

CHRISTMAS TREE
AUCTION PAGE 7



News & Press

ONE SECTION • 12 PAGES

JANUARY 29, 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

Chaos at Hartsville bar: 2 dead, 4 wounded

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
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Two people are dead and four others wounded after a shooting rampage at a Hartsville lounge early Sunday, and two suspects were in custody.

Killed in the incident at

Mac's Lounge on Camden Avenue were Dicaprio Collins, 21, and Bryan Robinson, 29, said Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee. Their hometowns were not immediately known.

Four other people, names and conditions unknown, were taken to McLeod Regional

Medical Center in Florence and Carolina Pines in Hartsville.

A city of Hartsville spokeswoman said Monday morning that two suspects had been taken into custody in the case. Their names had not been released by press time.

The Hartsville Police Department, the State Law

Enforcement Division and the U.S. Marshal's Service were investigating the case.

The Hartsville Police Department got a call at 1:59 a.m. Sunday about a shooting at the lounge, the department said on its Facebook page. Local news media said about 200 people were in the bar

when the shooting began.

The shots triggered a stampede, with customers dropping their cellphones and personal belongings. "It sounded like a firecracker and people freaked out, so I was, like, OK," witness Samuel Dupree told Columbia's WIS-TV. "I look to my right and I see gunfire com-

ing out of the gun, and it's by the pool table, by the patio door, and I saw shots being fired, so I was like, this is real now."

Dupree told WIS he helped a woman being trampled by customers trying to escape. He realized only later that his shoes "were covered in blood."

MLK Jr. Celebration and Awards Ceremony



On Monday, Jan. 20, Darlington honored the legacy of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with an afternoon of stories, music, and prayer. Hosted at First Church of God, the celebration featured multi-denominational messages of peace and unity delivered by pastors from all over Darlington County. Musical performances by Minister Derrick Bull, violinist Te'Quan Coe, LaNita Benton-Lowe, and the Darlington High School Gospel Choir enlivened the proceedings, and the day finished with awards presented to community leaders who embody some of Dr. King's core values, such as community service, education, and heritage preservation. Pictured above is Minister Derrick Bull. More Photos on Page 12. PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES.



Violinist Te'Quan Coe PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES



Rep. Robert Williams (center) received an award for community service, presented by Mayor Curtis Boyd (left) and Audrey Gore PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES

Farmer plans to challenge Malloy for S.C. Senate

By Bobby Bryant
Editor
editor@newsandpress.net

A Hartsville-area farmer plans to challenge Darlington County attorney Gerald Malloy for the S.C. Senate seat he has held since 2002.

J.D. Chaplin, 25, has put up a website and a Facebook page saying he will run against Malloy for the 29th District state Senate seat. "After 18 years of Gerald Malloy's failed leadership resulting in poorer families, crumbling schools and washed-out bridges yet to be fixed, it's time for a change," Chaplin says on his web page.

Chaplin, a Republican, ran

unsuccessfully for an S.C. House seat (District 54) in 2016. He told the News & Press he hopes to hold a press conference formally announcing his Senate bid sometime in February.

"It's been a long-coming decision," Chaplin said of his bid to run against Malloy, a Hartsville Democrat.

Chaplin said he's in the race mainly because of his frustration with Malloy, and he is especially concerned about the poor shape of Darlington County's roads.

Chaplin's website (votejd-chaplin.com) describes him as a "fourth-generation row-crop farmer ... from a family that has worked the land around Hartsville for 85 years."

The website's biography says his father has been a life-long farmer and his mother taught in Darlington County elementary schools for 30

years. It says he's a member of Black Creek Baptist Church in Dovesville and says he earned a degree in history at Charleston Southern University. He's active in the Boy Scouts of America, serving as an assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 523 of Hartsville.

"Working on his family's farm played a key role in molding J.D.'s character," his website says. "He was in the tobacco fields at an early age, setting young stalks back in place after driving storms and wiping burning sap off his face as he cropped the plants.

"Because harvest time doesn't care if you're bone-tired or don't feel well. The crop must come in, regardless of your situation.

"J.D. learned that lesson not from reading, but from doing. And he developed determination and perseverance as a result."

His website spells out his stance on several issues, including:

Abortion: "As a committed Christian, J.D. knows that all life is precious."

Gun rights: "An avid outdoorsman," Chaplin backs the Second Amendment and "will fight to maintain your right to self-defense."

Taxes: Chaplin "knows your taxes are too high and too much money is stolen from the pockets of hardworking South Carolinians to finance pet projects and bloated government."

Government regulations: "He'll take a hacksaw to the red tape that stifles both farmers and small businesses."

Roads: Chaplin favors naming a state Transportation Secretary accountable to the governor, since steadily bumping up the S.C. gas tax has "done little to fix our highways."



J. D. Chaplin CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





The Pee Dee's Oldest
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Word of the Week

parvenu -- one that suddenly gains wealth or power.

Merriam-Webster.com

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Then

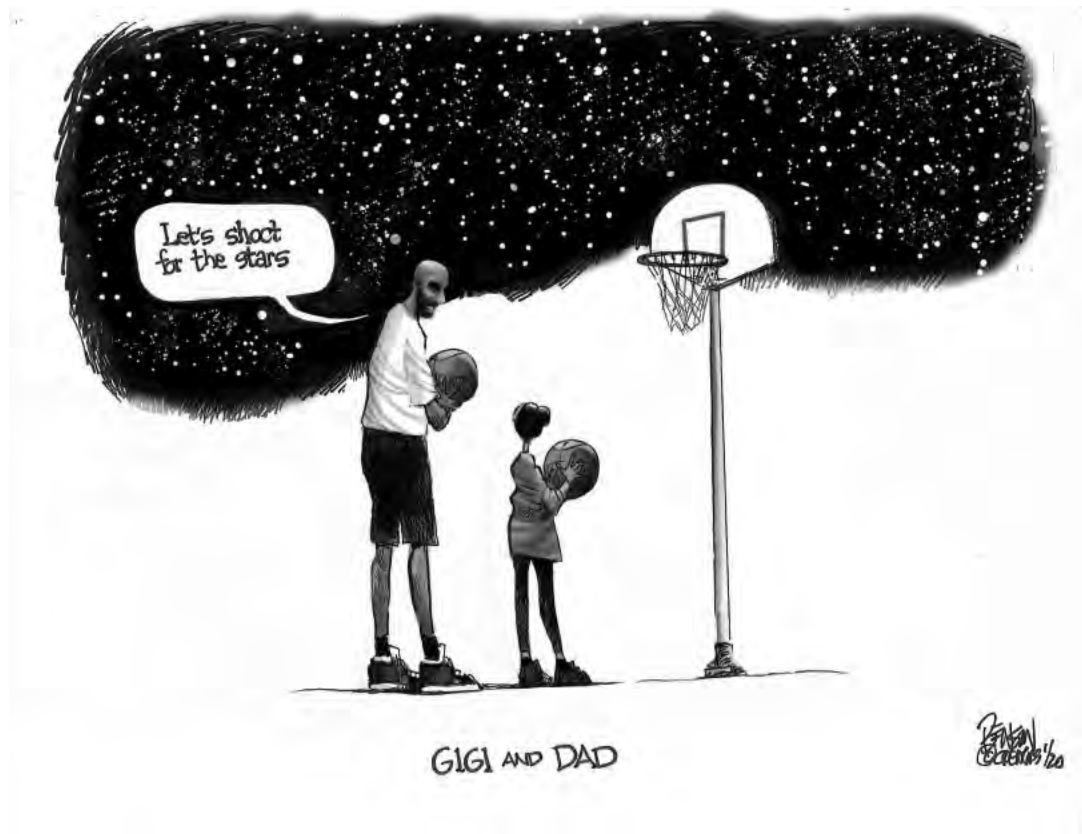


NEWS

Now



NOISE



OP-ED

Doing the math on our division

By Tom Jones
The Poynter Institute

Where are Americans going for their impeachment coverage? The answer is Fox News. Kind of. Let me explain.

When early Nielsen TV ratings came out for last Tuesday's opening day of the Senate impeachment trial, Fox News was the winner. By a lot.

Early Nielsen research showed that from 12:30-5 p.m. Eastern, Fox News had 2.654 million viewers. That easily outdistanced CBS (1.94 million), MSNBC (1.909 million), ABC (1.6 million), NBC (1.4 million) and CNN (1.4 million).

Fox News also won the much-coveted demo of 24- to 54-year-olds — it had 394,000 viewers in that demographic, the next closest being ABC (385,000) and CNN (383,000).

That would suggest that impeachment is actually good for business over at Fox News, right? That's probably a tad surprising when you consider that Fox News mostly attracts viewers who are more conservative and, generally speaking,

supporters of President Donald Trump. So what gives?

Well, let's dig a little deeper into the numbers. Yes, more people watched Fox News' opening-day coverage than any other network. However, another way to look at it is this: while 2.6 million were watching Fox News, another 8.249 million were watching other channels. And that does not include those who might have been watching on PBS or C-SPAN2, which was not measured by Nielsen. It also doesn't count streaming services or the coverage on websites such as The New York Times, Washington Post or CNN.com. It also doesn't count Fox News' streaming coverage.

