



# Clarendon embraces rare winter weather

BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY | mtscreporter@gmail.com

A rare winter storm brought an unexpected snow day to Clarendon County on January 22, transforming our rural community into a snowy wonderland. While residents delighted in the novelty of up to four inches of snow, icy conditions quickly followed, complicating travel and daily routines.

Snow began falling late on January 21, blanketing the area by Wednesday morning. The winter storm was a marvel for a community unaccustomed to such weather, and families took the opportunity to enjoy the snow before it melted. Children built snowmen, engaged in playful snowball fights, and savored the fleeting winter landscape. Parents and grandparents documented the day, sharing memories that will likely outlast the snow itself.

However, as temperatures plunged into the teens overnight, the excitement gave way to caution. Some snow melted during the day and then refroze in shaded areas, creating hazardous conditions on secondary roads. Clarendon County officials and emergency responders worked tirelessly to monitor the roads and warn of black ice, while local schools shifted to e-learning to prioritize safety.

Despite the challenges, the community displayed resilience and resourcefulness. Local businesses, like Manning's Orchard Café, stayed open to provide meals

See **SNOW**, Page 8

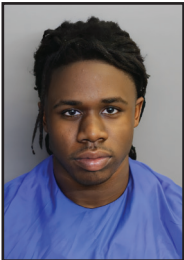


● MURDER

# Manning man awaiting trial in child homicide case found fatally shot

BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY  
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Authorities are investigating the death of Ny'Jshore Jareek Green, 24, of Manning, who was found fatally shot in a vehicle late Friday night.



NY'JSHORE GREEN

Deputies with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office responded to a suspicious vehicle on a private roadway in the Arlen Road area around 11:56 p.m. on January 19. The car was parked with its engine running and headlights on.

Upon approaching the vehicle, deputies observed multiple bullet holes in the driver's side front door window.

Inside, Green was discovered with

multiple gunshot wounds. Clarendon Fire Rescue pronounced him dead at the scene.

Green had been facing legal challenges before his death. He was awaiting trial for a 2021 charge of homicide by child abuse related to the death of a 3-month-old infant in Manning. According to earlier reports, Green had been caring for the child at the time of the incident. Based on court records, the case was still pending at the time of his death.

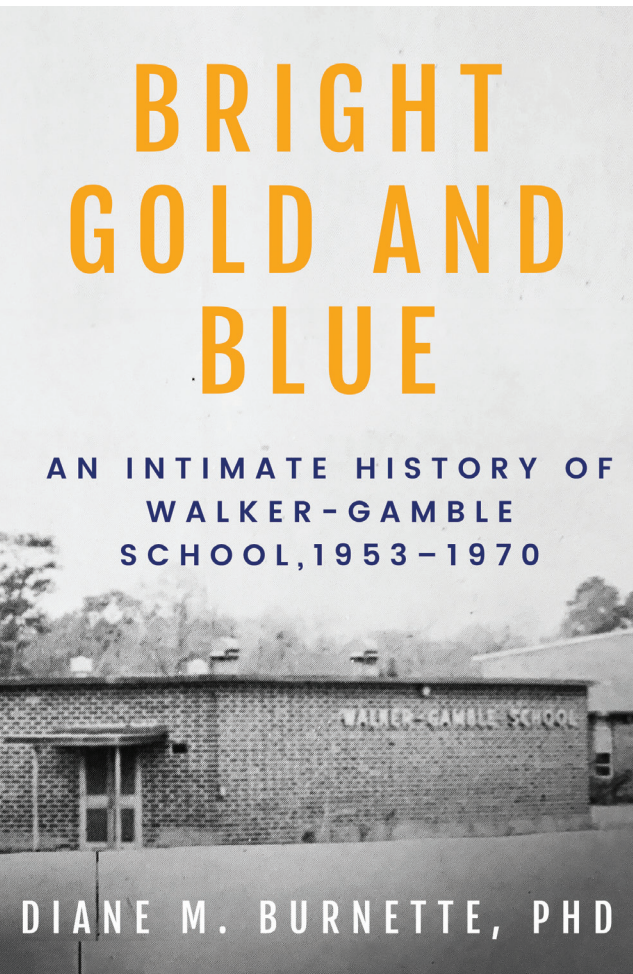
The Clarendon County Coroner's Office has been notified, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Crime Scene Unit is assisting local investigators in processing the scene and pursuing leads.

