



News & Press

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JANUARY 22, 2020

ESTABLISHED 1874

QUOTE

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

EDMUND BURKE

75¢

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WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

Teacher in teen-sex case was a star student at FMU

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

When Anna Patton was a student at Francis Marion University a few years ago, she was a busy single mom who still managed to land on the President's List for top grades every semester and still found time for volunteer work.

"It can be overwhelming when I have five or six classes with homework and tests, then volunteer work and then still have that time with (her young son)," Patton told the FMU stu-

dent newspaper in 2017. "I'm doing all of this for him, and I need to make sure I have a relationship with him."

Last week, the 22-year-old English teacher at Lamar High School was released from jail on a \$7,500 bond after being accused of having an illicit sexual relationship with a 16-year-old student.

Patton, who lives in Florence, apparently had only been teaching at the Darlington County school about six months. She was hired at the school July 7, 2019, according to national news media citing information

on Patton's Facebook page, which appears to have been taken down since the story broke.

Information on Patton's Facebook page, reports said, indicated she graduated from Francis Marion University in 2019 "after writing her honors thesis on the use of Nazi propaganda in German schools during the Third Reich."

Patton was vice president of FMU Honors, was a South Carolina Teaching Fellow and was on the board of directors of a charity helping foster families, news reports said, again citing

Facebook information.

In arrest warrants issued by the Darlington County Sheriff's Office Jan. 10 but not publicly announced until Jan. 13, Patton is accused of:

-- Sex / sexual battery with a student 16 or 17 years old, but without "aggravated force or coercion."

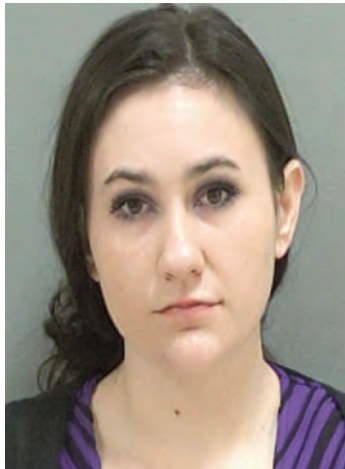
--Disseminating harmful material or exhibiting a harmful performance to minors.

-- Criminal solicitation of a minor.

The warrants allege that Patton -- who, as the student's teacher, had "direct supervisory

authority" over the youth -- engaged in sexual intercourse and other sexual acts with the student "multiple" times. The warrants allege these incidents took place "in the Lamar area" between Oct. 1, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2019. The charges are based on statements from the student, the warrants say.

The warrants also allege that Patton used social media to "disseminate harmful material to a minor" -- in this case, "sexually explicit nudity."



Anna Patton

TEACHER ON 3

Hatcher wins inaugural Chief Jim Stone Award

By Samantha Lyles
syles@newsandpress.net

The inaugural Chief Jim Stone Award, recognizing a Darlington County firefighter of outstanding dedication and service, was recently presented to Myrick Hatcher of the Darlington Fire Department. Though the pool of candidates included nominees from departments all around the county, it seemed fitting that the first winner serves at the very department Chief Stone called home for half a century.

Award recipient Hatcher began his firefighting career as a volunteer with Palmetto Rural Fire Department, then joined DFD as a part-timer. Since becoming a full-time member of the department about five years ago, Hatcher has won the respect of his peers, who named him Firefighter of the Year in 2018 (an honor he shared with colleague Lt. Brandon Maloch).



Myrick Hatcher PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

HATCHER ON 3



Re-elected Lamar Town Council members Angele White-Bradley (left) and Inez Lee were sworn in for another term by Magistrate Court Judge Craig LaCross. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

Lamar Council taking aim at town's vulture problem

By Samantha Lyles
syles@newsandpress.net

Lamar Town Council held their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 13 and discussed strategies to rid the town of a destructive flock of vultures roosting around the recently repainted water tower.

Council talked about the vulture problem in December and citizen Angela Grooms volunteered to investigate abatement options, which she delivered as a report during this meeting.

Grooms said the vultures currently troubling Lamar are the aggressive variety that attack small or vulnerable live animals, rip out rubber gaskets and silicone seals around roofing and windows, short out transformers and substations, and deposit massive amounts of acidic droppings and urine -- which can lead to costly property damage.

"The accumulation of bird droppings can reduce the functional life of a building's roof by 50 percent," said Grooms. "They can also dam-

age metal structures and the painted finishes on cars. We have that problem around our church ... because they like to roost all the way across the top of our church."

Vultures are a protected species because, as carrion eaters, they serve an important purpose by cleaning up dead animals. This protected status complicates the problem for towns like Lamar, where the roosting birds pose a threat to public works infrastructure like the town's water towers. Grooms said that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources offers a few legal options: try to drive the birds away with noise; purchase a permit to kill one vulture and hang the dead bird at the roost site to drive away the flock; or pay \$250 for DNR to bring a dead bird to the town to use.

"I've read that within three days, at most places, that they're gone. And most times, they don't come back," said Grooms.

LAMAR ON 3

Who stole Hartsville's bronze fox?

From Staff Reports

The bronze fox in Hartsville's Burry Park is missing, and the local police are not happy.

"The city's fox was stolen," the Hartsville Police Department said last week on its Facebook page.

"If you have been by Burry Park recently, you may have noticed one of our statues is missing," the department said. The park next to Applebee's "had, up until recently, a little fox statue on a rock. Someone has decided to remove the bolt, break the construction adhesive loose and steal the bronze fox."

"Although small (the statue is about the size of a small dog), bronze art is not cheap," the department said.

"This statue is a several-thousand-dollar piece of artwork that was there for everyone to enjoy and to help beautify the park. Someone has selfishly stolen it for themselves,



probably as a prank.

"Stealing something like this is not funny, it is not a joke and it is not a prank. When the person is caught, they could face a prison term of up to 10 years, depending on the exact value

of the statue. If the statue was damaged, they could be ordered to pay the full replacement value."

"If someone in your family or school has shown up recently with a bronze fox, it's proba-

bly ours," the Hartsville police warn.

If anyone has any leads on the fox, call the police at 843-383-3011.

'We can do better': August running for sheriff

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

Darlington County Sheriff Tony Chavis has picked up his first challenger in his 2020 reelection bid, and Chavis' opponent says more challengers are preparing to join the race.

Michael August, who announced his campaign to seek the GOP nomination for

sheriff over the weekend, said: "In the coming weeks, I predict there will be several other candidates to announce their intentions of running for sheriff. This should speak volumes that change is needed."

"Darlington County is at a critical point in its history," August told the crowd at his Saturday-afternoon news conference at the Courthouse. "... We need a dedicated, hard-working, honest sheriff to ensure the welfare of our citizens. Too much is at stake for this call to go unanswered."

Chavis was elected sheriff in 2016 as a Democrat.

August has said he has

worked in law enforcement for more than 25 years, including a long career with the Darlington Police Department and a job with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

On August's Facebook campaign page, he writes:

"I've been asked repeatedly ... after announcing my intention to run for sheriff of Darlington County, 'Why in Heaven's name would you want to do that?'"

"I believe I can do a better job than has been done by the current administration. I will not throw stones and I will not disparage the job they have

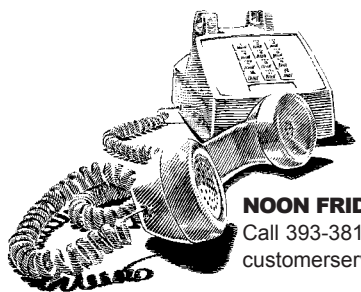
done. However, I am firm in my conviction that I would be a better sheriff than the one we currently have in place in our county.

"... The point I am making is that we can do better. Our county and its citizens deserve more than what has been offered so far. ... All citizens, regardless of who they are or what their status is in the community, should be given an equal voice and equal attention. I will not hide from the task. ... This is who I was born to be."



Michael August PHOTO BY BOBBY BRYANT





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

classifieds

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THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET



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
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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.
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Game: (SC1062) Double Pay Day
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.

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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 new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e ON US with AT&Ts Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! CALL 1-866-565-8453
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. Up to \$15,000.00 of GUARAN-

TEED Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 855-837-7719 or visit www.Life55plus.info/scan
REAL ESTATE
ACREAGE - 39 Acres- \$285,000/15 Acres- \$118,799/33 Acres-\$182,500. 39 Ac & 15 Ac can be bought as one tract. DAWN GLASS 864-923-9960

TELEVISION & INTERNET REPEAT
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 &

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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
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1009 N. Main Street

NATASHA ADDISON
Storage #68
Household items
Total due: \$283.00

GG MCNEIL
Storage #209
Household items
Total due: \$363.00

RUTH PARKS
Storage #225
Household items
Total due: \$253.00

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.

Canned food safety tips revealed

Canned food is convenient. Pantries that include a variety of canned foods make it possible to whip up last-minute meals. And because canned foods have longer shelf lives than fresh items, making them a part of your pantry can reduce food waste. That's a significant benefit for shoppers' bottom lines as well as the planet, as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations notes that

roughly one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year gets lost or wasted.

Canned foods may be more convenient than fresh foods, but home cooks should still follow a few simple pointers to ensure canned items are safe to eat.

- Don't presume that canned foods last forever. The Food Safety and Inspection Service, a division of the

United States Department of Agriculture, notes that there are limits to how long canned foods will remain preserved. Always adhere to the expiration date on the can. If an item has expired, do not eat it or serve it.

- Be especially careful with high-acid canned foods. The FSIS notes that canned foods, and especially certain high-acid foods, such as tomatoes, have natural chemicals that can

react with the container over time. This can cause changes in the texture and taste of the foods, and may even adversely affect their nutritional value. If the can is corroded or the foods' appearance is abnormal, do not eat or serve it.

- Avoid storing canned foods at high temperatures. According to the FSIS, the risk of spoilage increases sharply as the storage temperatures rise. Temperatures 100 F and above

are harmful to canned goods, so do your best to keep storage conditions mild.

- Store items in dry places. In addition to storing canned foods in cool places, make sure they're stored in dry areas. Never keep canned foods beneath a sink or beside a stove. Extra storage in garages or basements may seem like great places to store canned items purchased in bulk, but such areas tend to be damp and

often experience extreme temperature changes between seasons.