It's also interesting to note that NBC and MSNBC, which share many journalists, had a combined audience of 3.3 million — more than watched Fox News. Here are more numbers to consider. These suggest (as if we didn't already know) how divided the country is over impeachment and this president.

CONTINUED ON 3A

By Tom Poland

He didn't like to fly, but he traveled the world, missing the South always.

When he was in some country afar and by chance heard a Georgian's accent it pierced his heart. He was a Southerner and he wrote a book that became a Southern classic, "Red Hills and Cotton: An Upcountry Memory."

His name is Ben Robertson and he came into this world June 22, 1903, in Clemson.

The University of South Carolina Press just released "Ben Robertson — South Carolina Journalist and Author" by Jodie Peeler, a journalism professor at Newberry College.

Peeler hails from Greenwood County, and her book reminds us that Ben Robertson was a great friend of legendary broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow, a North Carolinian. In her book, Peeler writes about Robertson's "1942 hymn to his boyhood on his grandparent's farm in the South Carolina

upcountry, a tribute that doubtless resonated with Murrow's roots in rural North Carolina."

In 1940, Murrow was early into his reporting for CBS when he befriended Robertson who was covering Britain's wartime struggles for the New York daily newspaper, PM. "Together, they covered battles, faced danger, saw the horrors of war, and witnessed the invincible spirit of the British people." Both men had left their hometowns to "see the world and do great things." They viewed journalism in a similar way, each using small details to tell a much bigger story.

I remember seeing Edward R. Murrow on my parents' small black-and-white TV. I was just a boy but even then I knew this was a man of magnitude. So was Ben Robertson, though his photographs reveal a boyish demeanor.

Boyish or not, Robertson had the courage to write a book, "Travelers' Rest," a fictionalized family story that ruffled some feathers with its

scenes of sex and violence. It echoed the message found in his better-known "Red Hills and Cotton." He wished the South to move on from its past. Robertson also wrote "I Saw England," his eyewitness account of the Battle of Britain.

You know that cliché, the good die young? Well, Yeats put it another way when he wrote of Maj. Robert Gregory, "What made us dream that he could comb grey hair?" Yes, what made folks think a daring journalist would live a long life.

Benjamin Franklin Robertson Jr. departed this world Feb. 22, 1943 in Lisbon, Portugal. The day before he had boarded a Pan Am Boeing 314 flying boat referred to as clippers, a tribute to the fast sailing ships.

Eleanor Roosevelt had christened this particular craft Yankee Clipper. Just before landing something went wrong and Yankee Clipper slammed into the Tagus River at 130 miles an hour. There were survivors, some of whom

swam ashore but Robertson was not among them. Nor was he among bodies found in the wreckage.

Early March. Bodies wash ashore on the Tagus. Not Robertson's. Around March 13 a man's body is found 30 miles from the crash site. A heavy silver bracelet reveals it is Ben Robertson. Cause of death? Drowning. An intrepid journalist, never married, was no more. Of Robertson, Edward R. Murrow wrote, "He is out of war and into peace."

The Charleston Post and Courier reviewed Peeler's book, saying a "thoughtful biography is what Ben Robertson deserved." I agree.

I had the pleasure of attending Jodie's thoughtful presentation on Ben Robertson in Edgefield Jan. 12, and I have the pleasure of reading her book.

It's a good one and I know that Robertson would be pleased, and I am sure you will too, for there's much depth and breadth to this 224-page biography.

OP-ED

Grandma's quilts

By Bill Shepard

With night temperatures dipping into the mid-20s, and daytime temperatures not much better, my mind took a dip also.

It carried me back to a time and a place where a party was taking place ... a quilting party!

Long before I had heard of central heating systems in homes and electric blankets covering beds, Grandma's quilts made a big difference on cold winter nights.

Growing up in Darlington during the '20s and '30s was an experience of many memories. Times were as hard as nails; jobs were scarce and came with little pay.

A job at the big Cotton Mill meant one had credit at the Company Store and a house to live in. Not bad for the times.

Out of those times came some of the most beautiful memories of my life, and they have remained through the long years since. Some I have shared before. This one is about Grandma Shepard's quilts.

For some, quilting may be a hobby. For Grandma it was a necessity. On cold winter nights, when the fire had gone out in the fireplace, Grandma's quilts made the difference between sleeping warm or cold. Underneath the quilts, little bodies would be as "snug as a bug" in a rug.

Grandma's children and grandchildren like to tell their

own stories about Grandma's quilts when they are together. Each time the stories are told they get longer and more exaggerated, but they are always reminiscent of a time long past, when sleeping at Grandma's house on a cold winter's night was an experience that would last a lifetime.

During the '20s and '30s, quilting was a common event that took place at someone's house on the village where this writer grew up. Long before electric blankets and central heating systems, quilts made the difference between sleeping warm or cold.

Quilts in those early times were not designed with beautiful patterns as some we see today, but with scraps left over from clothing made for the family's needs.

When enough scraps of cloth had been saved, word would go out to nearby neighbors that a quilting would be in progress. This would usually take place on long summer evenings or early fall.

Supper being ended, the womenfolk would gather at the designated place and take their seats around the large quilting frames. The frames used at our house had been made by my dad, using strips of pine wood from the sawmill. They were crudely built but served the same purpose as the store-bought ones.

Usually a room in the house had to be vacated as a place to put the frames. When every-

thing was ready the quilting would begin.

It would take several days to finish the quilt as the work was done only after the regular workday had ended. The long summer evening provided hours of quilting time and made for some of the fondest memories of my childhood years.

The quilts that were made served more than just Grandma and her children; generations to come would feel their warmth also. While the women sat at the quilting frames sewing the stitches back and forth, the menfolk sat on the front porch talking about whatever came to mind.

Mostly the talk was about the happenings at the big Cotton Mill where everyone worked.

Topics ranged from how hard the work was to who was hired or fired that day to what the new "boss man" was like. If it didn't happen on the village or at the big mill, we didn't know about it.

There were only a few radios, no telephones, and only a few, if any, read the newspapers. Television was a word that had not yet entered our vocabulary.

I liked it best when the men shared ghost stories that they declared were true.

The womenfolk talked about their children, what was happening at school, who had cut their foot, stumped their toe, or had the "sore eyes." If a

new neighbor had moved to the village, that could lend itself to talk.

Revival at the little church nearby was always a good conversation piece. While all the talk was going on, the boys would gather underneath the quilt and play marbles. Playing marbles on a wooden floor was not the best way to do it, but it was better than not playing at all.

After several nights, the quilt would be finished and the quilting frames taken down and stored for later use. The finished quilt would take its place alongside those made in previous years.

I could lie in bed on a cold winter's night and reflect on the days gone by; the ghost stories would often come back to haunt me.

I could see in the quilt covering me reminders of Mama's aprons, my sister's skirts, and the shirts that I and my brothers wore, and some that my neighbors wore.

A quilt would seldom wear out; they just got older and older, sometimes thinner and thinner. When that would happen, instead of discarding them, they would be covered again with a new top and lining, providing continued use for years to come.

Stored inside the dark closet all summer long, the

quilts would create a musky smell that would never go away. In the case of Grandma's quilts, they outlasted her, and when she died her quilts were divided among her children

and grandchildren.

Today they are a memory, and that memory really comes alive when temperatures dip to the freezing point!

The News & Press

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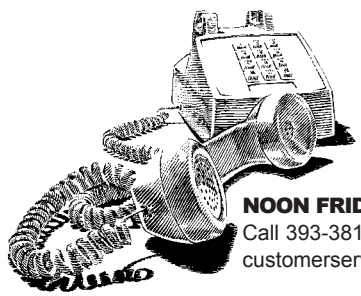
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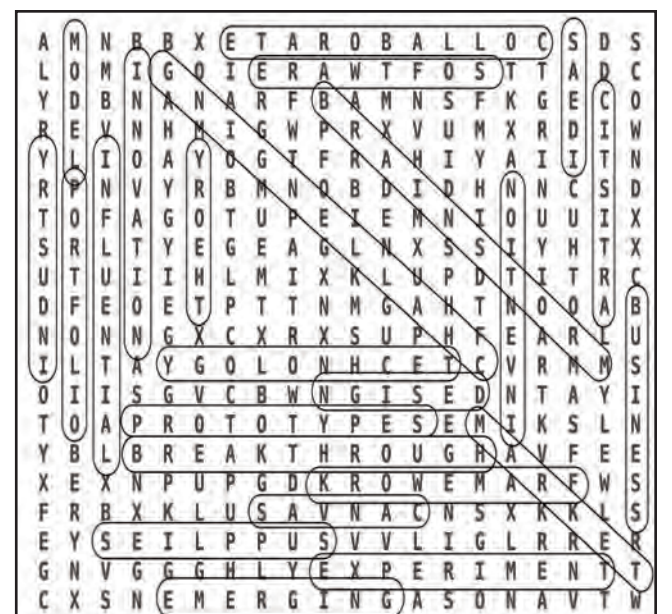
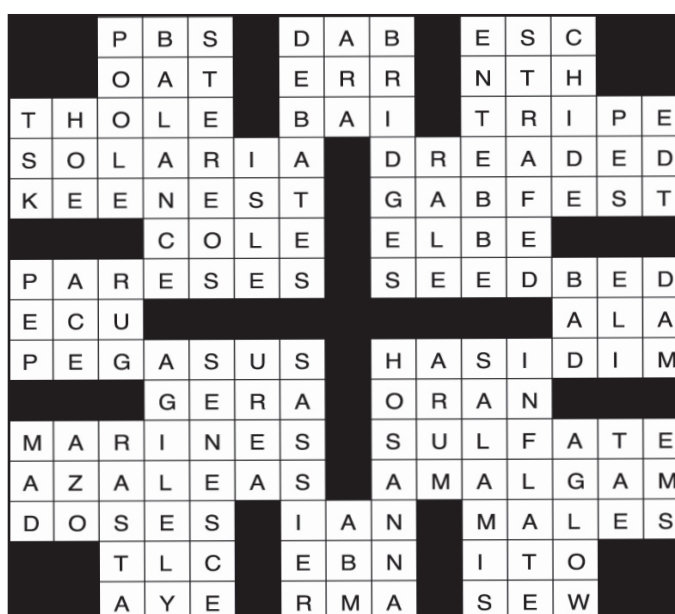
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MLK Jr. Celebration and Awards Ceremony



