia, the University of Kansas' Eudora Times, which brought news back to Eudora for the first time since 2009, or the University of West Virginia's new fellowship program that's fostering a new generation of local news owners.

None of this changes the realities of local newspapers, particularly those owned by corporations or hedge funds. But it does change the reality of local news itself.

I asked a few people who work in and with local news what they say when they hear that local news is dying.

It depends on who's saying it, said Ken Ward Jr., an investigative reporter at the Gazette-Mail, a 2018 MacArthur Fellow and a part of ProPublica's Local Reporting Network.

HARE ON 3A

OP-ED

The Lindler House, beautiful survivor

By Tom Poland

It's high noon at High Noon gift shop in Ballantine. I'm signing books when a lady approaches. "You write about old homes don't you?"

"When I come across one I like."

"Have you seen the Lindler House?"

"No, where is it?"

"Right around the corner."

Those two questions led me to Juli Rhame who took me to the historic Lindler House, a beautiful survivor.

"You need to call Michael Bedenbaugh, the executive director of Preservation South Carolina," said Juli. "He knows the story."

I did and it's a story of survival. First the home sat

along the Broad River. Then it was moved to a site off Broad River Road.

Taking a shortcut one day Michael saw the old two-story home through some trees. "I knew there had to be a log cabin inside it."

Then he saw a sign, "Walmart Coming Soon." Michael and some folks sympathetic to the old home's plight got the wheels moving and saved it.

"During 2008-2009 Preservation South Carolina moved the house 100 feet to the right of where it sits," said Michael. "A grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission made it possible to move and stabilize the house."

POLAND ON 3A

The News & Press

117 S. Main St., Darlington, SC 29532
Phone (843) 393-3811 Fax (843) 393-6811

STAFF

General Manager: Morrey Thomas mthomas@newsandpress.net
Editor: Bobby Bryant editor@newsandpress.net
Staff Writer: Samantha Lyles slyles@newsandpress.net
Design: Rachel Howell ads@newsandpress.net
Advertising: Stephan Drew sales@newsandpress.net
Customer Service: customerservice@newsandpress.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage letters to the editor on any subject. Please include your name, location and phone number for verification. Mail to P.O. Box 513 Darlington SC 29540 or e-mail editor@newsandpress.net. Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of the News and Press, and content may be edited prior to printing. Letters containing overtly malicious comments or personal attacks on your fellow citizens will not be printed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PRESS RELEASE AND EVENT SUBMISSIONS

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

Did you know?

New Year's resolutions may not have much staying power, but the tradition of making them is an enduring one that dates back thousands of years.

According to History.com, ancient Babylonians are credited with being the first people to make New Year's resolutions. During Akitu, a 12-day religious festival, the Babylonians would make promises to their gods, and these promises typically focused on being a better person in the coming year.

Celebrants of the festival, which was held when crops were planted, a time that marked the beginning of a new year to individuals in certain ancient societies, would promise the gods that they would repay their debts and return any items they had borrowed in the previous year.

While these promises might

have been the forerunners to modern New Year's resolutions, there is one distinct difference that separates ancient Babylonians from people in modern times.

Babylonians believed keeping their word to the gods would curry favor for them in the coming year, while failure to keep their promises would do the opposite.

People who make resolutions today typically do so to better themselves and do not fear reprisal from their creator if they fail to live up to their pledges.

That's likely a good thing, as various reports suggest that as much as 80 percent of New Year's resolutions are abandoned by the second week of February.

Hare

Continued from 2A

If it's readers, he tries to find out if they subscribe and if not, why?

If it's coworkers, he reminds them that they have a duty to their readers.

"When it's The New York Times or some other major national news outlet, I ask what their outlet is doing to help," he said in an email.

"Are they continuing to parachute in, doing often less-than-stellar stories about parts of the country they don't know much about?"

"Or have they started a program like ProPublica's Local Reporting Network that builds on the strengths of local and national organizations to tell better stories and do stronger accountability journalism?"

For UNC's Abernathy, the real key is always to be adapting.

"The local news organizations that survive and thrive will be the ones that are constantly experimenting and innovating in order to determine what they can uniquely offer the residents and the businesses in their communities."

And for Tasneem Raja, who founded The Tyler Loop in Texas and is returning to Oakland to launch Berkeley's sister site, "We're at an inflection point in the ways we think about what local journalism can look like, who participates, and who it serves," she said in an email.

"The good news is, there are bright and vibrant examples of people and organizations across the country doing the hard, rewarding, much-needed work to push those ideas forward."

"They need funding, training and networks, and I'm happy to see that there's far more infrastructure to address their needs than there was 10 years ago, when I first got into hyperlocal, digital-first community journalism."

As much as it hurts to read about what's happening to local newspaper chains, she said, redirect some of that pain into the people and places that are working to figure out what's next in local news, "because we certainly are out here."

And they are very much alive.

Poland

Continued from 2A

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provided funds and Walmart donated \$10,000 as well.

The home's architecture is unique," he added.

Indeed, it is.

Solid as a rock, the old cabin was built to endure most anything.

"The Lindler family built a log cabin shortly after the Revolution," said Michael. "Since then, five generations have upgraded it such that it appears as it does today. One of the early upgrades was the addition of a loft."

He said the house has one of the most extraordinary rooms in Richland County. "The room has unique paneling with dental molding."

It's a cliché, "If walls could talk," but in the case of the Lindler House, the walls do talk.

As I walked from room to room, I could hear pioneers discussing how best to make deft notches in logs.

I could hear men hammering wood pegs as their mallets sent echoes across the Broad River.

And that room with the unique paneling and dental molding?

I heard women planning meals as they sat in old rockers and sewed quilts. When I saw the handsome stairs, I heard aged wood creak as family members made their way upstairs.

Old fireplaces long warmed the home's men, women, and children. Today stacked rock and brick form two modern-day chimneys for fireplaces that will burn gas logs.

The house stands guard over the graves of the people who cared for it.

"Like most pioneer families," said Michael, "folks got buried behind the house."

Hartsville

Continued from 1A

Also at this meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews (District #4) and council member Bobby McGee (District #6) were sworn in for new terms on council.

On the regular agenda, council heard from Rev. Reginald Alford and Rev. Chris Robinson regarding the S.P. Coker Cotton Gin located at 311 Sumter Ave.

They described environmental concerns such as dust and particulates coating homes and vehicles, clogging street drains, and causing breathing difficulties for nearby residents. Alford also noted that the gin facility claimed the right-of-way along the road, making it tougher for pedestrians to safely travel the street.

He and Alford asked whether the city had any recourse to help improve these conditions.

Pennington explained that the City of Hartsville has investigated what it would take to relocate the gin outside the city, which would clean up the neighborhood and improve transportation access for the gin.

He said it would take between \$6 million and \$8 million to move the plant, and while plant owners are amenable to relocation and the city is willing to foot some of the bill, the two parties have not found an agreeable cost-sharing plan.

The mayor added that council member Tre Gammage (District #1) has confirmed with S.C. DHEC that the cotton gin meets all applicable health and safety regulations for an agricultural business.



Bryson Caldwell



Johnny Andrews



Bobby McGee PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES

Southern 500

Continued from 1A

Raceway President Kerry Sharp told news media in a statement: "We've enjoyed a terrific relationship with Bojangles' since 2012 and we look forward to their continued involvement in NASCAR for many years to come. Like

Darlington, they are truly an authentic Southern brand."

While Bojangles' has been the race's main sponsor for the past seven years – a long stretch as sponsorships go – it's not the only company to pay for the right to have its name attached to the Southern 500.

Previous corporate sponsors have included Heinz,

Mountain Dew and Pepsi.

Bojangles' described itself as a "Southern culinary staple" in 2012 when the company announced it had made a deal to be title sponsor of the race.

"Just like Bojangles' famous chicken and biscuits, NASCAR is deeply rooted in the culture of the South," Bojangles' president and CEO Randy Kibler

said at the time.

How much did Bojangles' pay for the sponsorship rights? The price apparently was never disclosed, but there was speculation at the time that the company might have spent between \$1.5 million and \$3 million.

Sept. 6 is the running date for the next Southern 500.

HS Floors & Furnishings

HUGE HOLIDAY SALE

Best Home Furnishings

Take it easy this holiday season!
210 Russell Street, Darlington, SC • (843) 393-0456

Various colors & styles

Shop at Darlington Businesses between Thanksgiving & Christmas and Enter to Win One of Three \$100 Fuel Cards

#shopdarlington

SHOP LOCALLY

How It Works

- ♦ Shop at five (5) Darlington businesses
- ♦ Send copies of your receipts dated between Nov. 28 and Dec. 25 with this Entry Form to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.
- ♦ You may enter additional forms for each 5 businesses you frequent during the holidays for additional chances to win.
- ♦ Drawing will be held Dec. 31 and winners notified Jan. 8.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail with copies of five (5) receipts from Darlington businesses dated 11-28-2019 to 12-25-2019 to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.

This is a project of the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

is AIAH 9:6

Obituaries

FRIDAY DEADLINE FOR OBITUARIES
e-mail ads@newsandpress.net
call (843) 393-3811 or fax (843) 393-6811.

DECEMBER 18, 2019 | PAGE 4A

The neWs AnD Pr ess, DaR Ling To n, s.c.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET



BELK FUNERAL HOME
Darlington, SC
Lamar, SC

"Serving the communities of Darlington County for three generations"

- Traditional Funerals with a Personal Touch • Funeral Pre-Planning
- Immediate Cremation and Cremation with Memorial Service
- Aftercare Services - Social Security, Probate, V. A. Paper Work & Insurance Claims

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



Sherman L. Barno Jr.
Funeral Directors, LLC

704 Washington Street
Darlington, SC

Conveniently located on Washington St.
and the corner of Hwy 52 by-pass

(843) 393-3077
(843) 858-7720

"The spirit of excellence"



KISTLER HARDEE FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

"Darlington's oldest funeral home since 1922"

(843) 393-3851 | 315 Pearl Street, Darlington
www.kistlerhardeefuneralhome.com

William Brearly McCown III

William Brearly McCown III, 81, passed away in his home Friday, Dec. 6, 2019, after a brief illness.

He is survived by his three daughters: Melissa McCown (Scott Saby) of Raleigh N.C., Betsy McCown Harris of Florence and Meredith McCown of Darlington, and four grandchildren: Hayns Harris, Dorothy Harris, Crayton Saby and Will Saby. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Gail.

Born July 18, 1938, Bill, or "Billy" as he was known for many years, was the only child of William Brearly McCown Jr. and Dorothy Delle McDonald McCown, and was a lifelong resident of Darlington and member of Darlington Presbyterian Church.

He graduated from St. John's High School in 1956 and was the president of his senior class. He attended Clemson University from 1956-61, where he fired the touchdown cannon, served as Country Gentleman and was the Tiger mascot, the first Tiger to be seen on national television.

He was the Clemson mascot when Clemson played in the 1959 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, when the Tigers played #1-ranked LSU, which was broadcast by NBC. His favorite stories of his time as the Tiger included defending his Tiger tail from Georgia Tech "rats," as freshmen were called, during some pre-game "attacks," and traveling by train to the Sugar Bowl with his fellow cheerleaders, including best friend and head cheerleader Erwin Abel of Greenwood. He was recognized as the "oldest living Tiger" at the mascot reunion at Clemson Homecoming 2014.

Following his graduation from Clemson in 1961 with a B.S. in Forestry, Billy married his sweetheart, the former Linda Gail Green of Winston-Salem, N.C., whom he met on a blind date by his cousin Lee McCown Huey, who was a classmate of Gail's at Coker College.