Both of those conditions can compromise canned foods.

Canned foods can be healthy additions to any diet, but only if they're stored properly and do not outlive their expiration dates.

Legals

continued from 10

all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein and the State of South Carolina, Department of Revenue, Defendants, under Case No. 2019-CP-16-00526, I, the undersigned, as Special Referee for Darlington County, will offer for sale at the public outcry at 12:00 p.m., on Monday, February 3, 2020, at the Darlington County Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, the following described real property, to-wit:

All that certain lot of parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situate on the east side of Cleveland Street in the Town and County of Darlington, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 39 in Section A of property owned by the Darlington Manufacturing Company, as defined on a map showing a subdivision thereof, as made by T.E. Wilson, C.E., dated May 10, 1939, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County in Plat Book 9 at page 174, No. 37 in Section A; on the South 82 feet by Cleveland Street. For a more particular description referene is hereby made to plat above referred to.

This being the same property conveyed to Betty S. Carnes by Deed of Myrtle S. Hildreth dated October 4, 1994 and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Darlington County in Book D-81 at page 111. TMS Number: 165-06-01-081

Property Address: 126 Cleveland Street, Darlington, SC 29532
TERMS OF SALE: For cash: the purchaser shall be required to deposit the sum of five (5%) percent of the amount of bid (in cash or equivalent) as earnest money and as evidence of good faith. If the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, the Plaintiff may, after paying the costs of the sale, apply the debt due upon its Mortgage against its bid in lieu of cash. Should the person making the highest bid at the sale fail to comply with the terms of his bid by depositing the said five (5%) percent in cash, then the property shall be sold at the risk of such bidder on the same sales date or subsequent date as the Special Referee may find convenient and advantageous. Should

the last and highest bidder fail to comply with the terms of his bid within thirty (30) days of the final acceptance of his bid, then the Special Referee or his designated representative shall re-advertise and resell the property on the same terms on a subsequent date at the risk of such bidder. The purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on deed. 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 interest rate contained in the Order.

Note: Deficiency Judgment was waived, therefore, the sale be final.

Note: If the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the scheduled sale of the above-referenced property, then the sale of the property will be null, void and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day. Note: This sale is also made subject to all Darlington County taxes and existing easements and restrictions of record.

January 10, 2020
s/W. Haigh Porter
W. Haigh Porter
Special Referee Darlington County
Michael S. Hopewell
Abbott, McKissick & Hopewell, LLC
Post Office Box 148
Florence, SC 29503
Attorney for Plaintiff

(27c3 leave in thru 1-29-20)
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: Daniel B. Causey, III Date of Death: 01/04/2020 Case No: 2020ES1600018 Personal Representative:

Nancy P. Causey
Address: 109 Park St, Darlington, SC 29532
(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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(28c3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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Florence, SC 29501
(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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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: Louise Gainey O'Neal Date of Death: 12/08/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600025 Personal Representative: Danny Hugh O'Neal Address: 1028 China Rd, Lot 6, Hartsville, SC 29550

(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
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(28p3 leave in thru 2-5-20)
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

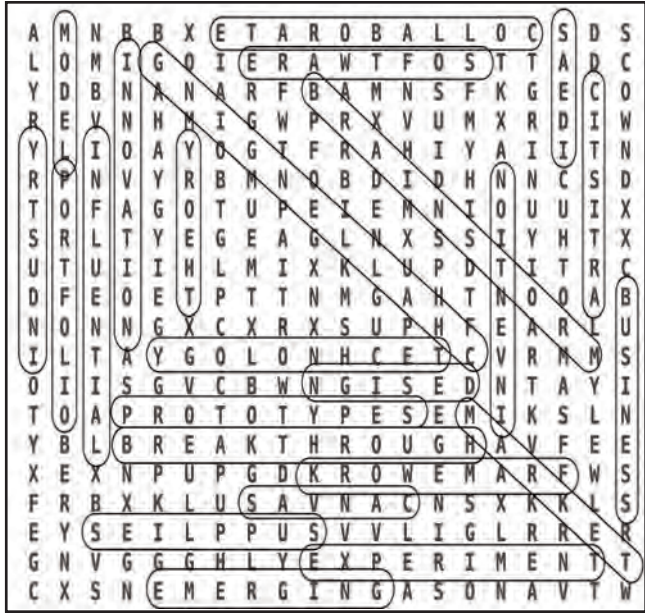
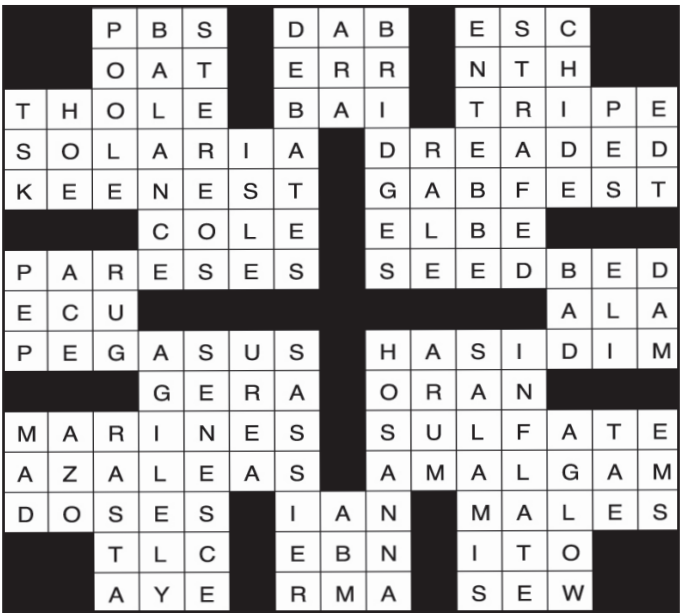
A meeting of the City of Darlington Historic Landmarks Commission will be held in City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of those interested in the Application for a Certificates of

Appropriateness, as listed below.

Item # 1 (Case 11/12/2019) Property of Joy Goodsell & Mark Pullen, located at 125 Park St., Tax Map No. 164-14-02-086; bordered on the North by Park Street; bordered on the East by the property of Thomas & Holly Morrison, Tax Map No. 164-14-02-087; bordered on the South by the property of Carolina Bank, Tax Map No. 164-14-02-090, and by the property of Susan H. Heitsman, Tax Map No. 164-14-02-080; and bordered on the West by the property of Howard S. Garland, Tax Map No. 164-14-02-085.
PROPOSAL: REQUEST TO INSTALL NEW DOOR.
Item # 2 (Case 02/01/2019) Property of Robert L. and Susan B. Bridges, located at the corner of West Broad Street and Edwards Avenue, Tax Map No. 165-06-02-013; bordered on the North by West Broad Street; bordered on the East by the property of Gary & Jane Johnson, Tax Map No. 165-06-02-014; bordered on the South by the property of Recie L. Freeman, Tax Map No. 165-06-02-038; and bordered on the West by Edwards Avenue.
REVIEW OF WORK AS APPROVED, SPECIFICALLY EXTERIOR PAINT COLOR.
Individuals may submit comments in writing by Thursday, January 30, 2020, to City Planning Department, P.O. Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540, or they may provide comments in person at the Commission meeting. Info: 843-398-4000 x 103 or rock@cityofdarlington.com.

(28c2 leave in thru 1-29-20)

Answers from 8





Repairing damaged driveways

Asphalt and concrete driveways are common throughout suburban neighborhoods. They are as much a part of a home as lawns, decks and other exterior elements. Regardless of how they're utilized, driveways need to be cared for and maintained to retain their appearance and function.

Even the most durable driveways can suffer from cracks and pits over time. As cracks form, they pave the way for more deterioration if they are not addressed. Water infiltration can break down the integrity of the driveway during freeze and thaw periods, and any little hole or crack can promote weed growth. Driveway repair can be a do-it-yourself project, but pay attention to the details to ensure the job is done right.

Asphalt
The home improvement resource The Family Handyman says it is key to first repair cracks and pits in an asphalt driveway before planning to topcoat it, which is generally done every year or so to

maintain its appearance and durability. A variety of topcoat products are available at various price points. Experts recommend investing in a quality product that will not shrink and crack.

A melt-in material that is similar to products used by highway crews can be purchased for around \$100. This product also will require use of a propane torch. Caulk-style crack repair products may not require as many tools, and are much easier to apply. They may not last as long, however. Homeowners must weigh the pros and cons to each before beginning.

The experts at Popular Mechanics say that there also are other asphalt patch mixes available at home supply retailers. Serious holes, rather than cracks, can be addressed with a coarse-aggregate filler commonly referred to as cold patch.

After cracks and holes are filled, use a sealer to lock everything in place and create a smooth topcoat appearance. Speak with a store employee if you are unsure which product

is needed for your application.

Concrete
The process is similar with concrete driveways, yet the products differ. Small driveway cracks can be repaired by scrubbing out the crack to remove debris and then filling using a mortar repair compound, suggests the repair advice site Home Guides. Larger cracks and potholes should be cleaned. Once that's done, apply a painted-in bonder to the crack or hole, followed by a dry concrete patching product mixed with water. The material can be worked into the damaged area with a trowel, and then leveled using a wood board. Afterward, a liquid concrete sealer can be applied to help prevent future cracks and holes.

Homeowners who are hesitant to fix their driveways can contact masons or asphalt specialists to perform the job. Keeping up on driveway repair can prolong the life of the surface and help delay a complete driveway replacement for several years.

Finding balance in a tech-driven world

It is impossible to dispute the many ways technology has positively affected the world. Tech has made interacting and collaborating with people from all corners of the planet as convenient as conversing with a next door neighbor. Technology also has changed the face of education, making it possible for students from all walks of life to easily access a wealth of information at the click of a button.

For all of its many attributes, technology has its drawbacks as well. One of the notable detriments is the "always on" reality of tech, as well as the ability to become addicted to such instant gratification. Few adults and children can spend more than a few minutes without checking their devices.