Wilhelmina Johnson (right) received a special lifetime achievement award for her service to Darlington County.
PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES



Rev. Rennie Johnson was among those recognized for outstanding contributions to the community.
PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



State law violated: PURC fails to submit annual reviews of PSC members

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

A legislatively controlled committee violated state law in recent years by not giving the General Assembly annual performance reviews of individual S.C. Public Service Commission members, who set utility rates for residents and businesses statewide, a review by The Nerve found.

Timing could be everything. Before the V.C. Summer nuclear project collapsed in July 2017, the six-legislator, 10-member State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) – which largely controls the seven-member PSC – typically gave glowing annual reviews of PSC members, who routinely approved rate hikes for the \$9 billion project.

In the wake of the project's failure, however, the PURC has submitted no individual performance evaluations of PSC members to the Legislature – in violation of state law. Lawmakers elect PSC candidates nominated by the PURC and therefore have final accountability for the appointments.

Yet despite not having the performance reviews and the V.C. Summer debacle, the 170-member General Assembly increased PSC members' yearly pay by more than 22 percent to \$132,071 for this fiscal year, which started July 1. The commission chairman makes \$133,982.

The PURC's failure to submit annual performance reviews to the Legislature covering the last three fiscal years occurred after The Nerve in 2014 and 2018 revealed that the PURC in prior years typically gave cut-and-paste, complimentary evaluations.

The PSC approved nine electric rate hikes from 2009 through 2016 for then-South Carolina Electric & Gas customers for the unfinished V.C. Summer project in Fairfield County, allowing the Cayce-based utility, which later was acquired by Virginia-based Dominion Energy, to rake in more than \$2 billion through 2018. The rate increases were made possible under a 2007 law that legislators quietly passed.

The PURC has considerable authority over the regulation of utilities in South Carolina, as The Nerve has previously reported. House speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, and Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Luke Rankin, R-Horry, control the 10 appointments to the PURC, chaired by Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Oconee.

The other five legislative members of the PURC are Rep. Bill Sandifer, R-Oconee, who is the vice-chairman; Sens. Rankin and Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg; and Reps. Mike Forrester, R-Spartanburg, and David Mack, D-Charleston.

Under state law, the PURC: -- Nominates no more than three candidates for each PSC seat for election in the Legislature. Last week, The Nerve reported that an election tentatively set for Feb. 5 was put on hold after the PURC failed to nominate any candidates for the District 1, 3, 5 and 7 PSC seats.

-- Qualifies governor-appointed candidates to the 12-

member board overseeing state-owned utility Santee Cooper, which was a partner with then-SCE&G in the V.C. Summer project, and could be sold or privately managed under proposals secretly under consideration by the state Department of Administration.

-- Essentially hires and annually reviews the performance of the executive director of the state Office of Regulatory Staff, which over the years signed off on rate increases approved by the PSC for the V.C. Summer project.

State law also requires the PURC to "conduct an annual performance review of each member of the (Public Service) commission, which must be submitted to the General Assembly." Under the law, the reviews are based in part on confidential surveys given to parties appearing before the PSC; and the final evaluations "must be made a part of the member's record for consideration if the member seeks reelection to the commission."

But no written reviews of individual PSC members were submitted to the Legislature covering fiscal years 2017 through last year, The Nerve's latest review found. Heather Anderson, a staff attorney for the PURC, told The Nerve in 2018 that she didn't know why the 2017 evaluations were not done, referring questions to Sen. Alexander and Rep. Sandifer.

Asked for a copy of the 2019 review, Anderson referred The Nerve to the PURC's link on the Legislature's website. But although the site contains a description of the evaluation process and questionnaires submitted last year by PSC members, there are no individual performance reviews of the commissioners by the PURC for fiscal years 2017 through last year. The website contains individual performance reviews for fiscal years 2013 through 2016.

Anderson didn't respond to The Nerve's follow-up questions. As they did in 2018, Alexander and Sandifer didn't respond to written questions seeking comment.

The Nerve formally asked Senate clerk Jeff Gossett and House clerk Charles Reid for copies of the 2018 and 2019 PURC reports under the state Freedom of Information Act. In an email, Gossett replied, "I understand that no report was done in 2018," and referred The Nerve to the Legislature's website for other PURC records. He didn't respond to follow-up questions about the absence of the 2019 report.

Richard Pearce, a staff attorney for the House clerk, said in his email response the Legislature's website "reflects the documents we have on hand," and that the Clerk's Office "did not receive a 2018 report" from the PURC.

Pearce didn't respond to a follow-up question about whether Reid, as the House's chief administrator, will instruct the PURC to comply with state law on submitting the individual performance reports to the Legislature.

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.



Are you ready for REAL ID?

By Samantha Lyles
syles@newsandpress.net

Does your South Carolina driver's license or state-issued ID card have a gold star on it? If not, you may need to visit the local Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) branch soon and purchase a REAL ID.

Since Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005, all 50 states have instituted new requirements to standardize government-issued identification methods.

As of October 1, 2020, your South Carolina driver's license or identification card must sport that gold star – proof that it's a REAL ID – or it won't suffice as identification when boarding a domestic airline flight, going into secure federal buildings or nuclear power facilities (like the H.B. Robinson plant), or visiting military installations.

If you don't anticipate needing to do any of those things, you don't need a REAL ID.

Also, if you have a valid U.S. passport, that will continue to serve as adequate identification when traveling. But, according to the State Department, only 42 percent of Americans hold valid passports, meaning that many people use their driver's license as the primary form of identification when boarding commercial airline flights.

At last check, some 3 million South Carolinians had yet to update to Real ID, and with the deadline looming,

officials have advised residents to deal with this requirement as soon as possible.

"We've reached a critical point in our implementation of REAL ID as a state," said SCDMV Executive Director Kevin Shwedo. "Unless you have a valid US passport or military ID, now is the time to purchase your REAL ID at scdmvonline.com or in one of our branches to avoid long lines or future disruptions in your travel plans. To think that lines won't reach four to six hours in South Carolina is a myth, and we're urging you to prove us wrong by preparing now."

Some residents may be eligible to switch to REAL ID without leaving their homes. SCDMV has been mailing REAL ID applications to about 500,000 customers since October of 2019, and will continue this mail-order option for the next two months. If you receive such a notice, you can renew your license and upgrade to REAL ID online.

"When you buy your REAL ID license online, the SCDMV will use your current photograph and signature on file with the agency and mail your new license in about five to ten business days after placing the order," explained Deputy Director of the Contact Center Melissa Cisson, who oversees the online ordering process.

If you don't receive a mail notification, you may need to bring additional identification to the SCDMV office in

order to update to a REAL ID. For those who already possess a valid South Carolina driver's license, updating to a REAL ID is considered renewing your license, and it will be valid for no more than 8 years.

To issue you a REAL ID, the SCDMV needs all of the following documents: proof of identity (a government-issued birth certificate or valid US Passport), proof of Social Security number, two proofs of current, physical S.C. address, and proof of any legal name

changes. Only original versions of these documents will be accepted. Copied or scanned versions will not suffice.

For more information on REAL ID, or to find out if you can renew and update online, visit www.scdmvonline.com. Here in Darlington County, the local office of the SCDMV is at 2200 East Bobo Newsome Highway, and they are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm.

14-week Strengthening Families Program planned

Darlington County First Steps and Children's Trust of South Carolina present a 14-week Strengthening Families Program that starts Feb. 4.

Families with kids 6-11 will learn about strengthening family bonds, improving communication, dealing with everyday issues and helping children express their feelings.