Billy and Gail celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary prior to Gail's death in 2016.

Shortly after their honeymoon, Billy and Gail struck out for Fort Sill, Okla., for Army artillery school.

He continued his career in the Army as a member of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Following the end of his service in 1963, they returned to Darlington, where he went to work for Darlington Bank and Trust as a teller, and continued to his banking career at the same location through mergers and acquisitions for more than 20 years.

He graduated from South Carolina Bankers School and The School of Banking of the South from Louisiana State University in Louisiana.

In 1986, McCown and other community leaders decided that Darlington needed a community bank with Darlington roots to ensure that banking

needs of the local community would be served by a local community bank.

Darlington County Bank, with McCown as its president and CEO, opened for business on March 10, 1986, in Darlington. In April 2009, the bank changed its legal name to Dedicated Community Bank and began doing business as DCB, Your Dedicated Community Bank.

While serving as president and CEO of DCB for 17 years, he also served as president of the Independent Banks (IBSC) of South Carolina from 1994-1995 and continued as past president for many years. He was named IBSC Banker of the Year in 1999.

In addition, he volunteered with several local civic organizations, including: The Darlington County Heart Fund and the Saleby Development Center. He was a member of Kiwanis, American Legion Post 13, Boy Scouts of America and the Darlington Chamber of Commerce.

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

Helen Windham Jordan

Helen Windham Jordan of Lamar passed away Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Visitation was at Belk Funeral Home in Lamar Friday, Dec. 13. A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 14, at Newman Swamp Southern Methodist Church in Lamar, with graveside services directed by Belk Funeral Home.

Mrs. Jordan was born July 8, 1942, in Society Hill. She was the daughter of the late William Reid and Lucille Sutton Windham. She was preceded in death by her husband, MSGT Walter Lee Jordan, USAF, retired, and her siblings J.E. Windham, Daryl Windham, Doris Wilkes, Keith Windham, Catherine Wilkes, Billie Coates.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Her favorite hobbies were making jewelry, scarves and spending time with her family and many friends from church and the Lawrenceville, Ga., Senior Center.

Surviving are her children: Joann Howard of Lamar; LTC Jon E. Jordan, USAR, retired (Andi) of Charleston; Justin Jordan (Elizabeth) of Dacula, Ga.; Jeff Jordan of Cumming, Ga.; grandchildren, Julia Hudson (Chris), Andrew Howard (Rachel), Ashelynn Jordan Fulghum (Chris), Jillianne Jordan, Liana Jordan, Daniel Jordan, Rebecca Jordan, Hannah Jordan; Will Jordan and Sarah Kate Jordan; great-grandchildren, Tyler Hudson, Blake Hudson, Lilly Hudson, Andy Howard and Alex Howard.

Memorials may be made to Lamar Freewill Baptist Church, 106 N. Darlington Avenue, Lamar, SC 29069; Restoration Presbyterian Church, 4907 Golden Parkway, Unit 500, Buford, Ga. 30518.

A guestbook is available at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Dale Watford

LAMAR -- Robert Dale Watford, 68, died at his home, surrounded by family, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Dec. 15, in Christian Pathway Church in Lamar. The family received at the church on Sunday, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

Born March 3, 1951, in Darlington County, he was the son of Ethel Hutson Watford and the late Robert "Bobby" Lee Watford.

Dale drove trucks for VUL-CRAFT for 38 years, then for Ard Trucking. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, antiquing and collecting old toys. Mr. Watford was a member of Christian Pathway Church.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his children, Beth Watford (Andrew) Brown, Nash (Patricia) Watford, all of Lamar, a sister, Ruth (Keith) Robinson, brothers, Charlie (Teresa) Watford, Mike (Lisa) Watford, several nieces and nephews, a godchild, Brently Steptoe.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kim Martin Watford, and a brother, Gary "Bimbo" Watford.

Memorials may be made to American Liver Foundation, www.liverfoundation.org.

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

Carolyn Honney

DARLINGTON -- Carolyn D. Honney, 82, died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, at her residence.

A funeral service was held Friday at Belk Funeral Home, with burial in Grove Hill Cemetery. The family received friends at the funeral home Friday and other times at the home of Melba Honney, 514 Honneybee Drive, Darlington.

Born in Darlington County, she was the daughter of the late Harvey Sr. and Lurline Suggs Honney. She retired from ESAB and was a member of their bowling team. She was also a member of the Eastern Star and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

She is survived by her brother, Harvey (Carol) Honney Jr. of Florence, a sister-in-law, Melba Honney of Darlington, many nieces and nephews, including her special niece, Rene Sturgeon and her children, Elizabeth and Madison; whom Carolyn loved very much.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Oliver Honney, Olin Honney, Ronald Honney and sisters, Wilma H. Banks and Blanche Honney.

The family expresses their gratitude to Jill Eaddy and Agape Hospice for their special care and love during Carolyn's illness.

Memorials may be made to the American Breast Cancer Foundation at www.abcf.org.

A guestbook is available at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Henrietta "Rhetta" Wood

FLORENCE -- Henrietta "Rhetta" Blanding Wood passed

away surrounded by her family Dec. 12, 2019.

A funeral service was held at All Saints Anglican Church on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, with burial in Grove Hill Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home.

The family received friends at the church on Saturday.

Born Jan. 26, 1932, in Sumter, she was the daughter of the late Henrietta Aiken Rhett Blanding and James Douglas Blanding, Ph.D. She attended the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston. Mrs. Wood was a member of the Tri Delta sorority, Daughters of the King, Altar Guild, All Saints Anglican Church, and served in the Red Cross.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Dr. Laurence W. Wood Jr., children: Mark Campbell (Dana) Wood, Loren Rhett (Jami) Hamilton and Margie Anne (Mike Attaway) Wood, eight grandchildren: Mark Bradley, Megan Torres, Andrew, Blake, Taylor and Paige Hartgraves, Alicia Rhett Dozier, Melanie Dozier; two great-grandchildren, Hadley and Benjamin Hartgraves, and a brother, James Douglas Blanding Jr., M.D.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Larry Wood. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Miriam King Spell

FLORENCE -- Miriam King Spell, 84, of Florence died on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, at McLeod Hospice House in Florence.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019, at Kistler Hardee Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was at Darlington Memory Gardens. The family received friends Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Kistler Hardee Funeral Home and other times at the home.

Miriam was born in Darlington County. She was the daughter of the late Henry Ellis King and Nora Lee Dunn King. Miriam worked for many years at GE as an inspector.

She was a faithful member of Darlington Church of God of Prophecy in Darlington. Miriam enjoyed sewing and spending time with her family.

Surviving are her husband, Robert Everett Spell of the home; her daughter, Renee Spell Taylor and husband Marshall of Florence; grand-

children, Jessica Schmidt (Chris), Justin Taylor (Casey) and Ryan Taylor (Meonica); great-grandchildren, Marshall, Mason, Meo, Blake and Gracie Mae; and sisters Jeanette Davis of Darlington and Eunice Weatherford of Darlington.

Miriam was preceded in death by her brother, Henry Ellis King; her sisters, Frances Boan and Doris Truett.

Memorials may be made to Darlington Church of God of Prophecy, 920 West Smith Ave., Darlington SC 29532.

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

Living on Purpose

Mustard-seed moments

By Bill Holland



I have a dear friend going through some serious health issues and everyone who knows him is sending up a lot of prayers.

He has a couple of text threads that include his family and friends and he sends out morning updates to let us know what's happening and how he is doing.

He's always been a meek person who would rather be in the shadows of a crowd instead of the limelight, so stepping forward and being the focus of attention is quite a stretch for him. He and his wife are some of the most generous and kind people I have ever met and in their love and genuine concern for others, it's easy to see the character of Christ which guides and establishes their personalities.

Since he found out about the cancer, we've learned more about his life along with his thoughts and views. He enjoys cooking and it's a real treat to visit with him during the day as we partake of his delicious creations and chat about the goodness of the Lord.

Those who know him are aware that he not only appreciates all types of creativity, but he is an artist in his own right and gifted craftsman who loves to work in wood. With spending most of his life as a construction contractor, he is respected as someone who is a visionary and can build pretty much anything.

I met him years ago when he owned and managed an art gallery here in our hometown and he encouraged me to bring some of my paintings and place them in the gallery, which I did. We are also fellow troupe members in our local theater where we reenact old time radio shows from the '40s and '50s. We have lots of fun and he is our sound effects person who also creates many of the innovative contraptions used in our performances.

In his daily text messages, I appreciate staying informed with his medical procedure adventures but I've also detected a much deeper insight that goes far beyond the gamma knife and chemo treatments.

It's interesting as he uses different metaphors pertaining to being as one with nature and much of it is basically associated with trusting God when our river becomes whitewater.

You see, another one of his passions is kayaking and all of the adrenaline and excitement that comes with flying down an explosive rapids or calmly of floating down a beautiful sunny stream on a beautiful sunny day.

He talks a lot about meeting us at the creek and the brightness of God's grace and glory being so bright that we will need to wear sunglasses. He uses this analogy which is near and dear to his heart as this realm is something he is familiar with while trying to find stability in this new intimidating world of the unknown.

As he holds tight to God's hand, he is being used by the Lord to relay the sobering truth that includes taking a closer examination of our life and to realize what is really important.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said that a tiny amount of faith the size of a mustard seed could move mountains as our friend is constantly reminding us that with faith all things are possible and how he is embracing the peace and security of the Trinity.

The other day he talked about personality traits and certain characteristics people will remember about us when our journey is over. If we are concerned with who we are and what God wants us to be, this subject is important no matter how old we are or the condition of our health.

It's true that eulogies are attempts to paint a picture of someone's life and what they accomplished, but more importantly it's about what type of person they were. I'm reminded of the story about Ebenezer Scrooge and how he was given an opportunity to not only see a reflection of who he was while he was still alive, but he was also given the chance to try and make things right with God and all those around him.

When facing fearful circumstances and considering how we will respond, we are grateful for God's amazing grace and His unending love that desires our complete attention.

Today is the day to start gathering our faith before the giants come knocking at our door and as our thoughtful friend keeps reminding us, "When they do appear, we can rest in God's love and just breathe."

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.

Church Prayer Line

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

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

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

Lawson Grove Baptist Church

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

Black Creek Baptist Church

The church, 139 Mont Clare Road, Dovesville, announces hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship Services and 6 p.m. Evening Worship. Wednesday: 6:30 Adult Bible Study; Youth Bible

Study, Children (Children In Action) 7:30 Adult Choir Practice

Second Missionary Baptist Church

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

Covenant Baptist Church

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

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries, 426 W. Broad St. in Darlington, announces hours: 1st/3rd Sunday Pastoral Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

WE WANT COMMUNITY NEWS
Email editor@newsandpress.net,
call (843) 393-3811 or fax (843) 393-6811.
Subject: COMMUNITY NEWS

community

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

PETS OF THE WEEK



Everything you need and desire and expect in a lab EXCEPT all the bouncy energy! Blackmon is one super cool dude. He is softly loving and affectionate, doting and patient and excellent at making new friends. A medium sized fellow at 40 pounds, he has slightly droopy jowls and eyes that just beg you to take him on home. Blackmon is a gentle natured guy who is easy to manage and very easy to fall for! Blackmon loves being near his human, leaning into them and giving them soft face kisses. With other dogs, he is fast to accept them into his easy going world and will happily trot right along side them. A family with kids and other dogs would be lucky to have Blackmon as part of the family unit making sure everyone is feeling loved! 3 years old; 38 pounds; lab mix; male

Kissy and huggy! I'm the perfect size love bug for any lap, big or small! Need a facial, I'm your girl! Howdy folks, it's me Daffodil! This sleek jacketed bundle of playful energy and plenty of love would love to have you over for a play date! Feel free to bring along one of your current doggie friends as I am always happy to broaden my circle of four-legged friends. Have kids? Well gosh, be sure to bring them along to meet me as well as they will immediately adore me. Outgoing, affectionate and craving human attention, although I am petite in size, I think you will agree I am big in my personality. Ask for this pretty little flower today! Female; boxer mix; 27 pounds; 1 year old



Have you lost or found a pet?