According to a report in the Daily Telegraph, on average people are online 24 hours a week, twice as long as 10 years ago. One in five adults spends as much as 40 hours a week online. According to Common Sense Media, teens spend an average of nine hours a day online, compared to about six hours for kids between the ages of eight and 12 and 50 minutes for children eight years old and younger.

Technology also has blurred the lines that distinguish work and personal time. Gone are the days of leaving the office behind when the workday ends in early evening. Today's workers can take work home, work remotely and even check work emails or put in some hours while on vacation. Children, too, can pay a price as a result of engaging with technology. For example, various studies indi-

cate more than half of adolescents and teens have been bullied online.

These tips may help adults and children regain control and find balance in a tech-driven world.

- Set strict usage times. According to Net Nanny, a technology and internet watchdog site, being plugged into devices, on an almost continual basis, directly affects the brain by keeping it in a state of constant stimulation. This can make it difficult for the brain to get the downtime it needs to recharge. Limit hours of screen time, and wind down at least an hour or so before bed.
- Put devices on silent. If you or your children cannot resist the lure of devices, set them on silent or put them out of sight and out of reach at key times during the day.

- Beef up in-person socialization. Instead of texting or emailing, speak with friends, family and coworkers in person.
- Increase exercise. Time spent outdoors away from computers or other devices can be beneficial to the mind and body.
- Find alternative solutions. Rather than running an internet search every time you have a question, look up answers in a book, travel to learn about new things, experience new hobbies, and immerse yourself in the physical world with renewed vigor.

Tech has changed the world, but it doesn't have to consume people's daily lives. With some mindfulness, individuals can find the right balance.



5 things to look for when selecting a lawn service

Most people want beautiful, lush lawns and well-maintained landscapes. Not every homeowner has the time or the inclination to do the work, however. Many homeowners rely on a lawn service to help maintain their properties and keep their homes looking great.

Lawn companies come in all shapes and sizes — from fly-by-night workers with ill-maintained equipment to franchised companies with thousands of workers across the country to everything in between.

Finding the right service for your needs may require some homework and understanding of what sets a quality lawn service company apart from one that's best avoided.

1. Look to the internet.
The internet connects consumers via shared information and reviews. Reading company and product reviews on Yelp and Angie's List can help homeowners make informed deci-

sions. Homeowners also can seek recommendations via local Facebook group pages.

2. Insist on licensure and insurance.
It's not the standard to be licensed and insured, but it is an essential step for finding a business that stands behind its work and the safety of its employees and customers. If a worker gets injured on your property or if the mower kicks a big rock through your storm door, you'll be liable if the company isn't insured.
3. Get a written proposal.
Be wary of companies that will quote you an offer over the phone without seeing your property in person. Understand which types of services and treatments will be included in the weekly, monthly or annual plan. Discuss the types of fertilizers and herbicides used and whether they fit with your lifestyle and environmental

consciousness.

4. Ask for a contract in writing
When you find a business that offers the type of work you need done at the right price, be sure that a contract is worked up and both parties sign it. This protects you as a homeowner and could help you in the long run if guarantees are not met or work is unsatisfactory.
5. One size fits all.
Landscaping is more than just mowing the lawn. However, some lawn companies may only mow lawns and will plant flowers or perform spring and fall cleanup. If a company cannot fill all of your needs, find one that can; otherwise, you may need to hire specialists in each area of yard maintenance. Lawn care companies are something to consider as the weather warms and spring projects begin anew.



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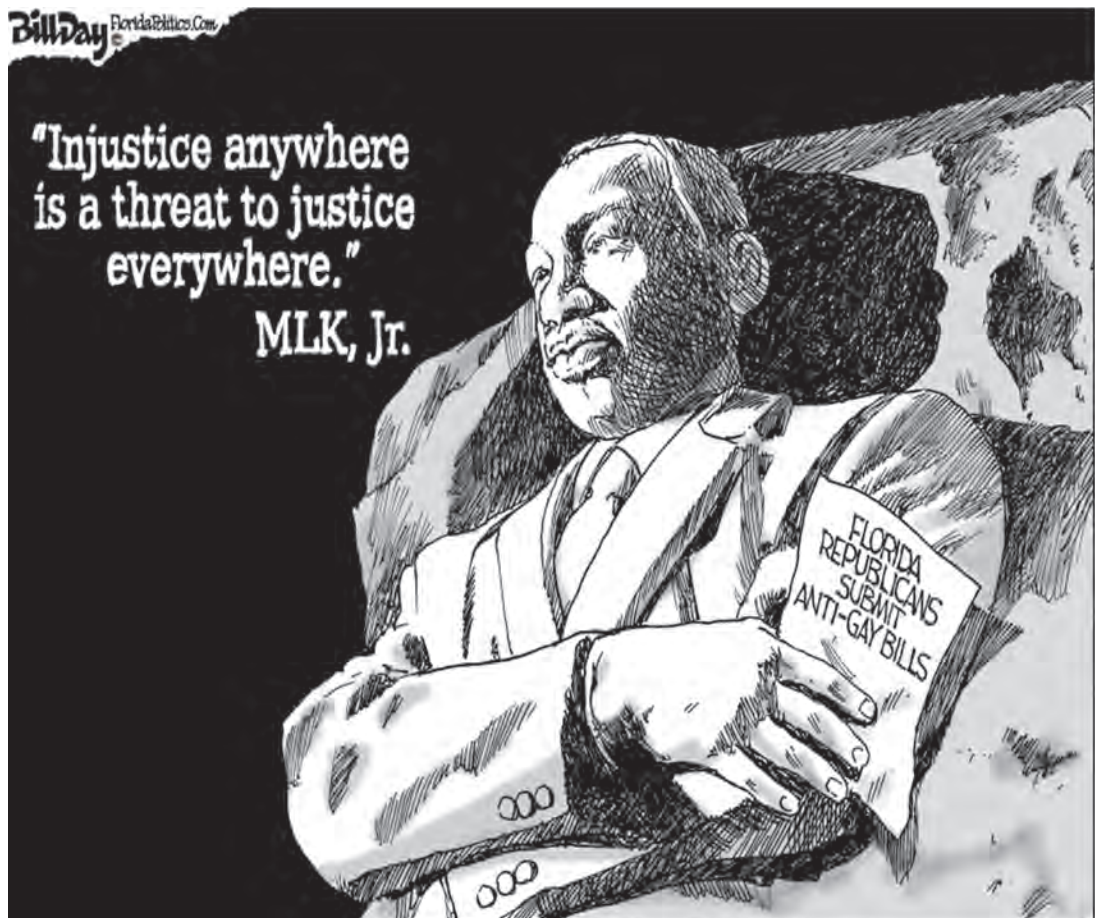
Word of the Week

dauntless -- not to be intimidated or subdued

Merriam-Webster.com

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THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



OP-ED

Living on the West End: Come, reminisce with me

By Bill Shepard

Did you know that the city of Darlington once had a landfill where stuff that no one wanted was carried and thrown away?

Of course, the word “landfill” had not come into my vocabulary at that time. We called places like that “trash piles.” Of course, when I was a boy, folks didn’t have much to throw away! I suppose that might be the reason I have a hard time, even to this day, throwing anything away!

The landfill or the trash pile was located near the creek bridge behind the old mill. Two times each week, trash collected from uptown was hauled to the trash pile and deposited. Mr. Tarleton (I never knew his first name) drove a large white horse hitched to a big wagon filled with stuff he had collected.

The boys who lived on the village nearby would meet him there and plunder through the trash for things they could use. This writer was one of those boys.

Cardboard boxes to sit in could be used for sliding down the railroad embankment. That seemed so much fun when I was a boy. Old, worn-out tricycle or wagon wheels could be used to make a wagon to play with. We never knew what we might find and that was especially true when he brought the load he had collected from around the town square!

The yard men who collected and disposed of junk collected from the mill also used the spot to deposit their stuff. The place was filled and then left for time to take care of it. It finally grew over with undergrowth. I suppose relics from that time could still be found at the spot.

Only a few hundred yards from where the city deposited its trash, there was a large artesian flowing well. The well freely spilled a large flow of water day and night. Some said that the well furnished all the water used at the mill and in the houses on the village.

I have questioned how the water from the well was pumped to that part of the village that lay across the creek from the well. One has to keep in mind that there was no large earth-moving equipment available when the village houses were built! Besides, the water would need to run across the creek, under the road and then through the railroad embankment to the first house. This writer lived in that first house for 10 years and cannot believe this is the answer.

The mill and that part of the village might very well have been furnished water from the well. There came a time when the mill company enclosed the old flowing well. No longer could a pedestrian stop for a cool drink.

Today, if folks pass along the road nearby, all they could see would be the trees and undergrowth that has taken over. Like the landfill nearby, nature has hidden it from view.

While we are traveling along the back roads in our minds, let’s visit another place and time where many hours of wholesome pastime were had. How many have memories of the baseball field called the Diamond?

That was the spot where the Milliken Nine played ball. The Milliken Nine was the team that got its name from the large textile mill owned by Milliken and Deering Co. All the players held jobs in the mill. As far as I know, none was paid for being on the team.

There was never a charge for watching the team play and there was always a large crowd. On some occasions a person might pass his hat through the crowd for a donation to help pay for balls and bats.

One of the players went on to play professional baseball, I learned in my later years. His name was Rock Stroud. Some of Rock’s relatives returned to Darlington to be in the reunion being held in honor of the old mill, and I talked with them about Rock. He played center field.

Some names of other players I remember are Oscar Cline, called Oz for short. Oz played shortstop between second and third base. Oz was also a good batter. Seldom did he fail to get on base while playing.

Pappy Bradshaw was a jolly, big man and played as catcher behind the batter. Sun Strickland played first base and was an excellent player. Azee Taylor and his brother were in charge of the team, along with one Mr. Stroud who was superintendent of the spinning room at the mill. Yes, there were other members of the team, too many to name even if I could recall all their names.

The teams were from surrounding localities. Those I recall were Oates, Lamar, Mechanicsville, Dovesville, Mont Clare, Timmonsville, Indian Branch and a few others.

This writer spent many pleasant hours watching the players play ball on the Diamond. They are all gone now, but they left behind some good memories to be recalled by folks like myself and I wonder how many others. Do you, the reader, remember?