The program includes

weekly prizes and gas gift cards, free family meals before every session and to-go, and child care for kids 5 and under. A teen group is available for ages 12-16.

The program meets every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Washington Street Elementary School, 325 W. Washington St., Hartsville.

To register call 843-639-0441.

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SCDMV

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*You must have a reason to visit a military installation, and, even with a REAL ID, you may be subject to additional visitor control measures once on site.

Documents needed to buy a REAL ID:

• Proof of Identity (Birth Certificate or Valid US Passport)

• Proof of Social Security Number

• Two Proofs of Current, Physical SC Address

• Proof of all Legal Name Changes

Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.”

JOSHUA 10:25

obituaries

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William “Bill” Arthur Buckner

FLORENCE – William “Bill” Arthur Buckner, 84, son of the late Walter Vernon and Beatrice Chaplin Buckner, passed away Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Highland Park United Methodist Church, directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends at the church.

Bill was born Oct. 12, 1935, in Charleston. He was a graduate of Winyah High School in Georgetown and a mechanical engineering graduate of Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Bill spent his working career with American Can Co., James Rivers Corp., Fort James Corp. and Georgia Pacific. He retired in 1999 from the Darlington facility of Georgia Pacific.

Bill was an active member of Highland Park United Methodist Church, serving in many capacities including the Francis Asbury Sunday School class. He was also a lifetime member of the Georgia Tech

Alumni Association.

He is survived by his children, Bill and Lynn Buckner, Beth and Ray Graham; grandchildren, Hunter, Will and Rachel Buckner, Elizabeth and Matthew Odum, Austin and Adam Graham; a very special friend and companion, Janet Lewis; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Katherine Buckner, who died in 2014, and his brother, Roger, who died in 1994.

Memorials may be made to Highland Park United Methodist Church, 1300 2nd Loop Road, Florence, SC 29505.

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

Sam Rollings

Joseph M. “Sam” Rollings Jr., 68, passed away Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the Lamar chapel at Belk Funeral

Home.

Born Oct. 15, 1951, Sam was the son of the late Joseph M. Rollings Sr. and Dorothy Sneed Rollins. He worked in the family business at Rollings’ Used Parts, and later enjoyed going to antique auctions.

Sam was an avid NASCAR fan and will be remembered as a loving father and grandfather. Sam was of the Baptist faith.

Surviving are his daughter, Donna Rollings of Darlington; grandchildren, James Holloway Jr. and Kimberly Mixon; siblings, Dr. James Eddie Rollings of Due West, Carolyn Kistler of Florida, Jean Galloway (Terry Smith) of Sun City, David “Rock” (Sherry) Rollings of Lamar, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Sam was preceded in death by his niece, Tracy Willis, and his sister-in-law, Barbara Ann Rollings. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

Juanita S. Venters
DARLINGTON -- Juanita

Steadman Venters, 91, died Jan. 20, 2020.

A funeral service was held in the chapel of Belk Funeral Home Jan. 25, with burial following in Grove Hill Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Born Oct. 5, 1928, in Saluda, she was the daughter of the late Henry S. and Mary Edna Thraikill Steadman.

She retired from NYTRON-ICS and was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Edna Iseman of Darlington and Anita (Earl) Enzor of Raleigh, N.C., four grandchildren, David Iseman, Mary Ann Thomasson, Laura Hiltz, Catherine Rodgers, and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers and her sister.

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

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



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Living on Purpose

The walk of encouragement

By Bill holland

I was having a discussion with a friend about how it seems that so many people are living in sadness and discouragement when he mentioned something that really made me think.

He said that it was impossible to be depressed and walk in the joy of God’s presence at the same time. After our conversation, I continued to ponder this statement and by the way, I do agree with it.

I’m not saying that developing an optimistic lifestyle is easy by any stretch of the imagination, but I definitely believe it’s possible. Since a healthy relationship with the Lord is measured according to the level of our spiritual joy, a lifestyle of encouragement will have everything to do with changing the way we think. “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” (Psalm 42:11).

Like the Psalmist, there are times when we allow sadness to lead us down the road of discouragement. I use the word allow because joy and sadness are attitudes of the mind which we choose. How can we live in victory if we are always planning for defeat?

I’m still learning that it’s up to me whether I accept the misery of fear and worry or become determined to focus on God and find refuge under the shadow His presence. We cannot control what happens to us, but we can decide how we will respond.

When I’ve been too busy to pray, study or worship the Lord, my faith turns to doubt as I begin to lose my confidence that He will take care of my problems and needs. When we drift away from the security of His love and peace, we are vulnerable to the overwhelming feelings of hopelessness and discouragement from mistakes and sins we have committed.

The dark side will sniff out our failures and attempt to bring guilt and condemnation to remind us of what we could and should have done. The enemy of our soul never takes a vacation and is devoted to tempt us to be depressed for the missed opportunities we have blown and wrong decisions we have made. I know there are many faithful workers in the kingdom of God that are tired and disappointed and often they do not feel appre-



ciated in their calling, but the Lord sees your labor and His definition of success is not the same as the world.

There is nothing more wonderful than to know the call and will of God and to be walking in it, but I must include if there is anything that can deter us from following Jesus – it will definitely try. “For the Lord God can help me; therefore shall I not be confounded [confused] therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.” -- Isaiah 50:7.

Setting our face like flint is declaring a message to the world that we are dedicated to becoming who God has called us to be. Flint is a very hard substance and in the time of our trials, the strategy is to stand strong and not allow doubt or fear to influence or persuade us to surrender.

The Lord is longing to give us the stability and perseverance we need to accomplish His plans, but He is also depending on us to become committed in our faith. God’s river of joy is available anytime and is calling for us to wade out into the deeper waters of His presence.

We are invited to be saturated in His spirit and bask in His glory if this is what we really want. Unfortunately, many are relaxing in their lounge chairs at “poolside” and only stick their toes in the water occasionally when the stress and anxiety brings discomfort or when a crisis comes upon them. The best way to maintain a positive attitude is to pray and study God’s word daily which renews our mind and keeps us sensitive to His thoughts and demonstrating His character.

If Jesus is our vine and we are the branches, His nature and attributes are flowing within us. He wants to give you His strength and hope today and His peace and encouragement for your way. We know we are to believe in Him, but when is the last time you considered that He believes in you?

Jane Windham’s Shrimp Pasta

An absolutely scrumptious one dish dinner that's easy to put together

Cook Time 30 minutes
Servings 6
Author Jane Windham

Ingredients

2 pounds fresh shrimp peeled and deveined (frozen may be substituted)
juice from 1/2 lemon
1 onion chopped
1 red pepper chopped
1 green pepper chopped
small carton of fresh mushrooms sliced
1 bunch fresh asparagus cut into 1 inch pieces
3-4 cloves garlic minced
small can of black olives sliced
4 tablespoons olive oil divided
4 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
small bunch of fresh parsley chopped
salt pepper, and seasoning salt (as desired)
1 box angel hair pasta

Pasta Instructions

Put a large pot of salted, boiling water on the stove. Follow the instructions on the box for the cooking time. Drain in a colander and return to the pot. Keep warm.

For the asparagus

Add the asparagus pieces to a small amount of water and boil for 1 minute. Immediately drain and submerge into an ice bath to stop the cooking process. Set aside.

For the shrimp mixture

In a large frying pan, add 2 tablespoons of olive oil, onion, and peppers. Saute over medium high heat for 5 minutes.

Add the sliced mushrooms to the pan with the onions and peppers and cook for an additional 2-3 minutes. Remove the onions, peppers, and mushrooms from the pan and set aside.

In the same large frying pan, add 2 tablespoons olive oil and 4 tablespoons butter, and the minced garlic. Cook over medium low heat for 2 minutes.



Add the shrimp, white wine, and the juice of 1/2 lemon. Cook and stir over medium heat until all the shrimp have turned pink (about 5 minutes.)

Add all the cooked vegetables to the pan, mix together and season with salt, pepper, and seasoning salt, as desired.

Place the cooked pasta in the bottom of a large serving bowl and add the shrimp mixture, including all the pan juices.

Top with black olives, freshly grated Parmesan cheese, and chopped parsley.

Serve immediately.

Place additional freshly, grated Parmesan cheese on the table, if desired.

Makes great, warmed up leftovers!

For more recipes, visit www.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, Feb. 6, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m in the church’s Fellowship Hall at 620 North Main St., Darlington.

Pastor Support Brunch

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 3208 North Governor Williams Highway, Dovesville, is holding a Pastor Support Minister Brunch and Hat Show Parade Feb. 1 at noon. Donation: \$10.

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



Big goofy me! I am a happy go lucky guy with the perfect touch of goofiness to make everyone smile. I had a grand time running and playing with a youth the other day but also enjoyed having calm, quiet time with humans and was really in my element when I had 2 young girls in tandem petting, oohing and ahhhhing over me! A huggy, affectionate fellow, I calmly and respectfully met another dog on my outing and together we enjoyed exploring the front field area. My new friends (humans and doggies alike) were all smiles and tail wags when we parted company. I know they will help me find a new home with other pets and kids and laps ready for me drape myself in. My name is Winston and YOU can help turn my



frowny face upside down and into a huge smile by asking for me today! 53lbs; male; lab mix; 2yrs old
You will LOVE Angela! Angela is a happy, buoyant girl whose book is wide open. Never meeting a stranger, Angela is all smiles and tail wags and can't wait to begin her next grand adventure. Ask for Angela today and let the party begin! 2 yrs old; 32lbs; lab mix

Have you lost or found a pet?