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

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

Area Happenings

Weekly Events

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon Meetings

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Business Network International

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

Centennial Farmers Market

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

Crochet & Knit Clubs

Lamar: each Monday at 4:30 p.m. 326-5524
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 Stars Team #1 Matt & Tracee! \$20 entry fee gets you an AWESOME t-shirt and bragging rights!

Blood Drive at Carolina Pines

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

Darlington City Council

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

Williamson Park Committee

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

Beautification Board

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

Connections at Breakfast - Habitat for Humanity

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

Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

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

Feb. 2020

Darlington County Historic Landmarks Commission

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

Darlington City Council

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

Williamson Park Committee

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

City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

City of Darlington Tree Board

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

Inside GSSM

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

March 2020

Darlington City Council

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

Williamson Park Committee

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

Speed & Feed BBQ Festival

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

City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

Joint Meeting of All City of Darlington Boards

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

April 2020

Planning Commission 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

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <h1>DARLINGTON COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS</h1> | | |
|  <p>DARLINGTON PACKING COMPANY MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYEES</p> <p>250 OLD SOCIETY HILL ROAD DARLINGTON, SC 29532</p> <p>207 S. Main Street (843) 393-0885</p> |  <p>H&S Floors & Furnishings (843) 393-0456</p> <p>210 Russell Street • Darlington</p> | <p>ADS THAT SELL!</p> <p>Grow your business with a little help from your friends at the News & Press!</p> <p>Call the News and Press at (843) 393-3811</p> |
|  <p>The only source for Darlington County News is right here!</p> <p>Subscribe now at NewsandPress.net</p> | <p>INDUSTRIAL PAVING, INC. 712 MINERAL SPRINGS ROAD • (843) 393-3922</p> <p>INDUSTRIAL, DRIVEWAYS, PARKING AREAS, SUBDIVISIONS, PATCHING, SEALING, PAVEMENT MARKING</p> |  <p>THAD WEINBERG'S SAUSAGE CO.</p> <p>You've tried the rest, now try the best! Whole Hog, Country Sausage, Fresh Pork Cuts (843) 393-2544 • 1014 Pearl Street, Darlington</p> |

Civil rights leader Sellers tells FMU grads to aim high, reach for goals

FLORENCE — Francis Marion conferred degrees on 298 graduates at its fall commencement ceremonies Saturday on the FMU campus.

The graduating class was the third-largest fall class in FMU history, buoyed by 76 graduate students who received their diplomas.

FMU's recent growth has been fueled by students flocking to new graduate programs, particularly within the School of Health Sciences, and that trend was evident at Saturday's ceremonies. The grads included 26 new Master of Family Nursing Practice graduates and three Doctors of Nursing Practice.

The School of Education also awarded 37 graduate degrees.

The undergraduates marching included 40 from the FMU School of Business, 39 new nursing graduates and 28 future teachers.

FMU also awarded honorary degrees to civil rights activist Dr. Cleveland Sellers, Jr., veteran educator Marilyn K. Chapman, and well-known auctioneer and civic leader Bill Yonce.

Sellers, the retired president of Voorhees College and a groundbreaking leader in the civil rights movement in South Carolina, delivered the commencement address in which he recounted the struggles of his generation while battling for basic rights and lamented the fact that 50 years after the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre at South Carolina State University

there has still not been any official reconciliation.

"We are still not at a post-racial period in our state and community because we are not yet able to talk about the issues of race," said Sellers.

Sellers said, however, that for him the struggle represented a worthwhile life endeavor, and urged graduates to follow similar paths of commitment. Citing the writing of former Morehouse College President Benjamin Mays, Sellers said, "A tragedy in life lies not in not reaching your dreams, but having no dreams to reach... It's not failure, but low aim that is a sin."

Dr. Fred Carter, FMU's president, lifted up all three honorary degree recipients as examples to the graduates.

"Model your life on what you do for others, just like our three friends here," said Carter, "and you'll enjoy success beyond your dreams ... and you'll also sleep pretty darn well every night."

FMU also recognized 37 graduates who earned Latin honors, and three students who earned University Honors.

Graduating Summa Cum Laude ("With Greatest Praise"), meaning they attained a cumulative graduate point average of 3.9 to 4.0 were: Jonathan Glenn Britt, Rhyli D. Burke, Jessica Marie Garnett, Zoe Johnson, Curtis Robert Mackinson Jr., Benjamin Joel Taylor and Savannah Victoria Wright.

Graduating Magna Cum Laude ("With Great Praise"),

meaning they attained a cumulative graduate point average of 3.75 to 3.89 were: Luke Alexander Fennell, Graceyn Brooke Floyd, Zoe Nicole Geddie, Ryan Adele Hilbourn, Adam Lee Hill, Bailey Raelynn Hudson, Haley Virginia Hurst, Micahla Nykol Kitchen and Jacob W. Limehouse.

Graduating Cum Laude ("With Praise), meaning they attained a cumulative graduate point average of 3.5 to 3.74 were: BobbiJo Ann Beach, Sha'Dai Raquel Burch, Sarah Emily Burkett, Taylor Elizabeth Byrd, Sha'angel La'faith Chandler, Megan Lynn Chapman, Savannah Katherine Cruel, Jewel Cyrus Green, Brooke Erin Dixon Leigh Anna Driggers, Katelyn Filyaw, Lauren Blake Fuller, Mark

Gavin Hafey, Makayla Dawn Hicks, Sarah Grace McFadden, Darryl Bryant Miller Jr., Hannah Elizabeth Owens, Rachel Lauren Rhodes, Darian C. Sansbury, Jonas Patrick Smith and Betty Nicole Suggs.

Those receiving University Honors included Rhyli D. Burke, Luke Alexander Fennell and Micahla Nykol Kitchen. Students receiving University Honors have completed 21 hours of Honors-level course work with at least a 3.25 GPA, and have an overall GPA of at least 3.25. University Honors' graduates receive FMU's Honors Medallion.

Coker University confers 49 Master's degrees and 74 Bachelor's degrees at Winter 2019 commencement ceremonies

On the evening of December 13 in the Watson Theater of the Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Performing Arts Center, Coker University conferred master's degrees on 49 graduates, and on the morning of December 14, in a separate commencement ceremony in the Harris E. and Louise H. DeLoach Center, the university conferred bachelor's degrees on 74 graduates. These graduates are the first graduating classes since Coker College changed its name to Coker University on July 1, 2019.

At the graduate hooding and commencement ceremony on the evening of December 13, the commencement address was given by two graduates from Coker University's M.S. in Management and Leadership program, Chris Taflinger and Geoffrey Hughes. Taflinger is a Senior Category Manager at Sonoco Products Company in Hartsville. Hughes is a Human Resources Manager at Anderson Brass Company in Hartsville.

At the undergraduate com-

mencement ceremony, the commencement address was given by Dr. Pamela Davies, President of Queens University of Charlotte from 2002 to June 2019. As the 20th president of Queens, Dr. Davies distinguished herself through her commitment to providing innovative and high-quality education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her academic discipline is in the field of strategy, with a special interest in competitive strategy and leadership; she has led the strategic planning efforts of numerous organizations over her career. Dr. Davies is very involved in community organizations locally, nationally, and globally. She was named Charlotte Woman of the Year in 2018 and has received numerous awards over the years including North Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Longleaf Pine.

Dr. Davies' speech challenged graduates to "not only do well, but do good." She shared that joy comes from serving others and encouraged

Coker's graduates to, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "be the light in the world that drives out the darkness."

McKenzie Hite, '20, presented the 2019 Distinguished Adjunct Professor of the Year award to Kyria Flynn, associate lecturer of psychology. Sada Garcia, '19, delivered an address as a representative of the class of 2019. Garcia, an education major and an elementary school teacher recalled the moment she knew she wanted to become a teacher, "In [my fourth grade teacher] Ms. Bradley's classroom, my differences were embraced, I knew that I was safe, loved, and cared for...It was because of her that I knew that I had to become a teacher." Ms. Bradley was in the audience to see Garcia graduate.

Isaiah Washington, '21, performed the national anthem and Coker's alma mater.

For more information about Coker University, please visit coker.edu.

Medicine and military combine for two new officers, Francis Marion University graduates

Two members of Francis Marion University Reserve Officer Training Corps program were commissioned as officers in the U.S. military Friday ahead of fall commencement exercises.

Both new officers will enter military medical fields and plan to advance their training while serving.

Second Lieutenant Nicholas Smith is entering active duty with the U.S. Army Nursing Corps. Second Lieutenant William Dunson Jr. was commissioned to the South Carolina National Guard's Medical Service Corps.

Second Lieutenant Smith traveled the world while growing up with his mother, Kathleen Smith, a former petty officer in the U.S. Navy. Kathleen Smith is an FMU alumnus.

During travels that took him from Japan to Germany and a few places in between, Nicholas Smith participated in Junior ROTC in both the Army and the Air Force as they traveled to the various schools where his mother was

teaching as part of the Department of Defense Education Activities (DODEA). DODEA operates school around the world for military-connected students.

"My mom's my inspiration, and the ideal of a hard-working and motivated individual," Smith said. "She's supported me from day one and never faltered in her belief that I will succeed."

Smith has served in the National Guard as a combat medic. He is the first ROTC student at FMU to graduate with a nursing degree.

Smith will be stationed in San Antonio, Texas, for training and while he studies in preparation for nursing licensure exam. He plans to pursue a career in critical care and eventually wants to become a certified nurse anesthetist.

"I'm a pretty fun guy, so people are surprised to see my passion for critical care," Smith said, "but being able to take people from seriously injured through the step down and healing process is all I have ever wanted to do."

Second Lieutenant Dunson, a native of Dillon, credits his mentor, Sgt. First Class Randy Gray, for encouraging him on his life path. Dunson joined Junior ROTC under Gray in his freshman year of high school.

"He (Gray) has supported me every step of the way," Dunson said. Gray gave Dunson his first officer's salute as part of Friday's commissioning ceremony.

Always interested in medicine, Dunson will graduate with a degree in biology. But until a hip injury last year he wasn't sure what type of medicine he wanted to pursue.

"That injury really showed me that chiropractic care was where I wanted to be, I love to see patients through the process from injury through healing," said Dunson.

He will begin his chiropractic education in July at Sherman College of Chiropractic in Spartanburg while serving with the South Carolina National Guard.

Sheriff's deputies find guns and drugs, arrest 2

A Hartsville man and a Lamar man were being held on drug charges after a traffic stop outside Hartsville last week.

Kaleb David Felkel, 19, of Hartsville and Cameron Ray Dennett, 19, of Lamar were arrested. Felkel is charged with trafficking cocaine, five counts of possession with intent to distribute a schedule II narcotic, possession with intent to distribute, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and simple possession of marijuana.

Dennett is charged with trafficking cocaine, possession of meth, four counts of possession with intent to distribute a schedule II narcotic and simple possession of marijuana, second offense.