OP-ED

Debating the presidential debates

By Tom Jones
The Poynter Institute

Some leftover thoughts from last Tuesday night’s Democratic presidential debate:

First off, nice comeback for the Dems in terms of interest. The debate averaged 7.3 million viewers on CNN, which is up more than a million from the 6.2 million for December’s debate on PBS and CNN.

(Oh, quick side note: the “Jeopardy Greatest of All Time” tournament drew huge TV numbers: 14.4 million, 14.8 million, 15.4 million and 13.5 million for the four nights.)

Let’s see if the Democrats can keep interest up because plenty of debates are on the way. Debates are scheduled for Feb. 7 in New Hampshire, Feb. 19 in Las Vegas and Feb. 25 in South Carolina. That’s three in only 19 days and the

potential for debate fatigue. This is after seven debates so far.

FiveThirtyEight’s Maggie Koerth wrote, “The downside to having had this many Democratic primary debates already is that it all kind of feels predictable and unsurprising at this point. But realistically, this is the point where most voters actually start to tune in, right?”

We shall see.

Maybe a heavy rotation of debates made things more difficult for CNN on Tuesday. I mean, there are only so many times you can ask candidates how they are going to pay for their healthcare plans or why they have what it takes to be commander-in-chief.

Whatever the reason, 24 hours after the latest debate, reviews of Tuesday’s moderators performance were mixed. #CNNisTrash was trending on

Twitter for a while during and after the debate. I criticized Abby Phillip’s question of Bernie Sanders that essentially called him a liar over his denials that he ever told Elizabeth Warren that a woman couldn’t be elected president.

HuffPost’s Zach Carter had a story with the headline: “CNN Completely Botched The Democratic Presidential Debate.” Carter wrote that the questions were “terrible” and “awful.” “... They were the focus of CNN’s tedious, interminable, frivolous debate on Tuesday night, a fiasco of irrelevance held three weeks before the Iowa caucuses.” He also called it the worst debate of this cycle so far.

Rolling Stone called CNN’s performance “villainous and shameful.” Writer Matt Taibbi wrote, “Over a 24-hour period before, during, and after the

debate, CNN bid farewell to what remained of its reputation as a nonpolitical actor via a remarkable stretch of factually dubious reporting, bent commentary, and heavy-handed messaging.”

That seems a little too strong. I don’t believe CNN has permanently sullied its reputation. And Phillip’s question notwithstanding, I thought the moderators did a decent job. But perhaps the night can be a cautionary tale for ABC, NBC and CBS, which (in that order) host the next three debates. The stakes are getting higher and the scrutiny is getting more intense.

OP-ED

Window to the past

By Tom Poland

The old window looks out on Highway 25.

The view at best is limited. Standing behind the window, you’d peer through iron bars and yards away a pine thicket. The real view, however, lets us see many years into the past.

This window set in Elberton granite with its stout though rusting bars belongs to the old chain gang camp in Edgefield.

I find the old window to be beautiful. It’s a study in geometry with its squares within squares, the mossy granite, and one green leafy vine that so far defies winter. Peering into the window you see a void of black, but if you listen you will hear hammers, music, and voices.

“That’s the sound of the men working on the chain gang. All day long they’re singing hooah aah hooah aah.”

That old Sam Cooke song became a hit in the summer of 1960. The story goes that Cooke was touring, when he handed out cigarettes to a chain gang working on the side of the road.

Among them were Cooke’s brother.

As for my chain gang experience it was a beautiful day for visiting the past. Over the old camp a gossamer moon, wafer thin and pale, affixed the sky, a button of pearl button stitched to blue linen. The stockade with its scalloped façade brought the Alamo to mind.

I walked up to another window in the old camp. In it, a rust-splotted knife lay with its cutting edge facing corroded bars. It could have cut through the window casing’s rotten wood like cutting through hot butter.

Above the knife two dirt dauber nests muddled the dusty windowpanes. Holes in the nests revealed where young daubers had broken free of their mud prison.

The iron, steel, glass, and stone looked cursed. Standing here amid the cold granite stones felt wrong. It was a place of confinement and forced labor, but you know the old saying, “Don’t commit the crime if you don’t want to do the time.”

Yes, run afoul of some law, just or not, and you get a stay in the crossbars hotel.

So, what we have here is a chain gang camp, circa 1940, on Highway 25, three miles north of the Edgefield Square. What little I know is this. Convicts laid the foundation and that Edgefield granite became a place of confinement with walls 12 to 16 inches thick.

If you go see it, walk to the left rear of the building toward an old barn and study the ground. You’ll come across graves. A potter’s field of sorts holds prisoners, indigents, and drifters who died passing

through Edgefield. Lots of graves, mostly unmarked. The Edgefield Preservation Association hopes to identify and mark as many graves as possible.

The chain gang is a notorious part of the South’s past. I dimly recall seeing men working the roads back in the

1950s. Now and then in various places I see unfettered prisoners in orange togs picking up litter. I doubt they would inspire someone like Sam Cooke to write a song, but I’m sure of something else. Neither will they be buried in a nameless grave in a spot of woods easily passed by.

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 styles@newsandpress.net
Design: Stephan Drew ads@newsandpress.net
Customer Service: customerservice@newsandpress.net

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Teacher

continued from 1

These charges are based on both “evidence” and statements from the youth, the warrants say.

The Darlington County School District issued a statement Jan. 13 saying that Patton “has been placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation,” but the district never identified her by name. “Due to privacy laws, the district cannot discuss personnel matters,” district spokeswoman Audrey Childers said. News media learned the teacher’s name from the arrest warrants.

Patton will continue to be paid during her leave, Childers said.

On Jan. 14, the South Carolina Board of Education suspended Patton’s teaching certificate – her license to teach in S.C. public schools.

In the board’s order, posted on its website, the agency wrote: “The (S.C. Department of Education) has reason to believe that ... Ms. Patton may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required.”

The board’s order says that on Jan. 11, “a concerned parent” contacted the Darlington County Sheriff’s Office to report the alleged relationship between Patton and the student. (The board’s order is the only account that indicates how authorities found out about the relationship – but the board’s account has the citizen calling authorities after the date on the arrest warrants.)

A 2017 feature story in The Patriot, Francis Marion’s stu-

dent newspaper, described Patton as a single mom – she has a son, Isaac. The story’s headline was “Single mother serves campus, community.”

“There are a lot of statistics about single mothers,” Patton told The Patriot when she was a sophomore at FMU. “One thing that I want Isaac to take away from my whole college experience is that anything is possible. You don’t have to be a statistic.”

The Patriot story said Patton had helped with the Foster Care Clothing Closet (FCCC) in Florence, a nonprofit that provides foster families with clothes and necessities. Patton was elected to the board for the FCCC.

Patton told the Patriot: “I think that really working with them has made the biggest impact because I’ve gotten to see the impact that has come out of that. I got to see kids open up presents that we wrapped and eat the cookies that we baked. I’ve got a big heart for that kind of stuff. That has really kept me going, honestly. I love to make other people happy.”

She told the FMU newspaper that her son “has kept me grounded, and I haven’t gone off the deep end. I’ve been on the President’s List every semester because he’s just given me another reason to try my hardest. I cannot look into his little eyes and tell him I’m not giving my all. I’ve got way too much riding on college to fool around.”

Other stories in the FMU newspaper tell of Patton’s involvement in campus activities. In 2018, The Patriot reported, she helped organize a rally against sexual violence.

Hatcher

continued from 1

“Myrick is the type of person that exemplifies exactly what Chief Stone set as an example to our firefighters,” said Cavanaugh.

“He always puts the fire department and family first. He is always there to cover calls, come in when someone needs off. If there are any community projects to do he is the first one to show up and the last one to leave.”

“Everything he is asked to do he does with a smile because he loves helping others! He is always among the top five call takers in the department and has been awarded the Firefighter of the Year in the past. On any given day he stays busy tidying up around the station and always looking to make the City of Darlington Fire Department a better place!”

Sponsored by the Stone family, the award is intended to celebrate the efforts of top-notch firefighters who carry on the traditions of service and camaraderie that Stone so cherished.

“It is our hope the trophy will be a constant reminder to Myrick, his family, friends and colleagues that their service is greatly appreciated and significant to the community they serve,” says Angie Stone Godbold. “Myrick’s efforts as an outstanding firefighter remind us of very much of how Daddy was as a young, eager

firefighter when he started out.”

For his part, Hatcher says he was surprised to be singled out for this recognition, and feels greatly honored to be mentioned in the same breath as other DFD Firefighters of the Year, as well as Chief Jim Stone.

“I wasn’t expecting it (the Stone award), but I’m pretty proud to have it,” says Hatcher. “It was an honor to receive the award from Chief Stone’s family, and I hope that in the future I can keep honoring his memory and doing good for the department and the city. That’s really all I want, is to help out the city.”

Hatcher remembers Chief Stone as a consummate professional at fire scenes, a commander who would explain your tasks one time, clearly, and expect you to do your job right. He also recalls the chief’s legendary sense of playfulness, noting that Stone would never call him by his correct name until Hatcher joined DFD.

“I had to earn that honor,” Hatcher says, adding that once he was a member of the DFD family, Stone treated him like just that -- family. Hatcher notes that Jim and Dot Stone even came to his home and congratulated him on winning Firefighter of the Year.

The Chief Jim Stone Award will be presented each year to one Darlington County firefighter, and nominations can be sent to Dot Stone, 410 Spring St., Darlington, SC 29532 or via e-mail at chiefjim-stoneaward@gmail.com.

Protect your baby from infection during pregnancy

Pregnancy is a happy time for women and their partners. While the physical challenges of pregnancy can be difficult, many women overcome such challenges by working with their physicians and reminding themselves that they will soon have a newborn baby to hold and love.

No woman wants to imagine complications during a pregnancy. However, preparing in advance for certain issues, including prenatal infections, can make them easier to confront should they arise.

Group B Strep International, a nonprofit organization that promotes awareness and prevention of Group B Strep disease in babies from before birth through early infancy, notes that adhering to the acronym HYGIENE can be an effective way to prevent infections during pregnancy.