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

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

Area Happenings

Weekly Events

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon Meetings

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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 home-made breads and sweet treats and as always, live music and entertainment! Every Thursday from 4 – 7 p.m. Location: Corner of 5th St. and Carolina Ave. in Hartsville.

Crochet & Knit Clubs

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

Darlington Elks Lodge

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

p.m.

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

Darlington Library Programs

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

Darlington Kiwanis Club

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

Hartsville Kiwanis Club

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

Hartsville Lions Club

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

Hartsville Rotary Club

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

Paws to Read

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

Pee Dee SCORE

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

Story Time

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

Monthly Events

American Legion

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

City of Darlington Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Darlington Branch NAACP

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

City of Darlington Design Review Board

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

Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

The Darlington County

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

Meetings: April 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 26.

No meeting in December.

Darlington County First Steps

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

Darlington County Historical Commission Meeting

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

Darlington Kiwanis Club Board Meeting

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

Darlington County Humane Society Board of Directors

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

Darlington Downtown Development Association Board of Directors Meeting

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

Free Vision Screenings

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

Head Start

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

Small Business Professionals Roundtable

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

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

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 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

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Capitol Report: Lawmakers return

By Rep. Robert Q. Williams
S.C. House District 62

Lawmakers returned to the State House on Jan. 14 to commence the second regular session of the 123rd South Carolina General Assembly.

The House of Representatives approved S.11 and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation provides that, if Congress amends federal law to authorize states to observe daylight-saving time year round, it is the intent of the S.C. General Assembly that daylight saving time be the year-round standard of the entire state and all of its political subdivisions.

The House returned S.194, a bill addressing prostitution and human trafficking, to the Senate with amendments. The legislation makes revisions to prostitution crimes that include an increase in the fines for second and subsequent misdemeanor offenses relating to soliciting prostitutes or abetting prostitution. An enhanced felony offense is established for violations involving a prostitute who is severely or profoundly mentally disabled.

The legislation revises offenses of engaging in prostitution to establish an affirmative defense against prosecution for a violation when the defendant is a victim of human trafficking. The legislation adopts recommendations for eradicating human trafficking from the organization Shared Hope International.

These initiatives include: the establishment of criminal offenses for combating sex tourism enterprises more effectively; the inclusion of human trafficking among the offenses

for which law enforcement may seek a court order authorizing wiretapping or the interception of electronic communications to further their criminal investigations; provisions for appointing special advocates trained in handling human trafficking cases to assist minor victims; and, enhancements to training on trafficking in persons and sex trafficking for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges.

The House amended Senate amendments to H. 3174 and returned the bill to the Senate. This bill establishes technical specifications for electric-assist bicycles and bicycles with helper motors and provides that those who operate these low-speed electrically assisted bicycles are subject to all statutory provisions that apply to bicyclists.

The legislation includes labeling requirements for these bicycles to indicate their wattage and maximum electrically assisted speed. The legislation specifies that electric-assist bicycles and bicycles with helper motors are not mopeds.

The House amended Senate amendments to H. 4244 and returned the bill to the Senate. The legislation makes revisions related to vehicle service contracts and theft protection program warranties that include requirements for disclosures to consumers and provisions for how service contract providers establish their financial security to pay claims.

The House approved and sent the Senate H. 4533, a bill renaming the state's Commission for Minority Affairs the Commission for Minority and Multicultural Affairs.

Carraway among officers honored by Sheriffs' Association

Darlington resident Terrence Carraway was among 18 sheriff's deputies, five police officers and one SLED agent honored by the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association last week in Columbia.

The Medal of Valor Award is given to law enforcement officers who perform actions above and beyond the call of duty, exhibit exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind; or act with unusual swiftness, regardless of their personal safety in an attempt to save or

protect human life.

Carraway, an officer with the Florence Police Department, was killed Oct. 3, 2018, during an ambush attack on law-enforcement officers in Florence County. Florence County Sheriff's Office Investigator Farrah Turner was wounded in that incident and later died from her injuries. Both received the Medal of Valor Award last week.

Other officers who were wounded in that incident, but survived, also received the honor.

Jewelry Tips for Valentine's

Valentine's Day is rife with tradition. Couples may have their own unique traditions, but others, like Valentine's Day date nights, are widely popular.

One Valentine's Day tradition many couples embrace is the exchange of gifts. Shoppers might not need much advice when purchasing heart-shaped boxes of chocolates or flowers for their sweethearts. However, when shopping for jewelry, Vmay feel as though they're in over their heads. The following tips, courtesy of the Better Business Bureau®, can help shoppers as they navigate the potentially confusing process of buying jewelry.

Diamonds--The BBB notes that diamonds' value is based on color, cut, clarity, and carat. Often referred to as the "4 Cs," this criteria refers to the grade of the color (color), the way the diamond is finished (cut), how flawless the diamond is (clarity), and its weight (carat). When shopping for diamonds, the BBB advises asking jewelers if they have the most up-to-date testing equipment, which makes it easier for them to distinguish between diamonds and lab-created gemstones. That's important, as lab-created gemstones resemble diamonds and may not be detectable if jewelers are using testing equipment designed to identify cubic zirconia.

Colored gemstones--Colored gemstones are very popular, and the BBB notes that various new stone treatments

have been developed to improve their appearance and durability. However, the BBB also notes that such treatments may adversely affect the value of the gem and necessitate special care in order to maintain the gem's appearance. When shopping for colored gemstones, ask the jeweler if an item has been treated and if there's any special maintenance required. Imitation or assembled stones may look like natural stones, so shoppers should ask if a stone is natural, synthetic or imitation before purchasing anything.

Gold--When used alone, the word gold implies an item is all gold or 24 karat gold. But the BBB notes that gold is naturally soft and, as a result, is typically mixed with other metals to improve its hardness and durability. The karat-quality marking indicates what proportion of gold is mixed with other metals. For example, the most common mark for gold jewelry is 18K of 750, which signifies an item is 75 percent gold. Lower-karat gold jewelry may include copper, silver, zinc, or other metals. Consumers should ask about these alloys and determine if the item's ultimate recipient is allergic to certain metals or if he or she has a high acid content in their bodies. People with high acid content in their bodies may have their jewelry turn black as a result.

USC initiative helps fill gaps amid teacher shortage

University of South Carolina

More than 5,300 teachers left South Carolina public schools at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

That seems like a staggering number, but it's not an anomaly. It puts students at risk of missing out on the quality instruction they need and deserve, and the University of South Carolina's College of Education is stepping in to help with a new initiative aimed at recruiting and retaining teachers.

As students have returned to the classroom this month, school districts across South Carolina are already planning how they will recruit teachers to fill the vacancies on the horizon for next fall.

Orangeburg County is one of those districts. "January kicks teacher recruitment into high gear for us," says Orangeburg County School District chief of staff Jesse Washington III.

Washington, who earned two education degrees from South Carolina, says the rural school district must fill about 60 to 70 teacher vacancies each year.

"It's not easy to find people who want to work in the state's rural communities," Washington says. "As a district, we must get creative in our recruitment efforts. We go to recruitment fairs across the state. We offer student loan forgiveness and sign contracts on the spot."

But it's not enough. The district looks far beyond state lines for qualified teachers.

"We rely on overseas educators who come to America for three years to teach in Orangeburg County. Currently, we have about 90

foreign teachers, which is about 7 percent of our teacher base," Washington says.

A new partnership with the university's College of Education could change all that, helping the district recruit teachers from South Carolina who want to work and live long-term in their community.

Thanks to a \$5 million Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, a new initiative in the College of Education, called Transition to Teaching, will help recruit and retain educators in the state's rural communities. Education professors George Roy, Melissa Baker, Rachelle Curcio and Stephen Thompson are leading the effort.

"The grant allows the college to collaborate with rural partner districts to recruit more professionals into elementary and middle level master's programs while simultaneously gaining teaching experience in classrooms in rural communities in S.C.," Roy says. "We believe this will help tackle the state's growing teacher shortage by encouraging more people to consider teaching."

Transition to Teaching is geared toward current teacher assistants and professionals who have a bachelor's degree in an area other than teaching and are considering a career change.

"This is an alternative to other teacher certification pathways and will provide high-quality teacher preparation beginning during a year-long residency experience," Roy says.

During the one-year residency, Transition to Teaching

participants, or fellows as they are called, will be placed in classrooms in one of two initial partner districts — Orangeburg County and Colleton County — where they will work and learn full time alongside veteran educators and university faculty.

"They will participate in embedded course experiences with guided support and coaching from College of Education faculty," Roy says. "They will truly be learning through hands-on teaching experiences with real students, in real classrooms in rural communities. They will be prepared to lead their own classrooms when they graduate."