According to Darlington County Sheriff Tony Chavis, deputies stopped a vehicle at the intersection of New Market Road and W. Old Camden Road for a traffic violation last Wednesday evening.

During the traffic stop, deputies smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

Deputies searched the vehicle and located approximately 68 grams of cocaine, 58 morphine pills, some oxycodone pills, Alprazolam pills and half a gram of marijuana. After a search of one of the occupants' clothing, 0.2 grams of meth and 0.1 grams of cocaine were located.

"Investigators were able to use the evidence located dur-

ing this traffic stop to establish probable cause for a search warrant," stated Chavis. "(Last) Thursday, investigators served the search warrant at a home on Racetrack Road and located a .40 caliber pistol with ammunition, a 12-gauge shotgun with ammunition, approximately 1.9 grams of meth, 20 oxycodone pills, 14.6 grams of marijuana, weight scales and other drug paraphernalia."

Felkel and Dennett appeared before a Darlington County magistrate and received a \$21,000 and \$28,000 bond, respectively. Both remained in custody at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center as of Friday.





GREATER Darlington

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

The Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce, Lamar and Society Hill is accepting nominations for the following awards to be given out at our Annual Celebration on February 6, 2020.

Nominations for the following awards should include the person's name, the business, industry, or group's name accompanied by a short one-page essay outlining the accomplishments of why they should receive the award they are being nominated for. All nominations must be emailed, mailed or hand delivered to Harriet L. Hobbs, President of The Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce, hhobbs@darlingtonchamber.com. 803-606-5188 no later than January 15, 2020.

Life Time Achievement

1. The recipient must have performed a recognizable service or contribution to the community, which is above and beyond the call of duty. (This service should not be done solely as part of one's job responsibilities but should easily stand out as "Above and Beyond.")
2. The recipient's accomplishments should contribute to the wellbeing of the community and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.
3. The recipient must have been involved in community activities for a minimum of ten (10) years.

Citizen of the Year

- 1) The recipient must personify the Chamber's motto "I Love Darlington."
- 2) The recipient must be active in community affairs (for a minimum of five (5) years).
- 3) The recipient must have performed an outstanding service to the community during designated year.

Community Pride

- 1) The recipient must be a business, industry, or group that typifies the idea of "Pride in the Community."
- 2) The idea of "Pride in the Community" as reflected in the appearance of the business, industry, or the town it represents.
- 3) The business, industry, or group that has made a recognizable contribution to the wellbeing of the community.

Educator of the Year

- 1) The recipient must serve in the Darlington County School District.
- 2) The recipient must be an educator with five (5) or more years of experience.
- 3) The recipient must demonstrate exceptional or innovative capabilities in his/her respective education field.

Business of The Year

- 1) The recipient must demonstrate strong business involvement in the community with a history of and a willingness to give back to the community by playing a leadership role in civic activities.
- 2) The recipient must be heavily involved in the local community and give generously of themselves and/or staff in time and resources.
- 3) The recipient must have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills.
- 4) The recipient must promote the economic growth, stability, and improvement of the communities which the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce serves.

Legacy Award

Community member continuing community involvement and/or service begun by a family member. Award is given posthumously.

Guidelines for Awards

- A. Only Chamber Members (in good standing) may nominate candidates for these awards.
- B. Nominees may come from any area of the county served by the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce. *Darlington *Lamar *Society Hill (Nominees can be either members or non-members)
- C. The Executive Committee of the Chamber Board will vote on recipients.
- D. Nominations without essays, essays not meeting criteria, unsigned nominations or late nominations (after January 15, 2020 will not be considered).

QUOTE

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

ANDY RODDICK

sports

WWW.NEWSANDPRESSONLINE.COM

Darlington sweeps both games against Lake City

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Both the Darlington Falcons and Lady Falcons took care of business Dec. 10 at home against Lake City with both teams coming out victorious.

Darlington (boys) 52, Lake City (boys) 49

Freshman Deuce Hudson scored 20 points and Darlington rallied from multiple deficits en route to a 52-49 win over the Panthers.

"Big-time game from freshman point guard Deuce Hudson," Darlington boys head coach Anthony Heilbronn said. "Led us with a career high 20, and he really hit some clutch shots. I've said all year, we will go as he goes, and tonight he took us over the top in the end; couldn't be more proud of him."

Up by four at the end of the third quarter, Darlington allowed Lake City to go on a 12-2 run in the fourth quarter, giving the Panthers a 45-41 lead with 4:33 left in the game.

"Credit to Lake City and their pressure," Heilbronn said. "Gave us fits at times and turned us over. I'm glad we were able to break it when

necessary and also get stops at the right time. They are a good team and they gave us all we could handle tonight."

From there the Falcons outscored the Panthers 11-4, with nine of those 11 points coming in the final 2:20 of the game.

"Great effort by our guys to not quit and to respond every time they made a run," Heilbronn said. "They would score 6-8 points and then we would respond right back. Great sign for me with such a young, inexperienced team."

Hudson sank two free throws with 28.6 seconds left and it looked like the game was in hand for the Falcons who were now up by four, but Lake City cut the lead back to two with less than 30 seconds left in the game after two free throws.

Back to a one-possession game, Darlington needed a last bit of offense and it got it from eighth-grader Keenan Dubose, who made one of two free throws with 15.6 seconds left to push the Falcons lead back up to three.

Darlington was sloppy in the first half, trailing by as many as six before going into the half down by only three. One bright side was the fact that the Falcons defense did



not commit their first foul until 3:07 in the second quarter.

Darlington is 7-1 on the year.

Darlington (girls) 49, Lake City (girls) 14

The Lady Falcons put on an absolute clinic against the Panthers. From start to finish

this game was never close.

At halftime the Lady Falcons were up 36-4 and cruised to a 35-point win, winning 49-14.

The second half was basically cruise control for Darlington,

which despite being outscored 14-13 in the final two quarters, was never in any danger of losing.

The Lady Falcons are 5-1 on the year.

Secret 'letters of caution' routinely given to S.C. judges

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

Over the past 17 fiscal years, state court officials tasked with policing judicial ethics issued more than 250 "letters of caution" – usually in secret – to judges statewide, the most common type of action taken on complaints that were not dismissed, a review by The Nerve found.

Under state court rules, caution letters are not considered official sanctions and involve no misconduct or minor misconduct that doesn't warrant a formal sanction. But if a judge formally agrees to accept the written warning, he or she has to admit to "any or all of the allegations of misconduct," according to the rules.

And because details of allegations against judges generally have to be kept secret under court rules if no formal misconduct charges are filed, the public usually has no way of knowing the seriousness of the case or whether it warranted stronger disciplinary action.

Ethical rules for judges, such as remaining impartial, are contained in the court system's "Code of Judicial Conduct," listed on the state Judicial Department's website.

The Nerve's review of online disciplinary reports by the state Commission on Judicial Conduct – a 26-member panel appointed by the S.C. Supreme Court and dominated by sitting judges and lawyers – found that from fiscal year 2003 through last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 265 caution letters were issued to judges, though none of the reports identified any judge or indicated what types of judges received the letters.

Asked for a recent breakdown of the number of caution letters issued by category of judges, Ginny Jones, Judicial Department spokeswoman, said in an email response, "We do not track this information."

Under court rules, caution

letters can be issued, depending on the situation, by the Supreme Court, Commission on Judicial Conduct or Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) – the Supreme Court's investigative arm.

The Nerve's review found that the total number of caution letters represented 60.5 percent of the total 438 actions taken during the 17-year period on complaints that were not dismissed or referred to other agencies. Last fiscal year's report listed a total of eight actions – the lowest annual number over the period.

Sanctions included typically confidential "admonitions," public reprimands, suspensions or removal from office. Private "admonitions" and public reprimands – considered lower-level sanctions – accounted for 15 percent and 13 percent of the total actions, respectively, during the 17-year period.

Seven judges were removed from office over the period – none since fiscal year 2011 – while 22 were suspended, records show.

Under court rules, the Commission on Judicial Conduct can file formal misconduct charges and conduct hearings on the charges; the Supreme Court, led by chief justice Donald Beatty, has the final say on sanctions.

Most complaints against judges are dismissed by the ODC – around 60 percent over the past five fiscal years – though no specifics for the dismissals were given in the annual disciplinary reports over the 17-year period, The Nerve's review found. The ODC is headed by John Nichols.

In recent years, only the lowest-level magistrate and municipal judges have received public sanctions, records show.

A review by The Nerve in 2015, for example, of Supreme Court disciplinary orders over the prior five fiscal years found no public sanctions of any family, circuit, master-in-equity or appellate judges, though a total of 725 complaints were filed against judges in those categories over the period.

The Nerve's latest review found that from fiscal 2015 through last fiscal year, a total of 639 complaints were filed against family, circuit, administrative law and appellate court judges – about 47 percent of the total 1,364 complaints received during the period. Yet not one public sanction was issued against any of those judges, online Supreme Court disciplinary orders show.

By category, most of the complaints – 416 – over the last five fiscal years were filed against magistrates, followed by circuit (374) and family (237) court

judges. Given there are 49 circuit and 60 family court judges compared to more than 300 magistrates, there were proportionately more complaints against the higher-level judges.

The 170-member General Assembly elects the five members of the Supreme Court, as well as other appellate, circuit and family court judges. South Carolina and Virginia are the only states where their legislatures play primary roles in electing judges. In July, The Nerve revealed that in 12 of the state's 46 counties, one senator controls the appointment of magistrates.

Under state law, a 10-member, legislatively controlled panel called the Judicial Merit Selection Commission (JMSSC), nominates appellate, circuit and family court judges. The Nerve has previously reported about the secrecy surrounding the screening process.

Asked if caution letters are automatically referred to the JMSSC before sitting judges are screened for new terms, Jones, the Judicial Department spokeswoman, in her written response said given that the letters "do not constitute a finding of misconduct," they are "not released to the JMSSC under current procedures."

Erin Crawford, the JMSSC's chief lawyer, did not respond

to related written questions from The Nerve.

Under court rules, the Supreme Court appoints the 26-member Commission on Judicial Conduct, made up of 10 circuit, family or master-in-equity judges; four magistrate, municipal or probate judges; four lawyers in the state who have never held a judicial office; and eight public members. Given that makeup, sitting judges and lawyers – not the public – control the commission.

Circuit court judges Thomas Cooper and George McFaddin serve as the commission's chairman and vice-chairman, respectively; former state lawmaker and current circuit judge J. Derham Cole also is a commission member. The full membership list is not found on the Judicial Department's website, though it's listed on the website of the South Carolina Bar, the state's professional organization for lawyers.

Legal observers over the years have been critical of South Carolina's judicial discipline system. In 2010, for example, The

Nerve reported an American Bar Association review team recommended that a special outside court be created to handle any ethical complaints against S.C. Supreme Court justices, noting in a 2008 report that "allowing the court to retain the authority to discipline one of its own members may create an appearance of impropriety."

The Supreme Court, however, rejected that proposal.

And state lawmakers generally haven't pushed for serious reforms to the system, instead opting to maintain the status quo.

A 2015 House ethics bill would have criminalized "groundless" judicial complaints filed by citizens, as The Nerve revealed then, though that provision was later dropped.

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



Serving The Grand Strand and Pee Dee area

Window World

Celebrating 20 Years!

NEW LOCATION:
4655-A Hwy. 17 By-Pass, South, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577
www.windowworldofmyrtlebeach.com
843-445-9921 • 800-NEXT-WINDOW

Donate A Boat or Car Today!