H: Handwashing Helps

Routine handwashing is a simple and effective way to reduce the risk of prenatal infection. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after gardening or coming into contact with soil or sand. Once a child is born, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after changing a diaper, feeding a child and/or wiping a young child’s nose or drool.

Y: Yes to prenatal care

Prioritizing prenatal care is another effective way to prevent prenatal infection. Women should request that their urine be cultured for bacteria at their first prenatal visit and should see their physicians immediately if any symptoms of vaginitis appear. Physicians will discuss and may recommend various tests during a pregnancy, and women should not hesitate to ask any questions they have regarding these tests.

G: Good food prepared safely

The right foods can nourish growing babies and reduce the risk for prenatal infections. Heed physicians’ recommendations on foods to avoid during a pregnancy, which will likely include, but is not limited to, unpasteurized milk and



cheese made from unpasteurized milk. Make sure all meat and poultry is thoroughly cooked. When handling food, make sure to peel or wash fruits and vegetables and store raw meat separately from other foods. Thoroughly wash all surfaces, including countertops and cutting boards, after contact with raw meat, poultry, seafood, and unwashed fruits and vegetables.

I: Immunizations

Women also can reduce prenatal infection risk by making sure they are current with their immunizations. Ask your physician if you are immune to rubella and chickenpox, each of which can cause stillbirth or serious birth defects. The vaccinations for these conditions

cannot be administered during pregnancy, so if you are not immune, avoid contact with anyone infected with either virus.

E: Evade others’ bodily fluids

Steer clear of others’ bodily fluids, including saliva, urine, blood, and semen, which may contain germs that can compromise the health of your baby. Avoid sharing drinks, utensils and toothbrushes with young children, as women are most commonly exposed to certain prenatal infections through the saliva and urine of young children.

N: No to unnecessary invasive procedures

Some germs can cross intact membranes, so avoid

unnecessary, frequent or forceful internal exams that can push germs closer to the fetus. Women are advised to discuss stripping membranes with their physicians early in pregnancy so they can make the most informed decisions possible.

E: Environmental precautions

Certain environmental precautions, such as walking in the center of trails to avoid ticks and wearing gloves while gardening, can reduce the risk of prenatal infections. Women also should avoid changing cat litter and make sure there are no areas of standing water, which attracts mosquitoes, around their homes.

Lamar

continued from 1

Grooms said SCDNR had emailed her a proposal, which she would forward to Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson and Council members, and DNR could get an agent to Lamar as early as the following week.

Greg McCutcheon of engineering firm Davis & Brown gave an update on the ongoing water and sewer system improvements.

He said there was a delay in installing new aerators in the town’s water treatment pond due to the wrong-sized cables being ordered. McCutcheon said correct cables have been ordered and should be installed shortly. He added that a meeting with SCDHEC was scheduled for Jan. 14 to touch base and make sure all projects are still on track.

Police Chief Carl Scott introduced officer Stephen Sweikata, who joined the department in November. Sweikata, a native of Bronx,

New York, has been a police officer for eight years. He said he has enjoyed going around Lamar and meeting people, and he loves the town.

“Everyone here has got a really nice vibe,” Sweikata said, noting that the local Halloween and Christmas celebrations were really enjoyable, and he looks forward to seeing his first Egg Scramble Jamboree in the spring.

Chief Scott said that the department is taking applications and he hopes to add more police officers in the

near future.

Also at this meeting, council voted to adopt Darlington County’s building codes and permit fee schedules, which will allow the town to use county building inspectors on local projects.

Council also voted to change the payment schedule for franchise fees received from Duke Energy and Spectrum. By breaking that annual fee into quarterly payments, the town will have improved financial flexibility during the year.

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Darlington County Community Action Agency

Annual Board Meeting

Darlington County Community Action Agency Board of Commissioners invites you: our community partners, friends, and families to our Annual Board Meeting. Join us as we tell “**Our Story**” by sharing events, challenges and accomplishments in 2019 and our plans for 2020 and beyond to fight the causes and effects of poverty in Darlington County.

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Location: 904 S. 4th St.
Hartsville, SC 29550

5:30 pm

- Head Start Art Exhibit and Open House

6:00 pm

- Board Meeting

Featuring:

- Performance by Head Start Children
- Presentation by Rasheeda Gilmore, DCCAA Youth Leadership Oratorical Winner
- Lite Refreshments



Head Start children selecting books for reading



Youth Leadership Participant, Rasheeda Gilmore, being awarded State Oratorical prize by J. McElroy, DCCAA Director, SC Association of Community Action

Mission

To promote sustainable economic self-sufficiency by eliminating the causes of poverty through partnerships and programs to improve the standard of living of low-income

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Jer eMiAh 29:11

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Anne Weatherford Brown

DARLINGTON -- Anne Weatherford Brown, 58, died Monday, Jan. 13, 2019, at her residence.

A memorial service was held in the chapel at Belk Funeral Home Friday, Jan. 17, 2019. The family received friends following the service.

Born June 24, 1961, in Darlington, she was the daughter of the late Buster and Ella Griggs Weatherford. Anne was proud to call herself a "country girl" and a "jack of all trades."

She enjoyed fishing and spending time with family. She attended Mechanicsville Baptist Church.

Surviving is her husband, Franklin "Bunky" Isgett, her children: Charles "Chuck" (Dacia Gainey) Weatherford, Eli Weatherford; siblings: Buster (Cindy) Weatherford Jr., Bobbie (Brad) Leger, Penny (Billy) Dority and Jenny (J.W.) Weatherford.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a

daughter, Samantha Weatherford, grandchild, Samuel Weatherford, and brothers Ernest, Robert, Brooks and Sandy Atkinson.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneral-home.com.

James Allan DeFee

James Allan DeFee, 79, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020.

A graveside service was held Friday, Jan. 17, in Grove Hill Cemetery, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family greeted friends following the service and other times at 1168 Wilds Hall Dr., Darlington.

Allan was born Sept. 8, 1940, in Florence County, the son of the late James and Mary DeFee. He worked for DuPont in Florence for 23 years and retired from DeFee's Heating and Air.

Mr. DeFee was of the Baptist faith. He enjoyed riding his tractor and cutting grass. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father and papa. He

will be missed dearly.

Surviving is his wife of 55 years, Ginny Suggs DeFee, his son, Michael A. DeFee, his granddaughter, Kelsey B. DeFee, several aunts, brothers and sisters-in-law; and nieces and nephews.

The family of Mr. DeFee expresses their gratitude to the doctors and nurses at McLeod Regional Medical Center for their care and kindness.

Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association or a charity of one's choice.

Living on Purpose

Let patience have its perfect work

Editor's note: This is a reprint of a Bill Holland column that originally ran last year.

By Bill holland



Difficult times are not something we enjoy going through; in fact we usually try to avoid even talking about them.

When trouble comes, the first thing we ask is why is this happening and if we are not cautious, we can easily be drawn into a full-blown mental, emotional and spiritual breakdown.

You would think as many of these storms that we have experienced, we would be learning how to handle them, but for the most part, we are just as shocked and confused as all the times before. Unfortunately, we just can't seem to realize the spiritual value of our trials and how there is a way to walk through them with peace, faith and understanding.

In the book of James, we find a passage that sounds like something someone would say when they cannot think of anything else, but in reality, it is a wise spiritual principle that can change the way we perceive our problems.

Chapter 1 and verse 2 and 3 say, "My brothers, consider it all joy when you fall into various adversities; knowing this that the trying of your faith works endurance and patience."

If our journey was without adversity or tribulations and if we could always fix our own problems, we would not really need to pray or have faith in God. When everything is going smoothly, we usually do not worry about adjusting our attitude or evaluating the way we think.

However, when we run into obstacles and life becomes difficult, most of us are not prepared and immediately become overwhelmed with worry and fear. Some of our options include running from them or denying them, or confronting it the wrong way and making it worse, but our most favorable reaction is turning to God for help.

When we make the decision to trust Him completely, this will open up a brand-new way of comprehending what He is trying to do in our life. James continues in verse 12: "Blessed is the person who is patient under stress and stands up under temptation, for when they have stood the test, they will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love Him."

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit that is demonstrated and developed when under extreme pressure. The word patience is associated with

Jane Windham's Pulled Pork with Root Beer BBQ Sauce



Ingredients

- 1 3-3 1/2 pound whole pork loin boneless
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup root beer

For the Root Beer Barbeque Sauce

- 1 1/2 cups root beer
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon liquid smoke
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper or to taste
- salt to taste
- 6-8 hamburger buns toasted

Instructions

Cut the pork loin into four pieces and place them in a 6 quart slow cooker. Sprinkle them with the chili powder, salt, and pepper, then pour the

root beer into the slow cooker around the pork. Cover and cook for 6 to 8 hours on low, until the pork is very tender and easy to shred.

For the Sauce

Meanwhile, make the sauce by combining the root beer, ketchup, orange juice, Worcestershire sauce, molasses, brown sugar, mustard, garlic, liquid smoke, onion powder and pepper in a large, heavy saucepan and whisking until smooth. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 8-10 minutes to blend the flavors and reduce the sauce slightly. Season to taste with salt, if you feel it needs it, and additional black pepper. Remove the pan from the heat. Allow the sauce to cool slightly then transfer it to a bowl or other container with a tight-fitting lid and refrigerate it until you're ready to use it. The sauce can be made in advance and stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

When the cooking time is up, remove the pork to a large cutting board and discard all but about 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid. Use two forks to shred the pork then return it to the slow cooker with the reserved cooking liquid. Add as much of the Root Beer Barbeque Sauce as desired and toss with the shredded pork to combine. I usually add about 1/2 cup to 1 cup of the sauce and reserve the rest to serve on

the side so people can make their sandwiches as saucy as they'd like.

Cover and cook on low for an additional 30 minutes, until warmed through. Serve on toasted hamburger buns with additional Root Beer Barbecue Sauce on the side.

See more from Jane Windham at cottageatthecrossroads.com.

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

First Church of God Darlington to host BBQ Fundraiser for Missions

The Men's Brotherhood and Christian Women's Connection groups of First Church of God will host a BBQ Fundraiser in support of Mission/Outreach projects on Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall located at 620 North Main Street, Darlington.