Fellows will earn a \$15,000 per year stipend to help with housing, transportation and other expenses. Washington believes the stipend, coupled with loan forgiveness programs that are already in place, will help Orangeburg recruit more educators.

"I think this is a truly innovative program that shows the university cares about the state. They are listening to our needs and taking responsibility for helping us improve education in South Carolina," Washington says.

Transition to Teaching will help provide stability for the schools and for the children because fellows are required to teach in their partner-district for at least three years after finishing their master's degree, but Washington hopes the new teachers will enjoy their experiences and remain in Orangeburg for much longer.

"Our district really tries to support our teachers and our students, and we hope these

fellows will see that and stay in our community," Washington says.

As part of the initiative, fellows will participate in a three-year teacher induction program where they continue to receive professional development after graduation.

The college's Carolina Teacher Induction Program, or CarolinaTIP, is a teacher retention program that provides recent education alumni with three years of support through group workshops and one-on-one mentoring from experienced coaches.

"The ongoing support through CarolinaTIP will be invaluable for the fellows as they begin their new careers as teachers," Washington says. "These experiences will, no doubt, create a well-rounded teacher."

"I can't wait to see this program do well in our district and beyond."

Though the university is initially partnering with just Orangeburg and Colleton counties to implement Transition to Teaching, the professors hope to expand to other communities in the future.

"We want to create a model of teacher preparation that rural districts across the state can implement with ease and success," Roy says. "This grant will allow the university to better prepare the next generation of great teachers."

The College of Education will begin enrolling for the Transition to Teaching master's degree program during the spring 2020 semester, with coursework beginning with a two-week summer institute followed by the school residency in fall 2020.

Some lawmakers off to a fast start – looking after their wallets?

By Rick Brundrett
The Nerve

Although S.C. lawmakers have been back in session only a short time, some of them aren't waiting to author or co-sponsor bills that could boost their own bottom lines.

And a longstanding state ethics law gives them a big legal loophole to push for such legislation.

Under a House bill prefiled in November and referred to the Ways and Means Committee, developers who renovate or redevelop "abandoned" malls in South Carolina could receive real property tax credits, or credits against income or insurance premium taxes or corporate license fees.

The property tax break, for example, under the "South Carolina Malls Revitalization Act" would equal 25 percent of the actual renovation or redevelopment costs, times the "local taxing entity ratio," if the final expenses were between 80 percent and 125 percent of the initially projected costs.

An "abandoned mall" is defined broadly under the proposal as an "area that is comprised of three or more commercial establishments, the primary purpose of which is making retail sales"; and which at least half of the businesses have been "closed continuously to business or otherwise nonoperational for a period of at least one year immediately preceding" the developer's formal notification to renovate or redevelop the property.

"There exists in many communities of this state abandoned malls," the bill's introduction says, noting that the "abandonment of malls has resulted in the disruption of communities and increased the cost to local governments by requiring additional police and fire services due to excessive vacancies."

One of the bill's co-sponsors is Rep. William Cogswell, R-Charleston, who is described on the website of

WECCO Development LLC as having been in the "real estate business since 1997," and that his "extensive background includes work in development, construction, brokerage, and asset management."

"We are experts in tax credit deals, public private partnerships, and matching users with the right property," the website says about the company.

On his 2019 income-disclosure form filed with the State Ethics Commission, Cogswell, a House member since 2017, listed himself as a managing member of WECCO Development LLC and the Cogswell Company LLC.

He also reported the leasing of commercial office space to Clemson University; the Clemson Architecture Center in Charleston is housed in the historic Cigar Factory building, where WECCO Development also is located.

In an email response to The Nerve, Cogswell said there is "no conflict of interest in my mind or in the opinion of the House Ethics counsel" about the bill that he co-sponsored.

"While I have developed projects using other federal and state tax credits (mainly historic buildings), I have no past, current or future interest (economic or other) in the redevelopment of malls, which is what this bill contemplates," Cogswell said.

Cogswell isn't the only House member with pending legislation connected to his profession.

Rep. Phillip Lowe, R-Florence, who is a licensed physical therapist and developer, pre-filed a bill last month that would allow the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to require state and national criminal background checks for those applying for an initial physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license. The legisla-

tion was referred to the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

On his 2019 income-disclosure form, Lowe, a House member since 2007, listed himself as owner of Lowe's Therapy and Camden Rehab, and part owner of the Sumter Physical Therapy Clinic.

He also reported receiving income from several private properties.

Lowe did not immediately respond to a phone message from The Nerve.

State ethics law bans public officials from using their positions to "obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated."

But under a legal loophole known as the "large-class exception," lawmakers can sponsor bills that benefit their businesses if the legislation also would help similar businesses equally.

The Nerve repeatedly has pointed out bills that pose potential conflicts of interest for lawmakers who authored

or co-sponsored the legislation, including a story last year on four such bills.

One of those bills, which dealt with the regulation of "pharmacy benefits managers" and was co-sponsored by Sen. Ronnie Cromer, R-Newberry, who is a licensed pharmacist and local independent pharmacy owner, eventually passed the Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Henry McMaster.

Cromer at the time denied the legislation posed a potential conflict of interest.

The other three bills are pending.

If they don't pass this year, they would have to be reintroduced next year under the two-year legislative cycle.

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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SP4875

Law students get experience crafting original legal code for Catawba Tribe

University of South Carolina

Bianna Morrison remembers the moment she knew she wanted to attend South Carolina Law.

It came as she was researching law schools and discovered professor Marcia Zug and her work with indigenous peoples — particularly her comparative law research into the treatment of indigenous tribes in the United States and Australia.

“Growing up, my grandparents had a fascination with Native American history and culture, which inspired my passion for Native American rights. I knew Professor Zug could really help me expand my interest in Indian law,” says Morrison ’20, an Aliquippa, Pa., native. “But the opportunities I’ve had at USC Law have been so much more than I ever thought possible.”

Those opportunities included taking a unique course where Morrison did more than just learn about Indian law. She had the chance to create it.

While saddled with the unassuming title of “Special Topics in Legislative Drafting,” the groundbreaking class is unlike anything offered at an American law school, tasking students to craft an original code of laws for the Catawba Indians, the only federally recognized tribe in South Carolina.

“I’m not aware of any place else in the country where law students have the opportunity to help create an entire legal code from scratch and watch as the laws they have helped craft become the foundation of a new tribal justice system,” Zug says.

The Catawba are a sovereign nation with their own constitution and governmental structure, but they do not have their own court system. This means that they must cede control of court matters to state or federal courts. And navigating that system can get very tricky, to put it mildly, as many judges who preside over cases aren’t well versed in the intricacies of Indian law, much less familiar with the Catawba’s culture and traditional customs.

For instance, the tribe believes in a system of justice where the focus is more restorative than punitive. And in child custody cases, they feel the emphasis should shift toward individuals who are truly involved in that child’s life, versus following strict relationship lines.

The tribe has long wanted to establish jurisdiction over their own cases, but to do so, they first have to create the legal code as its foundation.

“The development and adoption of a code of laws is one of the ultimate expressions of our sovereignty as a tribal nation,” says Jeff Harris, a member of the tribe and the tribal governance attorney. “The codes will allow us to operate to the full extent of our sovereignty.”

Harris says it was their liaison at the South Carolina U.S. Attorney’s Office, Carrie Fisher Sherard, ’04, who first contacted the School of Law to see if a possible partnership could be arranged to achieve these goals. She connected tribal leaders with Zug and professor Joel Samuels, who is also the director of the university’s Rule of Law Collaborative.

After meeting with tribal leaders and learning about the Catawba’s desire to develop a full code, Zug and Samuels came up with the idea to create a new course that would not only teach students how to draft laws, but also would allow them to actually draft real laws that will someday form the foundation of governance for the tribe.

“We couldn’t have dreamed of working with professors with such incredible knowledge and experience,” Harris says. “We have felt fortunate from the beginning that they saw the value in this class and were willing to work with us.”

The course was initially offered during the 2018-2019 school year and focused on developing a family law code.

“We decided to start with the family code the first year because it was a somewhat easy place to start, and something we felt we could do in a year,” Zug says. “We examined family codes in South Carolina and other states and discussed what was good and what was not. Then, we took the good parts and tried to make them as specific to the Catawba as possible.”

“Because we were able to start with a completely blank slate, I think the Catawba actually have the chance to have a better family court system than the state of South Carolina.”

This year, Zug teamed up with legislative law professor Jesse Cross to concentrate on drafting a domestic violence code.

In both courses, students traveled to the Catawba reservation to meet with Harris, Chief Bill Harris (no relation), tribal elders, family and victim services advocates and others to get a better understanding of the Catawba’s culture and beliefs and specific issues affecting the tribe.

“My favorite part of the process has been having the students come visit us,” Harris says. “It’s one thing to read about us, but there are many things that you cannot fully understand until you see us and our lands, like how visiting our housing authority led them to think about ways the family code will need to address our unique property issues.”