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
(2628)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

PLACE YOUR AD IN 97 S.C. NEWSPAPERS

and reach more than 2.1 million readers using our small space display ad network

Statewide or regional buys available

Randall Savely 888.727.7377
scnewspapernetwork.com

SONNI SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPER NETWORK We know newspapers.

Life-size Nativity scene in Darlington



A life-size Nativity scene was erected Nov. 30 at the corner of South Main and Hampton streets in Darlington as part of the city's holiday celebrations. Gail Milling, wife of City Council member John Milling, led the project. "As the year 2018 came to an end, I thought how beautiful downtown Darlington had looked, dressed in her Christmas decorations, but something was missing," she said. "As the Holy Spirit nudged me, I recognized we, as a community, didn't have a Holy Nativity scene. Individual churches did have them, but not one community Nativity scene." CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Governor's School and Habitat for Humanity welcome their new neighbor

When a parent asks their child what they did during a typical day at school, rarely are they prepared for their child to respond with, "We built a house."

Such ambitious projects are generally unheard of within the public-school curriculum unless, of course, their student is attending the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM) in Hartsville.

Students from GSSM partnered with Darlington County Habitat for Humanity during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years to build an affordable family home in Hartsville on Mill Avenue, near the GSSM campus. GSSM students participated throughout construction including framing, flooring,

landscaping, and painting.

On Dec. 8, GSSM students joined Darlington County Habitat for Humanity to dedicate the new home and hand the keys to their newest neighbor.

GSSM students contributed significantly to the completion of this home during 2019. This will be the fifth home completed with the assistance of GSSM students since the fall of 2017 and the 50th home built by Darlington County Habitat for Humanity.

Mark Haenchen, executive director for Darlington County Habitat for Humanity, could not be more enthusiastic about the efforts of the GSSM students. "Working with the students from GSSM continues to be a wonderful experience," he

commented, adding that "these students are so gifted and have quickly learned to do a professional job; making a big impact on construction program."

Building a home challenged students with practical applications of their lessons in mathematics, physics, and engineering while providing a change of pace from the regular daily tasks of high school.

"Habitat for Humanity has allowed me to meet so many amazing people and make a difference in our community. I have learned so much about myself and what it means to be altruistic through my experience with this organization. I will always be grateful to Habitat for Humanity for allowing me to help others and grow as a person," said Peyton Gregory (GSSM Class of 2021).

Students also gained first-hand experience with the challenges of turning conceptualized plans into reality, a process facilitated by the real-world know-how of Habitat for Humanity's knowledgeable construction managers.

"One of GSSM's missions is to develop ethically aware leaders. Students volunteering their precious time to build affordable, quality homes for our neighbors in need reflects their commitment to making the world a better place now and in the future," said Josh Witten, GSSM Director of Research and Inquiry and member of the Darlington County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.

In addition to the rigorous coursework and research projects, GSSM students participate in a wide variety of community service projects.

GSSM students recognized the partnership with Habitat for Humanity as the "Best Community Service Project" for



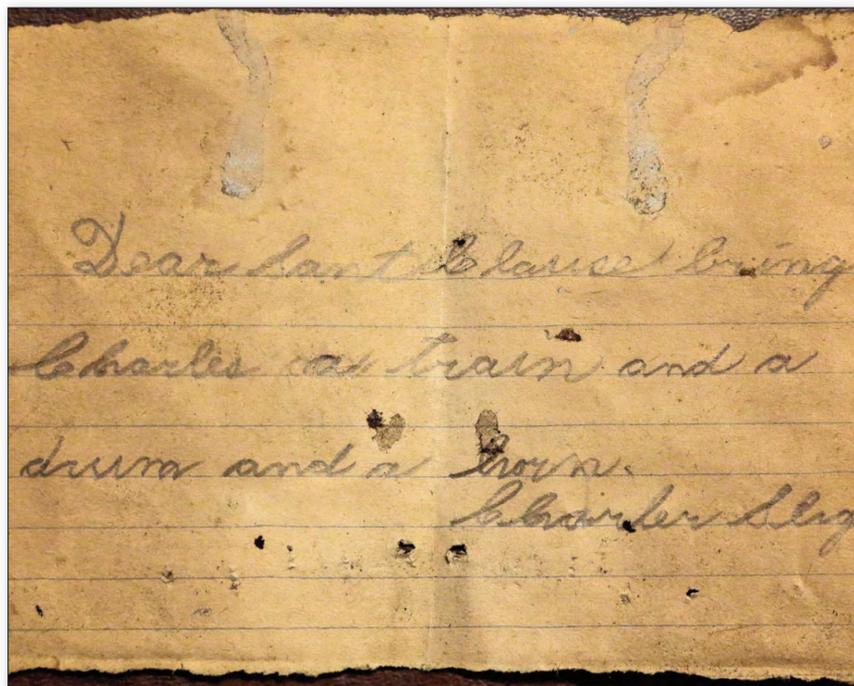
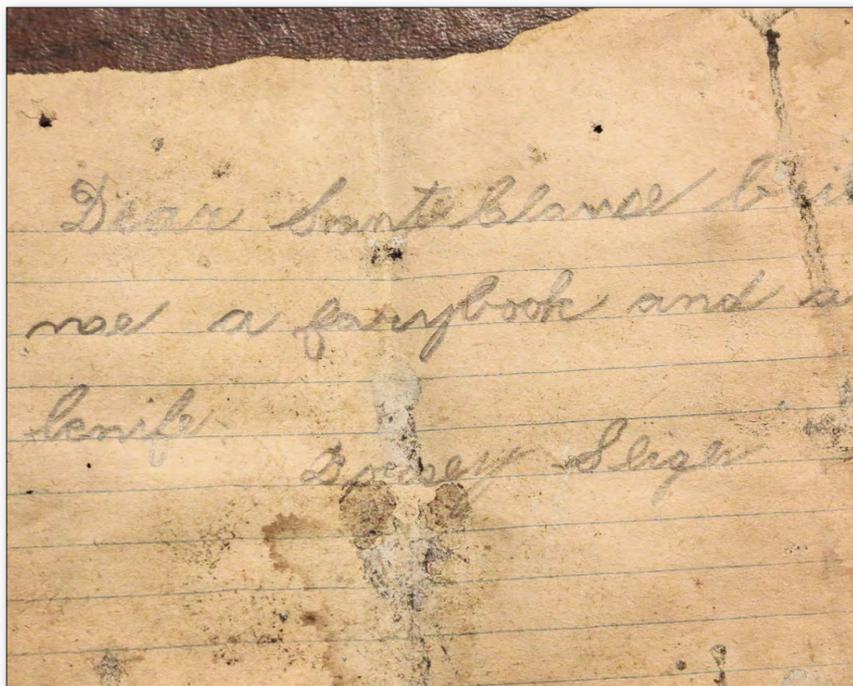
the 2017-2018 school year at their annual Student Follies awards.

The dedication ceremony

not only marked the successful conclusion of one project but also a continuing commitment to the Darlington County com-

munity. GSSM students have already contributed to progress on three additional Habitat for Humanity homes in 2019.

Century-old letters to Santa are found in Darlington home



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
syles@newsandpress.net

When homeowner Scott Pruitt set to renovating the historic Darlington house located at 368 West Broad St., he delighted in nifty architectural details like diagonal wainscoting, curved bay windows and door frame moldings topped with rosettes.

The craftsmanship is to be expected from a home built in 1891 by famed African-American architect Lawrence Reese, but the house held some smaller surprises that

came to light just in time for Christmas.

While restoring a tiled fireplace in the front parlor, Pruitt discovered two aged slips of paper that had fallen behind the mantel. On inspection, he found they were letters to Santa, forwarding the Christmas wishes of two young boys who lived in the house perhaps 120 years ago.

Browned with age and stained with soot, the letters are still easy to read, and the wording is bracingly direct.

The first letter reads, "Dear Santa Clause bring me a fary-book and a knife," and is

signed "Dorsey Sligh."

The second letter (penned by the same hand) reads, "Dear Santa Clause bring Charles a train and a drum and a horn," and is signed "Charles Sligh."

Pruitt says he asked around about the Sligh family and discovered that they lived in the Broad Street house around 1900. He found little information about the kids, but the 1940 U.S. Census notes a Dorsey T. Sligh was born in Darlington around 1890, and Charles Sligh was born in 1894. It seems both letters were written by Dorsey, who

had neat penmanship and could send Santa a legible request on behalf of his younger brother.

That the letters survived intact for so long is a tiny miracle in itself. Pruitt thinks it was a happy accident that the letters fell behind the wall-mounted heavy wooden mantel frame, and remained there — safe and sound — until he happened upon them.

The discovery sent little ripples of happiness through the Pruitt family, including Scott's 10-year-old granddaughter, a Christmas fanatic who still observes the tradi-

tion of writing letters to Ol' Saint Nick.

"One time I asked her what she wanted for Christmas and she said she couldn't tell me. I asked what she meant, and she said, 'I'll tell Santa Claus, but I can't tell you and Maw-Maw,'" Pruitt recalls, laughing. "I told her what she ought to do is write a letter to Santa Claus so that she won't forget anything. And if she thinks of something later, she can go back and add it to the list."

Scott says his family has always enjoyed going big for the holidays, and they keep that tradition going by open-

ing up the Broad Street house for multiple holiday gatherings that usually draw around 50 guests each. "We have a good time, and to hear the kids running around and going up and down the stairs, laughing ... it's really neat," he says.

This year, those dinners and parties might feel a little more special knowing the Broad Street home has kindled and kept that Christmas spirit going for well over a hundred years. As rock-solid as the Reese-built house feels, it's a tradition that could easily last another century.

Church, Mayor-Elect stage a celebration

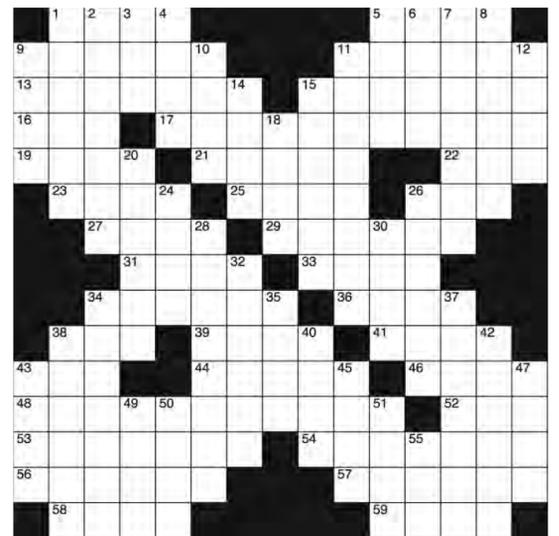


Downtown Darlington sparkled with Christmas lights and family fun on Sunday night as Dominion Church and Mayor-Elect Curtis Boyd hosted a seasonal fete complete with complimentary hot chocolate and hot dogs. Kids of all ages enjoyed posing with the festive lights and decorations, including a gingerbread house, giant inflatable Santa Claus and his trusty reindeer & sleigh. PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



Tracy Woodard (center) and Mary Shaw Kirven (left), Darlington County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Co-chairs, received a special achievement award on behalf of Darlington County from S.C. Farm Bureau State Women's Leadership Committee Chair Frances Price (right) during the organization's 76th annual meeting held recently in Myrtle Beach. Darlington County was recognized for having one of the top Farm Bureau women's programs in the state during 2019. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- No longer on the market
 - W. African language
 - A way to open
 - A type of pigeon
 - Japanese warrior
 - Pelvic areas
 - No seats available
 - Not working
 - In a way, soaks
 - Growing outward
 - Ritz local
 - Air
 - Telegraphic signals
 - Metric units
 - Large wine cask
 - Fiber from the husk of a coconut
 - Gets up
 - French river
 - Witnesses
 - They make great neighbors
 - The sun does it
 - Used to store ashes
 - First Chinese dynasty
 - Network of nerves
 - Word element meaning ear
 - Metric unit of length (Brit.)
 - Tributary of the Danube
 - Off-limits
 - Appeal earnestly
 - It's good to have them
 - Commercial flying company
 - Acted out in protest
 - Took to the sea
 - Cuckoos
 - Drove fast
 - airborne unit
 - Taken illegally
 - Capital of Valais
 - Male reproductive organs
 - State capital
 - One with supernatural insight
 - Starts all over again
 - Jai alai arena
 - Star Wars antagonist
 - Freestanding structure
 - The ideal place
 - The extended location of something
 - Made level
 - Distinctive smell
 - Greek goddess of discord
 - Got older
 - Type of monkey
 - Travels to
 - Geological times
 - Edge
- DOWN**
- Trapped
 - About osmosis
 - Romanian monetary unit
 - Form of Persian
 - Cold wind
 - Leave out
 - Small vehicle
 - A little off
 - Soviet Union
 - A narrow path or road
 - Contrary beliefs
 - One who speaks Gaelic
 - Private school in New York
 - Jackson and Townshend are two
 - Soldier in an

School district announces December Teacher Feature winners

The Darlington County School District's Teacher Forum announced last week the Teacher Feature winners for December.