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

& Fellowship Meal; 6:30 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (all ages) and Youth Group Meeting.

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

New pastor at Cherry Grove church
Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Darlington invites you to celebrate the installation of pastor-elect Rev. M. Dewayne Mack on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the SiMT Building, Florence. Cost is \$25 per adult, \$15 per youth 12 and under. Contact Janice Floyd, 843-621-7056; Brenda Goodson, 843-393-0261; Rebecca Hudson, 843-601-5230 by Feb. 7.

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

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

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

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

Second Missionary Baptist Church
Second Missionary Baptist Church, 212 W. Washington

St., Hartsville, announces hours. 8 a.m. early morning worship service, 9 a.m. church school service, 10 a.m. morning worship.

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.

The Lord Cares
Please continue to assist The Lord Cares in caring for those in need in the Darlington area. T.L.C.'s food bank is at 201 Grove St. in Darlington.

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PETS OF THE WEEK



share his new life. The shelter setting has been hard on Malcolm (he's lost weight and looks tired) but he's not lost faith that someone will come for him and tell him he's the perfect companion pet. 2-3 years old; lab mix; male

Let the good times roll! Bobby is so much fun it's almost criminal. He can play for hours on end with kids or other dogs or even with toys available for him to activate. A great size pet for a family with kids and other pets, Bobby is a crowd worker and a smile-maker and brings a fun energy with him no matter where he goes. Social, active and very affectionate, while he adores running and chasing after tennis balls, don't be fooled as his first and real love is to be near others where he can share his joy for life. Bobby is ready for his next role where he explore, go and do with his new found friends and then collapse in a lap. His fresh outlook on life is infectious and will keep you young at heart. Ask for Bobby today and you will experience unconditional love and good times! male; lab mix; 1 year old; 38 pounds



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.

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

Feb. 2020

Darlington County Historic Landmarks Commission

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

Darlington County Council

Monday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington

Williamson Park Committee

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

Darlington City Council

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl 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 County Council

Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington

Darlington City Council

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

Williamson Park Committee

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

Speed & Feed BBQ Festival

It's back and better than before! Our annual Speed and Feed BBQ Festival has gotten an upgrade (with a new Spring date) and now has become a two-day festival filled with live music, a car cruise-in, entertainment, amusement rides, food trucks,

and - the obvious - a BBQ cook-off! Join us Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at the Darlington Raceway.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

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

Joint Meeting of All City of Darlington Boards

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

April 2020

Darlington County Council

Monday, April 6 at 6 p.m. at Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington

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

May 2020

Darlington County Historic Landmarks Commission

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

Darlington County Council

Monday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington

Darlington City Council

Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

City of Darlington Tree Board

Monday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

Williamson Park Committee

Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Harmon Baldwin Recreation Center, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington

Darlington County Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 19 at 9 a.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Wednesday, May 20 at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 400 Pearl Street, Darlington

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

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Make the dentist a fun experience for kids

Visits to the dentist for periodic cleanings and checkups are an important component of oral hygiene. Dentists also may be the first people to identify potential issues that can affect health elsewhere in the body.

Many people are unaware that children should visit the dentist early in their lives. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that a child should visit the dentist by age one or within six months of the eruption of his or her first tooth. However, many parents wait until much later — age two or three — to take kids to the dentist, offers Delta Dental Plans. Hesitance to visit the dentist may stem from personal fears or perceived reactions by children.

Primary teeth may eventually fall out, but they shouldn't be ignored. They save space for permanent teeth and serve other functions. Therefore, parents should begin to acclimate children to the dentist at a young age to make the experience fun and even enjoyable.

Lead by example

Children who witness their parents putting off going to the dentist or being apprehensive about visiting the dentist may develop their own fears. Always paint the dentist in a positive light and keep appointments.

Focus on the good parts

Talk up all the benefits of going to the dentist, such as having a squeaky clean and fresh mouth. Many hygienists

will hand out small toys after a successful visit, or at the least a great new toothbrush and other fun products to try.

Get a tour of the office

Ask the staff if your child can get a special tour of the office with explanations of all the tools and equipment. Understanding what to expect the next time around in a no-pressure situation can make the process much easier for everyone involved. The dentist may be able to also give a test ride on the exam chair, moving it up and down, as well as showing off the water fountain and oral irrigator.

Avoid giving false hope

Do not tell a child that “everything will be OK” at the dentist’s office. If a child needs treatment that may be uncomfortable, he or she may not trust you the next time a dental visit is scheduled, according to Joel H. Berg, D.D.S., M.S., Director of the Department of Dentistry at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Avoid words like “shots,” “pain,” “hurt,” or even “cavities.” Dentists, particularly pediatric dentists, may have their own vocabulary that can assuage fears and seem less alarming to kids.

Over time, dental visits can become an easy routine with children, setting them up for a lifetime of healthy mouths and teeth.

February is Black History Month

America long has been described as a melting pot. People from all cultures, continents and walks of life have blended together to paint the canvas that is the United States.

African Americans have played a significant role in forming the fabric of the United States, and every February we recognize the accomplishments of African Americans and give thanks for their contributions to medicine, the arts, sports, business, law, and much more. The following is a small sampling of the myriad African American individuals past and present who have made their mark on American history.

Ryan Coogler
Ryan Coogler is the director of what has been dubbed the “biggest, blackest superhero movie” in recent history — and

perhaps all time. Marvel Studio’s “Black Panther” took in \$1.3 billion worldwide and became a cultural touchstone. Coogler proved he is a director of note, and the public is bound to see much more of his work in the future, including a potential “Panther” sequel.

Robert Abbott
Giving voice to African Americans in a different way, Robert Abbot was a pioneer of the black press. He founded a weekly paper called The Chicago Defender, which would become one of the most important newspapers in history in the early 20th century. Abbott’s work would eventually pave the way for many other publications.

Serena Williams
Serena Williams is arguably the greatest female tennis player of all time. Serena

Williams has more than 20 Grand Slam titles to her name and is a face and advocate for working women. One of her more notable recent accomplishments is her successful return to the court just one year after nearly dying from complications that arose during the birth of her daughter — once again proving her mettle.

Alvin Ailey
Alvin Ailey was a modern dance choreographer and pioneer. He also was a civil rights activist. He founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which became one of the most successful dance companies in the world. His company was an amalgam of faces and cultures, making it unique for its time.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Mary McLeod Bethune was an educator, civil rights leader and adviser to five United

States presidents. She turned to her faith and used her voice to be a pioneer for racial progress. Education long had been at the core of Bethune’s mission, and she founded two schools and later became one of few female college presidents.

Aretha Franklin
The world lost the “Queen of Soul” in 2018, but her influence and resounding voice live on. Her gospel-infused singing was born out of church choirs, and her famous No. 1 hit “Respect” helped become a soundtrack not only for women, but also the civil rights movement. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, Franklin’s influence could be heard through singers like Whitney Houston, Beyoncé and more.

Schools partner for Entrepreneurship Day

The SiMT Gould Business Incubator at Florence-Darlington Technical College and The Kelley Center for Economic Development at Francis Marion University have partnered to host Entrepreneurship Day at the SiMT Jan. 29.

The daylong event will support regional business outreach programs in the Pee Dee by providing access to the latest in innovation resources.

Area experts and experienced entrepreneurs will share personal insights and practical tools that businesses can use to accelerate growth.

Community members, college students and businesses are invited to discuss their ideas, share what they’re working on or obtain information regarding local and statewide resources.

Topics covered will include: The Art of the Pitch, Product to

Market Strategy, Intellectual Property Protection, Digital Marketing Strategies, The Pee Dee Idea Challenge, Winning Contracts and Grants, Alternative Funding Sources, Social Media Research, Manufacturing Technologies, Virtual Reality Production.

Check-in will be at the SiMT building at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. and adjourns at 3 p.m.

There will be demonstra-

tions of the Virtual Reality Production Studio and the Advanced Manufacturing Center following the presentations.

Agency informational tables will be available for additional resources for business owners.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

To preregister, visit www.entrepreneurship-day2020.eventbrite.com.

Taxpayer, ratepayer tab totals \$9 million so far for review of secret Santee Cooper bids

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

Eight private firms hired by the state to evaluate proposals for the sale or management of state-owned utility Santee Cooper have charged a total of more than \$9.2 million – \$5 million of it covered by taxpayers – for their work, newly released records show.

And the overall bill to ratepayers with Moncks Corner-based Santee Cooper and the state’s electric cooperatives, which collectively serve about 2 million residents, could grow by about \$11 million when the selected proposals are presented to the Legislature.

The S.C. Department of Administration (SCDOA) has a special \$20 million pot to cover the review costs. It includes \$5 million from state budget surplus funds for this fiscal year, which ends June 30; and a \$15 million transfer from Santee Cooper, of which \$10.5 million is covered by the state’s 20 electric cooperatives, which receive power from Santee Cooper.

Under a joint resolution passed last May by the Legislature, the SCDOA had a deadline of Wednesday last week to present one sales bid and one management proposal, along with a restructuring plan by Santee Cooper, to the 170-member General Assembly, which is supposed to choose among the options.

The law gives the SCDOA a 60-day extension to file the proposals if requested by the department, which was done in a letter last Friday from agency director Marcia Adams to Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, who is the Senate Finance Committee chairman; and Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, who is the House Ways and Means Committee chairman.

As The Nerve reported last year, there is plenty of secrecy built into the law. Although the SCDOA is a Cabinet-level agency under Gov. Henry McMaster, who has publicly pushed to sell Santee Cooper, neither the governor nor his staff can have “access by any means” to “information obtained” during the depart-

ment’s review process. Bidding regulations under the state procurement code that “conflict with the provisions of this joint resolution are hereby suspended,” according to the law.

And even after legislators receive the SCDOA’s recommendations, the public could receive limited information. The law says certain information that could be released under the state’s open-records law “must not be released without the written permission of the entity whose bid or proposal was recommended.”

Discussions about selling Santee Cooper intensified after the 2017 collapse of the \$9 billion V.C. Summer nuclear project in Fairfield County, a joint endeavor of the utility and then-South Carolina Electric & Gas, which later was acquired by Virginia-based Dominion Energy.