Morrison, one of the few students who were able to take both classes, says it was nothing short of life changing.

“The effect it has had on me is immeasurable,” she says. “It was a big challenge, but it reminded me that I was part of something larger, and my work was contributing to a greater

good. I was able to do what I’ve always wanted to do, which is work with a tribe on tribal law issues, and I have also gained skills that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Kendall Eoute, ’20, who also participated in both classes, agrees.

“Without a doubt, drafting the family code for the Catawba Nation has been the most rewarding experience I have had during my time at UofSC Law,” Eoute says. “I never thought that, as a student, I would have the opportunity to draft laws that would actually be implemented and help such a deserving group of people.”

Eoute, a Greenville native, was attracted to South Carolina Law because of its Children’s Law Concentration program and will be practicing at a family law firm after graduation. She says not only did she learn valuable practical skills, but the class also provided other lessons as well.

“As we tried to come up with what to put in the statutes, we studied South Carolina’s family code in comparison to other states, and I recognized that there may be other avenues our laws could take that would achieve better results,” she says. “I hope my time in this class will allow me to appreciate our laws, but also be able to better advocate for changes to outdated laws that are in need of updates that can improve outcomes for children and families.”

Zug says she will continue co-teaching the class in future years, helping the Catawba build out other sections of code, including in areas of employment and environmental law, among others.

But as for these first two codes, Harris says the next step to implementation is a full review by the family services and victim services departments and then presenting the final drafts to the General Council for adoption. While there is no timeline yet in place for that, he knows the classes have helped them move much closer to their goal. And he’s glad that the students are benefiting just as much from the experience.

“Drafting laws is an important skill for any lawyer, and I hope that students are able to take this skill with them as they launch into their careers,” he says. “I certainly would have loved to take a class like this when I was in law school.”



Manheim Auto Auction of Darlington recently conducted its fourth annual Christmas tree auction to benefit The Lord Cares Ministry of Darlington. Pictured (left to right) are Daniel Hill, Ann Easterling, TLC president Brian Sherwood, TLC treasurer Gus Wilson, and Manheim general manager Stephen Twelkemeier. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Learn more about DIY home security

Homes are a safe haven and comfortable retreat for individuals and families. Home invasions can compromise that feeling of safety and security, making people feel uncomfortable and unsafe in their own homes.

Although the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics indicate property crime rates have seen a significant decline in the last few years, there are still roughly 2.5 million burglaries a year, 66 percent of which involve home break-ins. Break-ins are 6 percent more likely to occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., when people are out at work or running errands than at other times of day. Homes without a security system are 300 percent more likely to be burglarized, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Installing a security system may be the goal of homeowners looking to protect themselves and their belongings. Thanks to availability of new, user-friendly products, do-it-yourselfers can, in many instances, install their own home security systems.

Safety.com says smart home integration, mobile apps and wireless connectivity are hallmarks of modern DIY home security systems. Many have the same components as traditional home security systems, but do not require professional installation or monitoring, even though such options are available.

When shopping for home security systems, people can look for the following features to compare offerings.

- **Sensors:** Sensors will detect motion and activity in the house. Sensors also may be attached to doors and windows to determine if either are open. Some systems are designed to send alerts to a phone when triggered.
- **Cameras:** Working in conjunction with sensors, cameras can provide an eye on activity in and outside of a home, adding another layer of protection.
- **Smart features:** With smart home connectivity, security systems can be engaged and turned off from remote locations.

Many DIY versions of home security systems work wirelessly and can be set up in a relatively short period of time. While wired systems use existing electric and telephone lines to connect security components, wireless systems connect components to a main panel via radio frequency. One of the benefits of wireless tech is that it enables DIYers to add components and replace them as needed without major hassle. In addition, wireless security systems do not require construction during the installation process.

More and more homeowners are embracing DIY home security systems to keep their homes safe.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: James Lee Boatwright, Sr. Date of Death: 10/11/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600012 Personal Representative: James Boatwright Address: 2844 Timmonsville Highway, Darlington, SC 29532 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

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: Marjorie Howle Davis Date of Death: 12/20/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600006 Personal Representative: Linda Davis Address: 904 Brunwood Drive, Florence, SC 29501 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

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: Lawrence Aaron Gandy Date of Death: 12/23/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600013 Personal Representative: Sally Gandy Faile Address: 701 E. Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

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: John David Grainger Date of Death: 11/15/2019 Case No: 2019ES1600600 Personal Representative: Cindy G. Arrants Address: P.O. Box 58, Darlington, SC 29540 Attorney: Gena Phillips Ervin Address: P.O. Box 2527, Florence, SC 29503-2527 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

Case No: 2019ES1600027 Personal Representative: Diane Anderson McCall Address: 2204 Sweetbay Drive, Darlington, SC 29532 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

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: Charles Derris Steen Date of Death: 12/05/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600007 Personal Representative: Susan Willoughby Address: 2051 S. Fifth Street, Hartsville, SC 29550 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

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: Annie Taylor Date of Death: 11/30/2019 Case No: 2020ES1600010 Personal Representative: Alton Taylor Address: 812 Havenwood Court, Hartsville, SC 29550 (27p3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

answer to said complaint on the subscribed, Mike Kelly Law Group, LLC., 1523 Huger Street, Suite A, Post Office Box 8113, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, within THIRTY (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service. If you fail to answer the complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Respectfully Submitted, MIKE KELLY LAW GROUP, LLC BY: s/Bradley D. Hewett

Bradley D. Hewett, SC Bar No. 77924 bhewett@mklawgroup.com 1523 Huger Street, Suite A Columbia, SC 29201 803/726-0123 Attorney for Plaintiff Columbia, South Carolina December 12, 2019 (27c3 leave in thru 1-29-20)

NOTICE OF SALE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CASE NO. 2019CP1600626 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. Plaintiff, -vs- The Estate of Willie James Bacote; The Estate of Jessie Lee Bacote; South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; all Unknown Heirs of Willie J. Bacote, Deceased or Jessie Lee Bacote, Deceased, and all other persons entitled to claim under or through them being a

LEGALS ON PG. 10



Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School announces their athletic director, Coach Jared Amell, has been named Blitz Coach of the Year. Reggion Bennett and Nick Jones, students at Trinity-Byrnes, were both named to the All Blitz team. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School sent their largest team ever to the SCISA State Debate Tournament in Orangeburg. Three teams placed in their divisions. In the Novice Division, Dylan Odin and Grace Cleveland placed second statewide and Maya Chokshi and Jackson Lowe placed sixth statewide. In the Varsity Division, Lyndie Reining and Cooper Poston placed fifth statewide. This year SCISA is also forming its first Debate All Star Team, which will go on to represent SCISA in national debate events in the 2020-2021 academic year. Trinity-Byrnes students Grace Cleveland and Dylan Odin were chosen for the Novice All Star Team, while Cooper Poston and Lyndie Reining were chosen for the Varsity All Star Team. Shown in photo: Tim Streit, Ester Zhou, Harris Williams, Hampton Epps, Jack Cleveland, Maya Chokshi, Jackson Lowe, Ruth Player, Cooper Poston, Lyndie Reining, Dylan Odin, Grace Cleveland, Lacey Stephens. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Backyard Stargazer

A quick guide to the February heavens

By Francis Parnell

It's almost February, and at dusk on the 1st be sure to look southwest to spot Venus, the Evening Star, blazing brightly above the horizon.

Venus is 7,521 miles in diameter, and an average temperature of --864 degrees -- hot enough to melt lead!

Mercury will be to the lower right of Venus, but the best visibility of Mercury will be



between the 6th and the 14th.

About an hour after sunset on the 3rd, the waxing gibbous Moon is in the Hyades, with Aldebaran, the red eye of the Bull, a few degrees lower left. The "V" of the Hyades is one of the closest open star clusters at 150 light years away, and is the "face" of Taurus.

On the 10th at dusk, Mercury reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation of 18 degrees from the Sun. An hour after sunset it's still 10 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon. Try to spot the tiny world before it sets. Mercury is 3,032 miles in diameter, and is

a toasty 801 degrees.

Just before dawn on the 19th, the thin crescent Moon and Jupiter are about 4 degrees apart just to the left of the Teapot in Sagittarius.

At dawn on the 20th, an even more slender lunar crescent is about 2 degrees lower right of yellow Saturn. Catch the pair in the southeast before sunrise.