The program recognizes one teacher from each school to honor excellence in education.

Teacher Feature is coordinated by the district's Teacher Forum, which is comprised of each school's Teacher of the Year.

The purpose of the Teacher Forum is to foster professional growth and teacher leadership.

The Teacher Feature program is sponsored by Better

Homes and Gardens Segars Realty.

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

The December honorees are:

- Tracy-Ann Samuels, Brockington Elementary Magnet School
- Rebecca Langston, Brunson-Dargan Elementary School
- Bradley Knox, Cain Elementary School
- Michelle Grantham, Carolina Elementary School
- Connie Altman, Darlington County Institute of Technology

- April Isbell, Darlington County Intervention School
- Janine Dolce, Darlington High School
- Jackqueline Lowery, Darlington Middle School
- Laura Olson, Hartsville High School
- Sarah Barnes, Hartsville Middle School
- Kathryn Barrett, Lamar Elementary School
- Benjamin Cooper, Lamar High School
- Cole Davis, Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology
- Angela Gainey, North Hartsville Elementary School
- Elizabeth McCluskey, Pate

- Elementary School
- Jacquelyn Moore, Rosenwald Elementary/Middle School
- Kathy Wilkinson, Southside Early Childhood Center
- Melanie Carpenter, Spaulding Elementary School
- Kamara Gentles, Spaulding Middle School
- Johnus Greenlee, St. John's Elementary School
- Alicia Nelson, Thornwell School for the Arts
- Tasha Jeffrey, Washington Street Elementary School
- Pierre Brown, West Hartsville Elementary School

Chamber of Commerce seeks nominations for annual awards

The Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce (including Lamar and Society Hill) is accepting nominations for awards to be given out at its annual banquet Feb. 6.

Nominations for these awards should include the person's name or the business, industry or group's name, accompanied by a one-page essay outlining why they should receive the award they are being nominated for.

All nominations must be emailed, mailed or hand-delivered to Harriet Hobbs, president of the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce (hhobbs@darlingtonchamber.com, 803-606-5188).

The awards are:
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: The recipient must have performed a recognizable service or contribution to the community that is above and beyond the call of duty.

This service should not be done solely as part of one's job responsibilities, but should easily stand out as being "above and beyond."

The recipient's accomplishments should contribute to the well-being of the community and enhance the quality of life for all citizens. The recipient must have been involved in community activities for at least 10 years.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: The recipient must personify the Chamber's motto, "I love Darlington." The recipient must be active in community affairs for at least five years. The recipient must have performed an outstanding service to the community during the designated year.

COMMUNITY PRIDE: The recipient must be a business, industry or group that typifies the idea of "Pride in the Community." The idea of

"Pride in the Community" is reflected in the appearance of the business, industry or town it represents.

The business, industry or group must have made a recognizable contribution to the well-being of the community.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: The recipient must demonstrate strong business involvement in the community, with a history of and a willingness to give back to the community by playing a leadership role in civic activities.

The recipient must be heavily involved in the local community and give generously of themselves and/or staff in time and resources.

The recipient must have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills. The recipient must promote the economic growth, stability and improvement of the communities that the Greater Darlington

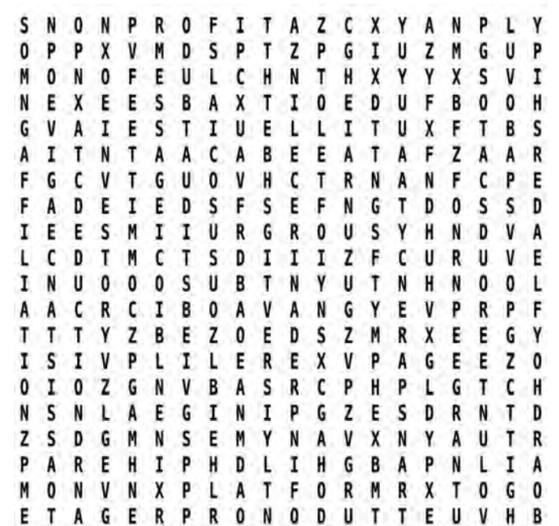
Chamber of Commerce serves.
LEGACY AWARD: The recipient is a community member continuing community involvement and/or service begun by a family member.

The award is given posthumously.

Guidelines for the awards: Only Chamber members in good standing may nominate candidates for these awards. Nominees may come from any area of the county served by the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce (Darlington, Lamar, Society Hill). Nominees may be members or non-members.

The Chamber Board will vote on the recipients. Nominations without essays, essays not meeting criteria, unsigned nominations or late nominations (after Jan. 15) will not be considered.

WORD SEARCH



- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| AFFILIATION | DEDUCTION | GIVE GRANT | ORGANIZATION |
| ASSISTANCE | DONATE | INVESTOR | PHILANTHROPY |
| AUDIT BOARD | EXPENSES | INVOLVEMENT | PLATFORM |
| BUDGET COMMITTEE | FOUNDATION | LEADERSHIP | SOCIAL TRANS-PARENCY |
| | FUNDRAISING | MESSAGE NONPROFIT | VOLUNTEER |

Answers on 5B

The only source for Darlington County News is right here!

Subscribe now at NEWSANDPRESS.NET



Search public notice ads from this newspaper at **SCPUBLICNOTICES.COM**

Public notices from virtually all S.C. newspapers are now available online in one convenient location.

This service is provided by S.C. newspapers at no cost to taxpayers.

Investigators find guns, meth in Darlington home

A Darlington man faces drug charges after investigators with the Drug Enforcement Unit and Criminal Investigations Division of the Darlington County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at a residence on Candleberry Drive. "Investigators located

approximately 25 grams of methamphetamine, 76 grams of marijuana, several firearms, weight scales and counterfeit money," said Sheriff Tony Chavis. "Investigators arrested and charged Jeffery Scott Lloyd, 29, of Darlington for three counts of possession of a weapon during a violent

crime, one count of trafficking methamphetamine and one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana."

Lloyd remained in custody at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center on an \$84,000 bond.

Lloyd is also charged with

violation of probation.

Investigators were assisting U.S. marshals with the Carolinas Regional Task Force when searching for Lloyd, who was wanted out of Chesterfield County for three counts of burglary and one count of grand larceny.

Man arrested for sex with a minor

A Darlington man has been arrested and charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct, third degree, and one count of criminal solicitation of a minor, according to the Darlington County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Tony Chavis said Joseph James Williamson, 47, was arrested last week.

"These types of cases are exactly why I created the Special Victims Unit in 2017, to make sure we fully and properly investigate people who want to take advantage of our children," stated Chavis.

According to investiga-

tors, Williamson engaged in sexual battery with a 14-year-old victim on at least three occasions.

Investigators also allege Williamson communicated with the juvenile victim through social media and text messaging to entice the victim to engage in sexual activities.

Investigators believe the interaction between Williamson and the juvenile victim began in June. Investigators are seeking additional charges.

Man held in Hartsville man's slaying

A Hartsville man has been charged in the slaying of another Hartsville man last week.

Darlington County Sheriff Tony Chavis said investigators have charged Freddy Ray Harris III, 36, of Hartsville with

murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime and grand larceny greater than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000.

Kurt Russell Scholl of Hartsville was shot multiple times on Racetrack Road out-

side of Hartsville. Authorities located the suspect near Tabernacle Church Road in Chesterfield County.

Investigators also allege Harris stole a vehicle earlier in the day last Monday.

Harris was hospitalized after his capture because of an aggravated injury that occurred prior to the incident.

Harris was in custody at the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center.

BOOKINGS REPORT

W. GLENN CAMPBELL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 9, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 16, 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.

- David Allen Anderson, 57, of 441 Highway 67 W, Loris, Violation of City Ordinance; Shoplifting <\$2000
- Charles William Fields Jr., 58, of 3808 W Bobo Newsome Hwy, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning
- Dylan Micheal Hall, 19, of 1315 Hopalong Lane, Hartsville, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st
- Jerrod Anthony Lucky, 33, of 1213 Meadow Ln, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance
- Cody Carlie Moore, 18, of 1305 Bayberry Dr, Darlington, Unlawful Carrying of Weapon
- Cleveland Slater Jr., 55, of 1211 Country Ln, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning
- Tobias Quandriques Cooley, 32, of 923 East Home Ave, Hartsville, Non Support
- Charles William Fields Jr., 58, of 3808 W Bobo Newsome Hwy, Hartsville, Trespassing
- Angel Patrice Jackson, 38, of 915 G Street, Hartsville, Malicious Injury to Property
- Desmond Tremaine James, 30, of 104 Southern Pine St, Darlington, DUS (DUI) 1st Offense; Driving Under the Influence; Poss 28G/Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 2nd/Sub; Drugs/Man Dist Etc of Cocaine Base 1st

CHARGES

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

- Shaquise Travon McFarland, 19, of 906 Amewood Street, Lydia, Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 2nd
- Talvin Jerrod Robinson, 41, of 2200 Beaverdam Dr, Hartsville, Safekeeping
- Davion Marquise Toney, 27, of 210 Washington St, Hartsville, Non Support; Non Support; Safekeeping
- Joseph James Williamson, 47, of 2932 Palmetto Hight Drive, Florence, Minor/Criminal Solicitation of a Minor; Criminal Sex Conduct w/Minor (<16 Yrs) 2nd Degree; Criminal Sex Conduct w/Minor (<16 Yrs) 2nd Degree; Criminal Sex Conduct w/Minor (<16 Yrs) 2nd Degree
- Michelle Tarlor Cross, 54, of 2635 E Palmetto St #23A, Florence, Sentence By Court
- Cameron Ray Dennett, 19, of 144 Old Thomas Court, Lamar, Traffic Cocaine 28G or