The Nerve last year revealed that Santee Cooper from August 2010 to April 2018 approved millions in grants and loans for economic development projects statewide while accumulating billions in debt for the failed nuclear project.

The Nerve recently submitted requests under the S.C. Freedom of Information Act to the SCDOA and Santee Cooper for contracts, payments records and other information related to the hiring of outside firms to evaluate sale and management proposals involving the utility.

Following is a breakdown of the \$9.28 million charged by the eight firms as of Jan. 2:

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, a Los Angeles-based international law firm: \$3,880,289.07;

Moelis & Company, a New York-based global investment bank: \$3,819,838.15;

Energy and Environmental Economics, a San Francisco-based consulting firm: \$1,127,754.14;

Black & Veatch Management Consulting, based in Kansas: \$302,005.55;

Scott Hempling, Attorney at Law LLC, based in Maryland, specializing in public utility regulation: \$66,782.94;

Pope Flynn, a Columbia-based law firm specializing in public finance: \$65,020.52;

Craver Law Firm, based in Charleston, hired to provide legal services related to property matters: \$17,755; and

Montgomery Willard, a Columbia law firm hired to provide legal services related to personnel issues: \$7,457.50.

In its agreement with the SCDOA, the Gibson law firm noted it is “prepared to establish a hard fee cap” of \$6 million for its services. Under its agreement, Moelis & Company will receive a monthly \$250,000 retainer fee for a “minimum period of six months,” plus a separate “report fee” totaling \$3 million, according to its agreement.

Total compensation for Energy and Environmental Economics is capped at \$1.48 million, with hourly rates ranging from \$235 to \$575, under its contract. Black & Veatch will be paid a fixed \$300,000 fee, plus travel-related expenses, for completing “primary priority tasks”; and its “standard rates” for finishing identified “optional” tasks, according to its agreement.

The agreed-upon hourly attorney rates for the hired South Carolina law firms range from \$250 to \$450, under their respective agreements.

At least one of the South Carolina firms has done business with the state in the past, according to records with the S.C. Comptroller General’s Office. The Montgomery Willard firm, whose members include Mike Montgomery, who served on the Richland County Council and the Richland District 2 School Board, was paid a total of nearly \$460,000 from fiscal 2009 through last fiscal year by several state agencies, most of it from the S.C. Forestry Commission, records show.

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.

Society Hill Town Council swears in new member

Society Hill Town Council began its first meeting of the new year Jan. 14 by swearing in a new council member.

Chuck Baker, who was elected in November, was sworn in last week. He claims the seat formerly held by councilwoman Michelle Steen.

Council also voted to re-elect Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Harrell to another term in that post. Harrell was re-elected to her council seat in November.

Brian Gandy, director of the Darlington County Historical Commission, also briefed council about an ordinance known as the Bailey

Bill, which council soon will be considering. The ordinance, which already has been passed by other local governments, encourages people to rehabilitate historic properties by offering tax breaks.

-- Bobby Bryant

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA			
NOTICE OF A FILING AND CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDER			
IN THE MATTERS OF: Application of the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. For a Revision in their Workers' Compensation Program Loss Costs, and Corrective Action Order To Revise Workers' Compensation Assigned Risk Rates			
The above-captioned rating organization has filed an overall revision of -10.5 % in its voluntary workers' compensation loss costs. The effective date is April 1, 2020. These are loss costs and not final rates. The workers' compensation policy provides coverage to employers in conjunction with the South Carolina Workers' Compensation laws. The changes in loss costs vary depending on the classifications as follows:			
Changes to Workers' Compensation Loss Costs by Industry Group Effective 04/01/2020			
Industry Group	Average	Maximum Increase	Maximum Decrease
Manufacturing	-9.6%	+15.0%	-35.0%
Contracting	-12.2%	+13.0%	-37.0%
Office & Clerical	-10.9%	+14.0%	-36.0%
Goods & Services	-11.5%	+14.0%	-36.0%
Miscellaneous	-7.7%	+17.0%	-33.0%
Additionally, the South Carolina Department of Insurance recently issued a Corrective Action Order that increased the overall average assigned risk rate level that has been in effect since April 1, 2019. The updated assigned risk rates are effective April 1, 2020. The order has specified that for the industrial classification codes, a loss cost multiplier of 2.684 shall be applied to the South Carolina voluntary market loss costs effective April 1, 2020. Based on the most recently available distribution of payroll by class code, the change in the assigned risk loss cost multiplier, and the voluntary market loss cost level changes effective April 1, 2020, an estimated decrease of 7.3% in the assigned risk average rate level results. The estimated average, maximum, and minimum class level changes by industry group are as follows:			
Changes to Workers' Compensation Assigned Risk Rates by Industry Group Effective 04/01/2020			
Industry Group	Average	Maximum Increase	Maximum Decrease
Manufacturing	-6.4%	+19.0%	-31.0%
Contracting	-9.1%	+16.0%	-34.0%
Office & Clerical	-7.7%	+17.0%	-33.0%
Goods & Services	-8.3%	+17.0%	-33.0%
Miscellaneous	-4.4%	+21.0%	-29.0%
Any insured or party affected by this insurance loss cost change may request in writing by January 29, 2020 a public hearing upon the loss cost increase before the Administrative Law Court. Those requests should be forwarded to: Gwendolyn McGriff, General Counsel, South Carolina Department of Insurance, Post Office Box 100105, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-3105. A copy of the Corrective Action Order with the attached filing may be obtained at www.doi.sc.gov .			
At the same time, you must also mail a copy of your request for a hearing to the Clerk of the South Carolina Administrative Law Court together with a \$100.00 filing fee to the following address: South Carolina Administrative Law Court, 1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 224, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.			
Please do not send the \$100.00 filing fee to the Department of Insurance.			



Kiwanis Club salutes Legion of Honor

On Jan. 9, the Darlington Kiwanis Club recognized its Legion of Honor, a group of members who have served the club 25 years or longer. The club meets at 1 p.m. every other Thursday at the Darlington Country Club, with the next meeting Jan. 23, and at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Fahrenheit 225, 26 Public

Square, with the next social hour on Jan. 28. The Annual Oyster Roast and BBQ will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the American Legion Post 13 on Harry Byrd Highway. Find the club online at www.Facebook.com/DarlingtonKiwanis. -- 25-year members: Sidney

Belk, Dr. David Eads, Todd Hardee, Bobby Segars, past president -- 30-year members: Dr. Alex Cohen, Rob Jordan -- 35-year member: Jim Ramsey -- 40-year members: Jim Brunson, past treasurer, Tommy Bryant, past president, Ray Galloway, Bobby Kilgo, past lieutenant governor,

Ronnie Ward, past president, Dr. Cliff Wilson, past president, Eugene Vaughan, past president, John Segars, past lieutenant governor -- 45-year members: David Vaughan, past governor, Albert James, past president, Cecil Ward, Jay James, past president, Doug Pew -- 60-year member: Harold King, past president

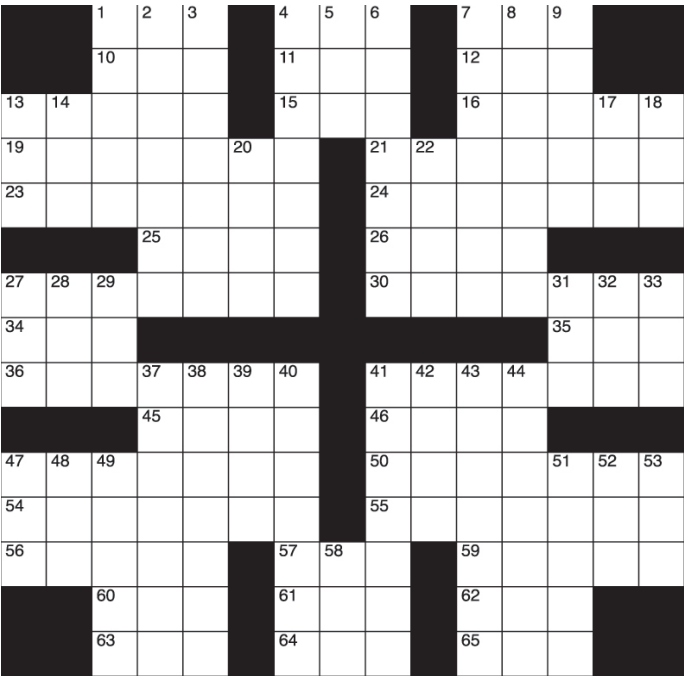


The Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association (DDRA) awarded its final grant through its Improvement Incentive Program for 2019 last Tuesday to Chianti's Wings & Things. Since the program's inception, the DDRA has awarded \$10,000 in grants for improvements, meaning more than \$200,000 worth of upgrades have been made by local businesses due to DDRA efforts. The grant to Chianti's, owned by Saquana Chianti Smith, was awarded for signage, painting and numerous repairs made to the building at 124 Cashua St. Her improvements include enhancements to the outdoor dining space, so you can take advantage of it all year long. The executive chef has made her home in Darlington after a career in New York. She welcomes the change of pace and hopes to make Chianti's a local favorite. She has been working to do just that with karaoke nights on Tuesdays and Fridays, and on Monday night she held a Clemson vs. LSU Football Party with specials. Chianti's Wings & Things, 124 Cashua St., opens from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and offers catering services. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ChiantisWingsAndThings/>. Info: 843-944-0880. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hundreds of Darlington County School District students will be warmer this winter after the Darlington County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department (DCPRT) donated new and used coats. The donation came about through a community effort, according to Brantley Jett, the Darlington Area Athletic Director for DCPRT. Jett said he noticed some students waiting for buses in the morning without coats. Lee Andrews, the Parks and Recreation Tourism Director, helped spread the word that the department was collecting coats for students. McLeod Health also donated coats. White Swan Cleaners in Darlington then dry-cleaned the 200 coats free of charge. Pictured: (from left) Tim Newman, DCSD superintendent; Lisa Fagan, DCSD lead social worker; Andrea Pulling, DCSD family-school facilitator; Brantley Jett, DCPRT's Darlington area athletic director; John Wall, DCPRT's Hartsville area director; and Crystal Gibson, DCPRT's Darlington area program director. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Public broadcaster
- Hit lightly
- Keyboard key
- Grain
- Make a mistake
- To the ___ degree
- Endure without complaint
- Chinese-American actress
- Edible stomach lining
- Sunrooms
- Feared
- Most eager
- Excessive chatting session
- MLB ace
- Major Central European river
- Muscular weaknesses
- Where seedlings germinate
- Former monetary unit of the EU
- Personal ads abbreviation
- Mythical animal
- Members of Orthodox Jewish sect
- German city
- Algerian coastal city
- Military men
- Salt of sulfuric