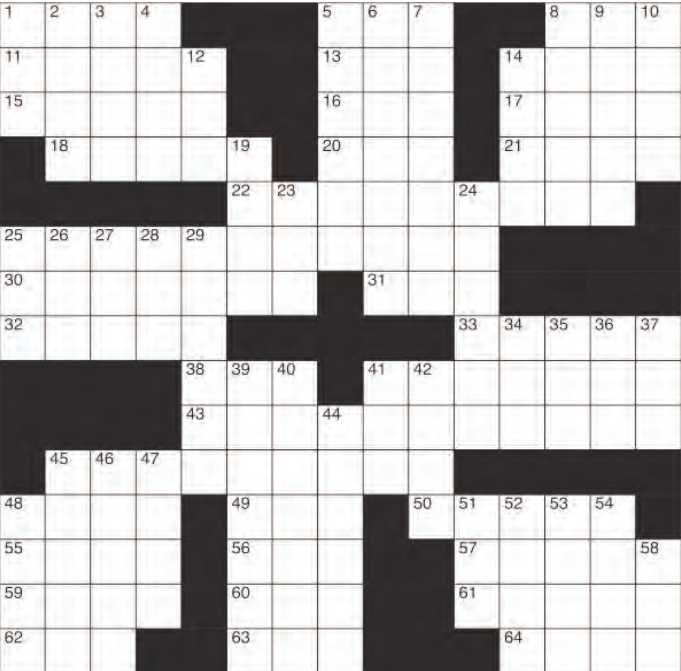
On the 27th at dusk, find the thin waxing crescent Moon about 6 degrees left of Venus as they sink towards the western horizon.

FAST FACT: Speaking of "fast," ever wonder how fast

Earth moves along its orbit? The average orbital speed is 66,628 mph. During a year we'll travel 584 million miles. Of course the extra day for Leap Year adds 1.6 million miles for a total of 585.3 million miles. And Earth has circled the Sun 4.5 billion times.

Migrating birds navigate by the stars. But as light pollution brightens the sky, the stars are no longer visible, which causes about a billion bird deaths each year. Reduce light pollution, save the birds and "Keep looking up!"

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Fall down
- American TV company (abbr.)
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Gallantry
- Chinese word signifying "doctrine"
- Prefix meaning "beside"
- Act of imitating
- Tall, rounded vase
- Sixth month of Jewish civil calendar
- Rural Iranian village
- Time zone
- Military weapon (abbr.)
- Gets rid of
- Aggressive
- Addressed one's appearance
- Affirmative
- Denoting Indo-European languages
- French noble family
- Shock therapy
- Having characteristics of both sexes
- Large suitcase
- One who identifies God with the universe
- Swiss river
- Frequently
- Wipe out
- Invests in little

DOWN

- Surgical procedure of the heart (abbr.)
- Northern Scandinavia indigenous person
- Evergreen trees and shrubs
- Meat from a domestic hog
- State of insensibility
- Herb
- Annuity
- San Diego-based ballplayer
- Members of a Semitic people
- Any physical damage
- Woolen rug
- Alsos Mission leader
- Aromatic plant used as culinary herb
- Where you

- Waste
- Resembles a large shrimp
- Derogatory name for rural resident
- Menswear accessory
- Tropical American tree
- Pitching statistic
- Camera type
- Cardinal number that is the sum of five and one
- Ruled Russia
- Indicates density of data (abbr.)
- Sea eagle
- Type of light bulb
- Wreath
- Graduate with a degree
- What thespians do
- "Orange is the New Black" character
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Romanian monetary unit
- People treated as a group
- Small European plant
- First responder group
- A person's head
- Giggle
- Bura--: Chadic language
- Snout moth genus
- Body part
- Inspirational Wimbledon champ
- Revolutions per minute
- American software developer
- Ancient Greek city
- Female sheep
- "The Science Guy"

WORD SEARCH

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

BAR-BACK
BEHIND
BISTRO
BUS
COOKED
COVER
DISH
ENTREE

ESTABLISHMENT
EXPEDITE
GRATUITY
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SEATED
SHIFT
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TAB
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Answers on 11

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Deputies investigating armed robbery in Dovesville area

Darlington County sheriff's deputies are investigating an armed robbery at the A&T convenience store in the Dovesville community that occurred around 9:30 a.m. Jan. 21.

two armed men entered the store, assaulted the clerk and took various items. Investigators have released images of the two suspects from the store's surveillance system.

If you recognize either of these men, you are asked to contact Darlington County Sheriff's Investigator Elliot at (843) 861-3579 or Crime Stoppers of the Pee Dee at 1-888-CRIME-SC or visit

www.p3tips.com. You can also submit tips through a mobile app; text "DCSO" to 95577 for a link to download. You do not have to reveal your identity to leave information.

Tips for waterproofing a basement or crawl space

Water can be a homeowner's worst nightmare. Few things have the potential to damage a home as much as water. From leaks to flooding to moisture problems like mold, water can wreak havoc on a home.

Basements or crawl spaces are areas of a home where water can do the most damage. Basements and crawl spaces tend to be the lowest-lying spots in a home, and therefore prime spots for water to enter. Water problems in these areas can contribute to the demise of the structural integrity of the foundation.

According to Olshan, a foundation solutions company, water can enter homes in numerous ways. Many building materials, including concrete, that seem solid at first glance actually are quite porous. As ground water collects around these materials, the weight of the accumulated water, called hydrostatic pressure, can weaken the materials, causing cracks where water can seep through. Water also can enter subterranean spaces through basement windows and gaps between footings and concrete slabs, or push up through foundation floors when homes are in areas with high water tables.

Remediating water issues in a home generally breaks down into two methodologies: exterior waterproofing and interior waterproofing. Depending on the cause and severity of the water issue, one or the other, or even both, may be recommended.

Exterior waterproofing

Exterior waterproofing aims to keep water away from and out of the home. The



home improvement information resource DoItYourself.com says that exterior waterproofing generally includes the application of a waterproofing agent to the concrete foundation. In addition, exterior waterproofing also could include excavation so a drainage system can be installed around the entire footing of the home. Regrading a property and properly relocating gutters and downspouts can help with many water issues.

Interior waterproofing

When water in a basement or crawl space needs to be remediated indoors, a system

to collect, drain and remove water may be necessary. This can include sump pumps, drains, gravity discharge systems, and more. Moisture barriers, which can include special paints or products applied to the foundation walls and floor, also can help keep water from entering the space.

Moisture solutions

Keeping water out is only one part of the equation. Homeowners also need to manage moisture, like excessive humidity. A marriage of HVAC and waterproofing techniques may be necessary to improve air flow and remove humidity in the air. While many homeowners

have attempted to address water issues on their own, many times it is a job best left to the professionals. Because water penetration can have multifaceted causes, a professional can best assess the situation and create solutions that fit with homeowners' budgets and needs. The review and advice site Angie's List suggests finding at least three waterproofing companies that offer both interior and exterior waterproofing services that can provide the best ideas for fixing the issue.

Raceway to host annual 'watch party' to kick off 2020 NASCAR season

Darlington Raceway will celebrate Daytona Day and the start of the 2020 NASCAR season by hosting its ninth annual Daytona 500 Community Watch Party on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The party will be hosted at Mellow Mushroom, 120 Dunbarton Drive in Florence. The event will start at 1:30 p.m. and continue until the conclusion of the Daytona 500.

The Community Watch Party will feature a food and drink special courtesy of Mellow Mushroom.

Fans who attend will have the chance to win tickets, pit passes and pre-race ceremony wristbands, along with other prizes and giveaways to the NASCAR Cup Series Southern 500 on Labor Day weekend.

"Our ninth annual watch party is a great way for us to engage with our local race fans and celebrate Daytona Day and the start of the 2020 NASCAR season," track President Kerry Tharp said. "We're excited that the event will once again be held at Mellow Mushroom for the

fourth consecutive year, which is an outstanding venue to watch The Great American Race on Feb. 16."

The watch party will also feature a video gaming area at Mellow Mushroom where fans will be able to simulate racing at Daytona International Speedway.

Top times posted during the contest will receive prizes during the party.

Partners of the ninth annual Community Watch Party are Coca-Cola, Crown Beverages and WEGX Eagle 92.9 FM (iHeart Media).

Additionally, with the Daytona 500 approaching, Darlington Raceway will be a presenting sponsor of live coverage from Daytona Speedweeks.

Local media partners WWFN 100.1 FM "The Fan" and WEGX Eagle 92.9 FM will broadcast live from Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 13-14.

The Daytona 500 will also be available live on Eagle 92.9 FM (MRN) beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 16.

1 killed, 3 hurt in crash near Hartsville

A woman was killed and three passengers in her car were injured Jan. 20 when the vehicle collided with a truck in the Hartsville area, officials said.

The accident took place about 4:30 p.m. at U.S. 15 and Center Road.

The S.C. Highway Patrol said that a 2008 Freightliner commercial vehicle was trav-

eling east on Center Road, but failed to stop for a stop sign. The other vehicle, a 2004 Chevrolet Impala traveling south on U.S. 15, hit the Freightliner's trailer, officials said.

Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee said he would release the woman's name after her family was notified.

Former deputy pleads not guilty in misconduct case

A former Darlington County sheriff's deputy has pleaded not guilty to charges accusing him of misconduct in office.

Edward Wirhousky was arraigned last week on one charge of having sex while on duty and another charge of illegally letting someone use a computer owned by the Sheriff's Office.

He was granted a \$10,000

personal-recognizance bond. The date of the alleged offenses was not clear.

The Sheriff's Office says Wirhousky has not worked there since 2017.

Wirhousky's attorney told WPDE-TV that the former deputy has worked in law enforcement for more than 30 years and is "completely innocent of these charges."

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