- More But <100G 1st Off; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd; Poss 28G/Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 2nd/Sub; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st
- Kaleb David Felkel, 19, of 1129 Nicholson Rd, Hartsville, Traffic Cocaine 28G or More But <100G 1st Off; Traffic Cocaine 28G or More But <100G 1st Off; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Manu Possess Other Sub Sch I II III WITD 1st; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st
- Bernard Nytreyvius Gibson Jr., 22, of 1023 Martin Luther King Jr, Hartsville, DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Unlawful Carrying of Weapon
- Freddy Ray Harris III, 36, of 2695 Pine Circle, Hartsville, Poss of a Weapon During Violent Crime; Murder; Grand Larceny >\$2000 <\$10,000; Kidnapping; Burglary First Degree
- David William McCaskill, 28, of 2411 Sampit Drive, Hartsville, Shoplifting \$2000 or Less (Enhance 16-0-157)
- Heyward McCrea Jr., 51, of 435 Jasper Ave, Hartsville, Shoplifting \$2000 or Less (Enhance 16-0-157); Entering Premises After Warning
- Barbara Renee Talbert, 44, of 1313 Newet Circle, Hartsville, DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd; Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Failure to Appear After Release for Felony
- Michael Lewis Borders Jr., 49, of 311 71 St Ave N Apt 1C;

- Myrtle Beach, Failure to Appear After Release for Felony
- Devontray Antwan Bunton, 32, of 140 Gordon Street, Bennettsville, Driving Under Suspension; Speeding >10 But <15 MPH Over the Speed Limit
- Robin Shacara McElveen, 32, of 1921 Indian Branch Road, Darlington, Use of 911 Number Unlawfully
- Rhonda Brooke Rogers, 27, of 1018 Clyde Rd, Hartsville, Failure to Appear After Release For Felony
- Savion Antwan Bennett, 22, of 1309 Reed Ave, Hartsville, Drugs/Man Dist Etc of Methamphetamine 1st
- Ervin Bradley Jr., 35, of 319 Muldrow St, Bishopville, Weapon/Sale/Poss By Certain Person/Stolen Gun; Unlawful Carrying of Weapon; Drugs/Manufacture Meth 1st
- Lillian Denise Brown, 34, of 307 Chestnut Street, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance
- Ronieca Latasha Carroway, 43, of 416 Todd Branch Drive, Columbia, Failure to Appear After Release for Felony
- Roddregius Octavius Tyrell Ervin, 27, of 115 Coop Dr, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance; Shoplifting <\$2000
- Brandon Howatt Erwin, 23, of 2940 Hargrove Rd, Marion, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st
- Willie Gregg Jr., 58, of 101 Preston Ln, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance
- Nathan Johnson Jr., 39, of 405 East Main St Apt B, Timmonsville, Weekender
- Larry Stanley Kendrick Jr., 28, of 3738 Bobwhite Trl, Effingham, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st; Malicious Injury To Real Property <\$2000; Pointing and Presenting Firearms at a Person
- Sharyan Jackqueline King, 28, of 721 Hudson St, Hartsville,

- Giving False Information
- David James Mayers II, 29, of 935 Camden Hwy, Bishopville, Drugs/Manufacture Meth 1st
- Amanda Louise Parks, 33, of 1229 Clyde School Rd, Darlington, Shoplifting <\$2000
- Ervin Roddregius, 27, of 115 Coop Drive Lt 114, Darlington, No Charge Data
- Nicholas Jack Scharawak, 30, of 1276 S Darlington Hwy, Darlington, Drugs/Manufacture Meth 1st
- Lloyd Henderson Seiler, 68, of 1809 Spring Valley Rd, Hartsville, No Charge Data
- Michael Nelson Small Jr., 39, of 4268 Cato Dr, Effingham, Violation of City Ordinance
- Michael A Squire, 53, of 1041 East Carolina, Hartsville, Weekender
- Haley Amanda Thomas, 31, of 708 Kingston Dr, McBee, Driving Under Suspension; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; Use License Plates Other than Vehicle Issues
- Roosevelt NMN Williams, 58, of 636 E Jackson St, Lamar, Weekender
- Tyler Andrew Emory Bailey, 27, of 1116 Hunt Drive, Hartsville, Unlawful Carrying of Weapon
- Jonathan M Gregg, 31, of 4413 Hoffmeyer Rd, Darlington, Driving Under the Influence; Traffic/Fail to Change Address; Transp Alcohol in Motor Veh w/Seal Broken; Vehicle With Missing/Incorrectly Displayed Tag
- Johnny Andrea Jackson, 46, of 145 Kennedy St, Darlington, Domestic Viol 2nd Degree
- Valandra Ganatra Jackson, 41, of 1029 Martin Luther King Dr, Hartsville, Public Drunk
- Centry Ovaline McCutchen, 63, of 2936 N Center Rd, Hartsville, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Driving Under the Influence; Fail to Maintain

- Proof of Insurance in Vehicle
- Haley Marie Mooneyhan, 26, of 421 Petrawood Ln, Hartsville, Assault and Battery 1st Degree; Malicious Injury to Real Property <\$2000
- Ryan Deveaurux Pierce, 30, of 704 Glenn Acres Dr, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension
- Corey Jennings Scalf, 31, of 2221 Martha Drive, Hartsville, Non Support; Non Support
- Jessica D Ford, 37, of 522 W Turner Gate Rd, Pamplico, Shoplifting <\$2000
- Brenton Trey Gainey, 30, of 2625 Ten Acres Dr, Hartsville, Entry on Others Land w/o Permission 3rd/Sub; Trespassing; Utilities/Theft of Electric Current
- Nicole Sierra Elexis Matthews, 22, of 390 W Broad St, Darlington, Poss 15 Dosage Units MDMA/Ecstasy 1st Offense
- Darryl Anthony Powell II, 29, of 126 Terrell Street, Darlington, Beg/Solicit Money From Person at ATM/Other
- Daniel Brandon Ross, 34, of 627 Hidden Lane, Darlington, DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st
- Maggie Celeste Shaw, 24, of 109 Cherry St, Darlington, Domestic Viol 2nd Degree
- Rashawn Ahree Henry, 28, of 547 Jessamine St, Darlington, Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; Operating Unsafe Vehicle; Operating Motor Vehicle w/o License
- Byron Gee Jeffords, 41, of 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
- Dashon Isiah Pendergrass, 20, of 417 Logan Avenue, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LAMAR HIGHWAY MINI-STORAGE
201 Lamar Highway, Darlington
Variety of sizes available
\$25-\$50/month
Call (843) 393-8084

RACEWAY AUTOMOTIVE
www.RacewayAutomotive.com

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Raceway Ford Hwy 52 Bypass Darlington 393-5000 | Raceway Chevy South 5th St Hartsville 332-0185 | Raceway Ford South 5th St Hartsville 332-0185 |
|--|--|---|

Have your business featured here for only \$20 per week!
Call (843) 393-3811 or visit us online at NewsandPress.net for more information.

Pam Thomas
Certified Personal Fitness Trainer
(843) 260-4306 • Darlington, SC

Now accepting new clients!

AFSA
Approved Provider

Fitness is a way of life

INDUSTRIAL PAVING, INC.
712 MINERAL SPRINGS ROAD • (843) 393-3922

INDUSTRIAL PARKING AREAS • DRIVEWAYS
TENNIS COURTS • STREETS
PATCHING/SEALING/PAVEMENT MARKING
FREE ESTIMATES

Image showing hands typing on a laptop keyboard.



NOON FRIDAY AD DEADLINE
Call 393-3811, fax 393-6811 or e-mail
customerservice@newsandpress.net.

classifieds

DECEMBER 18, 2019 | PAGE 5B
THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

HOMES FOR RENT

New 3 bedroom house for rent located on 242 acres of land 6 miles from Hartsville. \$900.00 monthly. Call 813-965-7669 or email t.peaches0615@gmail.com

Remodeled 14 x 70 mobile home. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath located on 3 acres of land on Lakeview Blvd. Call 813-965-7669 or email t.peaches0615@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS
FDA Registered, 100% Digital hearing aids as low as \$199 each. American Made Technology. Call 800-937-2218 use promo 88270 for a risk-free trial! FREE SHIPPING!

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 844-524-2197 Recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER and 60+ years old? Call now! You and your family may be entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 844-654-4854 today. Free Consultation. No Risk.

HAVE YOU DREAMED OF BECOMING A PUBLISHED BOOK AUTHOR? We can help. Visit CourierPublishing.com or call 864-232-8736. Located in Greenville, established 1869. Still have life insurance? Need or want to access those funds now? If you're 75 or older and have a policy worth \$100k or more, you may qualify for a cash buyout. Call Benefit Advance. 1-877-649-1439

DENTAL INSURANCE from

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for [350] procedures. Call 1-855-397-7030 for details. www.dental50plus.com/60 Ad#6118-0219

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

FARM EQUIPMENT
GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ To hunt your land. Call for a FREE info packet & Quote. 1-866-309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

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

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 844-254-3873

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 833-833-1650

Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e FREE. FREE iPhone with AT&T's Buy one, Give One. While supplies last! CALL 1-866-565-8453 or www.freephones-now.com/SC

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-875-2449. TELEVISION & INTERNET SERVICES

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40/month w/12-mo agmt. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-843-6183

Get NFL Sunday Ticket FREE w/ DIRECTV Choice All-Included Package. \$59.99/month for 12 months. 185 Channels PLUS Thousands of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Call 1-844-624-1107

DISH Network \$59.99 For 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$19.95/month. Call Today for \$100 Gift Card! Best Value & Technology. FREE Installation. Call 1-877-542-0759 (some restrictions apply)

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-877-649-9469

Viasat Satellite Internet. Up to 12 Mbps Plans Starting at \$30/month. Our Fastest Speeds (up to 50 Mbps) & Unlimited Data Plans Start at \$100/month. Call Viasat today! 1-866-463-8950

VACATION RENTALS
ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION

Odom's Mini Storage
1009 N. Main Street
Darlington, SC
(843) 393-1327 or
(843) 393-9071

Odom's Mini Storage
AUCTION:
Dec. 31 at 2 pm
1009 N. Main Street

SHAMEKIA JACKSON
Storage #48
Household items
Total due: \$275.00

DONNIE LIGHTY
Storage #197
Household items
Total due: \$225.00

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

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

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | **BurtJordan REALTORS** | 117 Erinvine Court, Darlington, SC 29532 | **843-393-4010**

OFFICE FOR LEASE
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

Country Club lots available - call us!

COMMERCIAL
676 E. McIver Road—\$59,000
307 Washington Street—\$28,900
TBD Watson Street—\$47,000
123 Erinvine Court—\$850/Monthly

UNDER CONTRACT
218 Athol Street
126 Cashua Street
722 Spring Street

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR INFO ON ALL OF OUR LISTINGS!
FOR FULL LISTINGS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL 393-4010 OR LOG ONTO WWW.BURTJORDAN.COM
Burt Jordan
Broker-In-Charge
260-4138
Jackie Anderson Realtor 307-5383
Tommy Bryant Realtor 615-1795

Legals

Continued from 4B

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT
The Plaintiff is the owner of certain real property, bearing Darlington County Tax Map Number 168-00-07-037, more particularly described in the Complaint, which he purchased on or about December 4, 1997. The Plaintiff also purchased a mobile home which is located on the Property. The entire purchase was financed by "Clearwater Federal" and secured by a mortgage on the property and a lien on the mobile home. On or about August 5, 2002, the Plaintiff refinanced the loan. The Plaintiff is informed and believes that Clearwater Federal was paid in full as a result of the refinancing. The mortgage was satisfied but the lien on the mobile home was not satisfied. The Plaintiff believes he is entitled to a declaration of the court that the lien has been paid and that the lien should be extinguished.