DOWN

- English seaport
- What's owed
- Sound systems
- Elections feature them
- Southern constellation
- London and Brooklyn are two
- One-time Ugandan capital
- Attacked with bombs
- Rebuke
- Expression of disappointment
- A way to work the soil
- The human foot
- Sun up in New York

- A small island
- Abnormal rattling sound
- Make lively
- A team's best pitcher
- It goes on the floor
- Not good
- Peyton's little brother
- Barrier that holds back water
- Move quickly
- Deteriorate with age
- Colorless crystalline compound
- Cheekier
- Expresses praise or joy
- Famed boxing promoter
- Cured sausages
- Fill with air or gas
- Angry
- Chemistry prefix
- Practitioner of Jamaican religion
- Softly bright or radiant
- Buffer solution used to separate nucleic acids
- First responder group
- Defensive nuclear weapon

WORD SEARCH

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

ARTISTIC
BRAIN-
STORM
BREAK-
THROUGH
BUSINESS
CANVAS
CHALLENG-
ING

COLLABO-
RATE
DESIGN
EMERGING
EXPERI-
MENT
FRAME-
WORK
IDEAS

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How to reduce skin cancer during the winter months

Sunscreen and the great outdoors go hand-in-hand during the warmer months of the year. For instance, few people can imagine spending a day at the beach without first covering their skin in sunscreen. But skin also must be protected when spending time outdoors in winter.

The World Health Organization notes that one in every three cancers diagnosed across the globe is skin cancer. While that's a scary notion, it's important to note that many skin cancer cases are preventable. Protecting skin in winter, a time when many people mistakenly believe their skin is not vulnerable to damage caused by the sun, is one way for people to reduce their risk of developing skin cancer.

- Don't put sunscreen in storage. Even if you won't be beachfront and basking in the sun's rays, it's still important to apply sunscreen in winter. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which specializes in cancer treatment and actively seeks tomorrow's cures through cutting-edge research, recommends applying a sunscreen with a minimum sun-protection factor, or SPF, of 30. Make sure to apply sunscreen to all areas that may be exposed to the sun, including the face, neck, ears, and hands.
- Frequently reapply sunscreen. The "set it and forget it" approach does not apply to protecting the skin with sunscreen. Reapply sunscreen every 90 minutes that you are outdoors to ensure your skin is fully protected at all times. Skiers should recognize that they are much closer to the sun as they traverse the slopes, and that means the UV radiation is more intense on the mountain than it might be in the foothills or lower elevation areas. That heightened intensity only underscores the importance of reapplying sunscreen.
- Don't forget to protect your lips. The DFCI notes that the lower lip is especially vulnerable to the sun's rays. A lip balm with an SPF of 30 or higher should be applied before going outside and then frequently reapplied while outdoors. In addition, women can use makeup with SPF to further protect their lips and their skin.
- Avoid tanning booths. Indoor tanning booths increase users' risk for skin cancer and premature skin aging. In fact, the DFCI notes that cancer researchers have found that the risk of developing melanoma is 60 percent greater among people who have been exposed to UV radiation from indoor tanning. And that risk only increases with each visit to a tanning booth.
- Don't forget to protect the skin while on vacation. People who vacation in warm climates during the winter may be the envy of coworkers and neighbors upon returning home with a tan, but it's imperative that travelers prioritize protecting their skin while on vacation. Embrace the same principles of skin protection, including applying sunscreen and wearing wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses, that you would when lounging by the pool or visiting the beach in the summer.

Unprotected skin is vulnerable to sun damage and skin cancer year-round, including when the temperatures dip below freezing.

Two Hartsville residents are facing drug charges after the Darlington County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at a residence on Johnson Street on Thursday afternoon.

"My deputies did an outstanding job getting more dope off the street and another gun out of the wrong hands," stated Sheriff Tony Chavis. "During the search of the residence, deputies were able to locate approximately 36 grams of methamphetamine, a 9mm handgun and a weight scale."

James Bryce Futrell, 32, and Jessica Ashley Melton, 33, both of Hartsville, were arrested. Futrell is charged with trafficking methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by a convicted violent felon and possession of a firearm during a violent crime. Futrell was previously convicted of manufacturing methamphetamine, a violent crime.

Melton is charged with trafficking methamphetamine and possession of a firearm during a violent crime.



PSC seats in limbo again after legislatively controlled panel delays nominations

By RICK BRUNDRETT
The Nerve

Another year, another convoluted legislative process for selecting six-figure state Public Service Commission members, who can greatly affect utility bills for many South Carolinians.

The State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) was scheduled to screen a total of 17 candidates over two days recently for four open seats on the seven-member PSC. Under state law, the six-legislator, 10-member PURC nominates PSC candidates for election in the General Assembly.

No more than three candidates can be nominated for a four-year seat. An election in the Legislature was tentatively set for Feb. 5.

But the PURC didn't make any nominations for the four \$132,071 seats, though the committee found six candidates qualified and rejected 10 others, including a longtime incumbent. Another candidate withdrew before his screening hearing, according to a PURC attorney.

This year's elections could be a repeat of the PURC's and Legislature's recent handling of another open PSC seat, which, following nearly 18 months of delays, was filled last year with a former commission attorney after the incumbent – who had voted for electric rate hikes for the failed V.C. Summer nuclear project – withdrew from the race.

The PURC last week didn't requify incumbent Swain Whitfield, who joined the PSC in 2008 and was the commission chairman in July 2017 when then-South Carolina Electric & Gas and state-owned utility Santee Cooper abandoned the \$9 billion nuclear project in Fairfield County.

Legislators in 2007 quietly passed a law that allowed the PSC to approve nine rate hikes from 2009-16 for residential customers of the former Cayce-based SCE&G, which was purchased by Virginia-based Dominion Energy after the V.C. Summer project collapsed.

Also not making the PURC's qualified-candidates list last week was ex-lawmaker Ted Vick, a Pawleys Island Democrat who was a House member from 2004-14. The Nerve last week reported that former lawmaker Chip Limehouse, a Charleston Republican who was a House member from 1994-2016, withdrew from a separate race before his screening hearing.

Whitfield and Vick didn't respond to messages from The Nerve seeking comment. Neither did Sen. Thomas Alexander and Rep. Bill Sandifer, both Oconee County Republicans who are the PURC chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

PURC member Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said the PURC's decision not to qualify Whitfield, whose term ends June 30, "baffles me." Hutto, a trial lawyer, noted he was in court last week and wasn't present for the PURC votes.

Asked if the PURC wants to rid the PSC of members perceived to have favored the V.C. Summer project, Hutto replied, "That is not how I would view it," though he didn't elaborate.

Hutto said it was his understanding the PURC plans to reopen the screening process for the PSC District 1, 3, 5 and 7 seats; and that the 170-member General Assembly's goal is to fill those seats this legislative session.

In email responses to The Nerve, Heather Anderson, an attorney for the PURC, said the panel last week voted to "recommend the introduction of a resolution to extend the screening" for the four open seats, though she didn't have "any information regarding a potential timeline" for more screening hearings.

The Legislature last February filled the District 2 seat currently held by former PSC attorney Florence Belser after incumbent Elliot Elam, a former consumer advocate for the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs, withdrew from the race. From September 2014 to October 2016, Elam voted to approve three rate hikes for then-SCE&G customers for the abandoned V.C. Summer project, as The Nerve previously reported.

That election process had dragged on since August 2017, when the PURC in a one-sentence written statement said only the screening for three open PSC seats, including the District 2 seat, had been "suspended until further notice," as The Nerve reported then.

On the last day of regular session in May 2018, lawmakers in an unrecorded voice vote effectively approved a "do-over" election for the District 2 seat, rejecting the entire slate of three nominated candidates, including Elam.

Hutto said he was informed the six candidates whom the PURC qualified last week will not have to reapply for their respective seats, and that candidates found not qualified, including Whitfield, can't reapply this year.

Following are the six candidates who were found qualified, according to Anderson:

District 1 (Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties): George "Robert" Newman, Carolyn "Carolee" Williams;

District 3 (all of Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens and Saluda counties; and parts of Newberry and Greenville counties): Stephen "Mike" Caston, Comer "Randy" Randall (the current PSC chairman);

District 5 (all of Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Union and York counties; and parts of Newberry, Spartanburg and Sumter counties): Headen Thomas;

District 7 (Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Marlboro counties): Thomas "Tee" Miller Jr.

Ten candidates were found not qualified, according to Anderson. They included, PURC records show:

District 1: Paul Gawrych, Alvin Johnson Jr., Lawrence Sullivan, Darryle Ware;

District 3: Santana Freeman;

District 5: Luther Hendrix; Whitfield;

District 7: John Atkinson, Bonnie Loomis, Vick.

District 5 candidate Stephen Thomas withdrew before his screening hearing, according to Anderson.

Anderson could not provide a breakdown of the PURC members' votes on each candidate.

As The Nerve has previously reported, the PURC has considerable control over the regulation of utilities in South Carolina. Besides nominating PSC members, the committee is required to annually evaluate sitting commissioners – who typically received stellar marks in recent years, as The Nerve has reported – and in essence hires and oversees the executive director of the state Office of Regulatory Staff, which is supposed to represent ratepayers' interests before the PSC.

The PURC also screens and qualifies candidates for Santee Cooper's 12-member board of directors, who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Under state law, the appointment of the three House and three Senate members to the PURC are controlled, respectively, by House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, and Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Luke Rankin, R-Horry, who is a PURC member. Lucas and Rankin also by law control the appointments of the PURC's four general public members.

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.

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