A complete copy of the Complaint may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or searching the public records.
September 17, 2019
s/Patrick B. Ford
Florence, South Carolina
PATRICK B. FORD
S.C. Bar No.: 102521
FINKLEA LAW FIRM
814 West Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 317-4900
pford@finklealeaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
(22c3 leave in thru 12-25-19)

NOTICE OF SALE

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2018-CP-16-00925
BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture v. Doris D. Griffin a/k/a Doris Griffin, I, the undersigned Special Referee for Darlington County, will sell on January 6, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at the Darlington County Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, South Carolina to the highest bidder: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land situate, lying and being in the County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, fronting on Mallard Duck Circle. Said lot being known as Lot 37 of Hunters Ridge Subdivision on plat made by J. E. Tucker, R.L.S., dated December 2, 1982, and recorded in Plat Book 92 at Page 89, Darlington County Records. Said property is bound on the Northeast by Lot 38; on the Southeast by Chinaberry Street; on the West by Lot 36; and on the Northeast by Mallard Duck

Circle. Reference individual plat prepared for Doris Griffin surveyed August 14, 1989, by Prosser Surveying Company recorded in Plat Book 125 at Page 87, Darlington County Records. This being the same property conveyed to Doris D. Griffin a/k/a Doris Griffin by Deed of Privette Construction Co., Inc. dated October 2, 1989 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County on October 4, 1989 in Book 983 at Page 192.

TMS No.: 164-09-05-037
Property Address: 5 2 8 Mallard Duck Drive, Darlington, South Carolina 29532
SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, DARLINGTON COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee for Darlington County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to cost and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee for Darlington County may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). For complete terms of sale, attention is drawn to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Order for Sale on file with the Clerk of Court for Darlington County. A personal deficiency judgment being waived, bidding will not remain open. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 8.750% per annum. Should the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent fail to appear on sales day, the property shall not be sold, but shall be readvertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent is present. Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property. Purchaser is responsible for the preparation and filing of their deed. W. Haigh Porter
Special Referee for Darlington County
HARRELL, MARTIN &

PEACE, P.A.
Donald W. Tyler #5664
Taylor A. Peace #100206
135 Columbia Avenue
Post Office Box 1000
Chapin, South Carolina 29036
(803) 345-3353
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
(22c3 leave in thru 12-25-19)

SUMMONS and NOTICE OF HEARING

[Intervention]
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
2019-DR-16-0642
South Carolina Department of Social Services, Plaintiff, vs. Kursten Bonds and Corey Larymore, Defendant(s), IN THE INTEREST OF: B. L., DOB: xx/xx/2018
Minor(s) Under the Age of 18

TO: Corey Larymore
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the complaint for Intervention in and to the minor child in this action, the original of which has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for DARLINGTON County, One Public Square, Darlington, South Carolina, 29540, a copy of which is hereby attached; and to serve a copy of your answer to the complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the plaintiff at 130E. Camden Ave. (Post Office Box 1377), Hartsville, South Carolina 29551, within thirty (30) days following the date of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time stated, the plaintiff will apply for judgment by default against the defendant for the relief demanded in the complaint.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing in the above referenced matter has been scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in the Darlington County Family Court, located at 1 Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you have the right to be present and represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you. It is your responsibility to contact the Clerk of Court's Office, One Public Square, Darlington, South Carolina 29540, to apply for appointment of an attorney to represent you if you cannot afford an attorney (take all of these papers with you if you apply). This is a new action. If you had an attorney appointed in a previous action, that attorney is NOT your attorney for this action. YOU MUST APPLY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY

IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU DO NOT APPLY FOR AN ATTORNEY WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE COMPLAINT, AN ATTORNEY WILL NOT BE APPOINTED FOR YOU. Refer any questions to the attorney for Plaintiff, (843) 332-2231. South Carolina Department of Social Services

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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

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: 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)

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

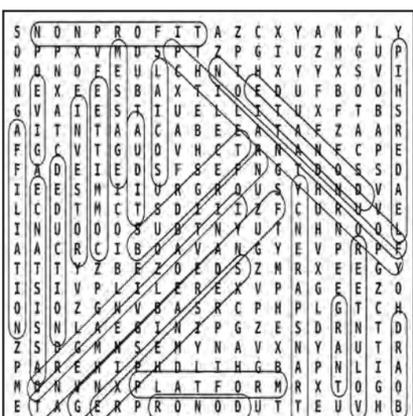
claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Earlene Ingram Heustess
Date of Death: 12/4/2019

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: Sandra H. Johnson
Address: 2117 Ruby Road, 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: Janice Marie Lyons
Date of Death: 11/14/2019
Case No: 2019ES1600583
Personal Representative: Charles E. Lyons
Address: 105 Richmond Road, Assonet, MA
(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20)

LEGALS ON 6B

Answers from 7A



Relatively little gas-tax-hike money spent on major road-rebuilding projects

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

Recently, the S.C. Department of Transportation announced that it had completed rebuilding a nine-mile stretch of Interstate 85 in Spartanburg County.

Yet as of Oct. 31, DOT had completed just 17 percent of the total estimated cost of other identified "pavements" projects in the county with gas-tax-hike revenues, newly released agency records show.

Spartanburg County was among at least 25 counties statewide that had completion rates of less than 25 percent in that category, The Nerve's latest review found.

And, in 16 counties, DOT had made no vendor payments with gas-tax-hike money through Oct. 31 for major road-rebuilding projects, according to agency records.

Through the first 28 months of the gas-tax-hike law, which raised the state gas tax 12 cents per gallon over six years and increased other vehicle taxes and fees, more than \$917 million in revenues had been collected, DOT and state Comptroller General's Office records show.

The collected amount was nearly \$155 million more than the projected cost of all paving projects statewide identified by DOT, and represented 80.5 percent of the more than \$1.1 billion in total identified road and bridge projects.

As of Oct. 31, a special state fund created with the gas-tax-hike law had a cash balance of about \$443.4 million, according to DOT and comptroller general records. That amount represented more than 48 percent of total collected revenues over the period.

In passing the gas-tax-hike law, which took effect July 1, 2017, lawmakers promised that the money would be used to fix crumbling roads and bridges in their constituents' communities. DOT has said 80 percent of the state's approximately 42,000 miles of roads needs repaving or rebuilding, and identified 465 out of 750 "structurally deficient" bridges to be replaced.

DOT plans to complete about 2,300 miles of road repairs by the end of 2021, though that number represents less than 7 percent of the approximately 33,600 miles of state roads that the agency has designated to be resurfaced or rebuilt, as The Nerve reported in August. DOT eventually wants to bring about 16,800 miles of state roads up to a "good" rating under its 10-year plan.

Despite lawmakers' promises to use gas-tax-hike money for road and bridge repairs, as of Oct. 31, DOT had designated \$247.2 million, or about 22 percent of the total approximately \$1.14 billion in project "commitments," for interstate widenings, agency records show. The agency began to more clearly acknowledge those projects after The Nerve in January revealed the plans.

A special state Senate panel, called the "Special Interstate Subcommittee," held its first meeting in October to discuss accelerating interstate expansion. The subcommittee was created by powerful state Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, who sits on the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank board, which over the years funneled several billion dollars to large construction projects in select counties.

The Nerve's latest review of DOT records found that Leatherman's home county of Florence was among at least 15 counties that recorded more than \$10 million in total vendor payments with gas-tax-hike revenues through Oct. 31.

Of the approximately \$401.2 million in total vendor payments statewide over the 28-month period – as broken down by county – \$141 million, or more than a third of the total, was spent mainly on "preservation" and "safety improvement" projects, agency records show.

"Preservation" projects include such things as "chip sealing" and "crack sealing"; widening shoulders and adding guard rails are examples of "safety improvement" projects, according to DOT's website.

Of the total vendor payments through Oct. 31, about \$198.5 million went for road "rehabilitation" projects, defined by DOT as the "removal and replacement of deteriorated pavement surface or by increasing pavement thickness to strengthen existing pavement sections to accommodate existing or projected traffic loading conditions."

But less than 15 percent of the total payments over the 28-month period – \$59.2 million – went for major road "reconstruction" projects, defined by DOT as typically requiring the "complete removal and replacement of the existing pavement structure" to increase the "structural capacity of the pavement to a level that is required for long term performance."

Only one county – Edgefield – reached the 50

percent mark of total vendor payments designated for reconstruction projects as of Oct. 31, The Nerve's review found.

No payments for reconstruction projects were listed for the following 16 counties, DOT records show: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Hampton, Kershaw,

Lee, McCormick, Orangeburg and Williamsburg.

In another 10 counties, less than 10 percent of total vendor payments went for identified reconstruction projects over the 28-month period: Lexington (9.24 percent), Florence (7.91 percent), Georgetown (7.85 percent), Marlboro (7.5 percent), Darlington, (3.99 percent), Jasper (3.92 percent),

Newberry (2.56 percent), Chesterfield (1.37 percent), Greenville (0.5 percent), and Horry (0.21 percent).

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



Hank Edwards of Darlington and Ian Matthews of Florence took top honors in the Southern Redfish Cup Event Dec. 7 at Port Royal. "No doubt the best day of fishing either of us have ever experienced. We put a ton of fish over the side of the boat, three of which got us the win," Edwards said. The team has already qualified for Redfish World Series through IFA and is No. 2 in the points series for the Southern Redfish Cup. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Legals

Continued from 5B 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: 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

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 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: Linda F. Thompson Date of Death: 11/18/2019 Case No: 2019ES16-571 Personal Representative: Donald L. Thompson, Jr. Address: 1326 Salem Road, Scanton, SC 29591 Attorney: John Jay James, II Address: PO Box 507, Darlington, SC 29540

(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20) NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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 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: Phyllis Coleen King Ward Date of Death: 10/28/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600543

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 amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Sandra G. Brown Address: 708 Dovefield Road, Lamar, SC 29069

(23p3 leave in thru 1-1-20) DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

JANUARY 7, 2020 6 P.M. COURTHOUSE ANNEX/EMS BUILDING 1625 HARRY BYRD HIGHWAY (SC HWY 151) DARLINGTON, SC 29532 843-398-4100 www.darcountsc.com Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing held before the Darlington County Council on the date and time above stated to receive comments on the following proposed leases: Proposed Lease Authorizing The Entry By the County of Darlington, Lessor, Into An Agreement For The Lease Of T-Hangar No. 11 Located At Darlington County Airport, Hangar Access Road, Darlington, South Carolina, For A Term Commencing February 1, 2020, And

Ending On February 28, 2025.

Anyone wishing to present an opinion on this proposed leases may do so at this time. Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of handicapped persons attending the meeting upon request. Special assistance requests should be made to J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council, at 843-944-8270, seventy-two hours prior to the scheduled public hearing.

(23c1 leave in thru 12-18-20) SUMMONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CASE NO.: 18-DR-16-0688 Karen Liles, Plaintiffs, vs. James Brandon Jolly and Sara Kathryn Tyner, Defendants. In Re: Kison R J (xx/xx/2018) A minor under 14 years of age TO: DEFENDANTS ABOVE

NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED

and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at his office located at 702 W. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550 within thirty (30) days after the date of service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time allowed, Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for judgment by default granting the relief prayed for in the Complaint.

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



Your neighbors, your news, The News & Press

Subscribe today to the **News & Press**

Name: _____ \$30/year in-state
Address: _____ \$40/year out-of-state
City: _____ Phone: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Email: _____
Mail with check to:
P.O. Box 513
Darlington, SC 29532

When It's Time...
A memorable proposal starts with the perfect ring. Let Main Street Jewelers help you make the first of many thoughtful wedding choices.

Main Street Jewelers
30 Public Square | Darlington
843.398.0010