Authorities have not released any information on potential suspects or motives but are urging anyone with knowledge of the incident to come forward.

Those with information can contact the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office at 803-435-4414 or the 24-hour tip line at 803-433-TIPS (8477).

● COMMUNITY

# Historian shares the legacy of Walker-Gamble School



BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY  
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The eleven ceremonial shovelers, each topped with white construction hats, stood tall in the moist soil under the gray overcast skies. The audience was filled with dignitaries, including school administrators, school district personnel, county

legislative representatives, and other elected officials. Seventy-one years after East Clarendon School District #3 broke ground on the Walker-Gamble School, they had come together in the year 2024 to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for what would become a new facility for Walker-Gamble Elementary School. The new school

would reflect a modern design in school facilities, complete with technological resources that were unheard of when Walker-Gamble School was built in 1953. Most significant was that plans for the new building would locate the school in Turbeville, far from its original roots in New Zion. The occasion held a special meaning for the families of Silas Walker and Charlie Gamble, who were also in attendance, many of whom were three to four generations removed from the men who provided the property on which the original Walker-Gamble School was built.

For Dr. Diane Burnette, Walker-Gamble School is much more than a piece of history. It is her history. The school, founded in 1953 as the only public school for African Americans in Eastern Clarendon County, was built on land donated by her grandfather, Silas Walker, and Charlie Gamble, two men whose vision for education shaped the lives of countless children.

"My grandparents were a big part of that because the school shares the name with Mr. Charlie Gamble and his family," Burnette said. "They weren't doing it for recognition. They were simply doing what was in their power to provide an education for Black

See **BURNETTE**, Page 4



**TEDDY OBERTACZ**  
Teddy Jozef Obertacz, 90, widower of Carolyn Louise Musch Obertacz, died Thursday, January 16, 2025, at MUSC Health Florence. Born July 5, 1934, in Toledo, OH, he was a son of the late Walter Obertacz and the late Helen Walczak Obertacz. He was a US Army veteran of the Korean War. He was a product engineer of 31 ½ years for Dana Corporation, Spicer Division and retired in 1992. He was of the Lutheran faith.

He is survived by two daughters, Cheryl Lynn Gillispie (Harold) of Hartsville and Julia Ann DeBruin (R.Scott) of Enosburg Falls, VT; four grandchildren, Justin Gillispie (Angela), Caitlin Gillispie, both of Port Charlotte, FL, Emily Clark (Adam) of Grand Isle, VT and McKenzie DeBruin of Burlington, VT; six great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by three siblings. Services will be private. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

**SHERRI ARMENT**  
Sherri Denise Arment, 62, died Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at McLeod Hospice House in Florence. Born March 30, 1962, in Charleston, she was a daughter of the late Herbert Hoover Whetsell and the late Mary Magdaline Smith Whetsell. She was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary of Pensacola, FL Post 706. She worked as a Computer Specialist at the Naval Base in Pensacola, FL for 25 years before moving to Manning. Since 2014, Sherri was the office manager at A Second Chance Animal Shelter which she loved dearly.

Surviving are her sister, Ruth Holmes (Roy) of Manning; three brothers, Herb Whetsell (Patty) of Manning, Kenny Whetsell (Kerry) and Randy Whetsell both of Charleston; seven nieces and nephews; seven great nieces and nephews; four great-great nieces and nephews all of Charleston; and her beloved pets, Howie and Petunia. There are no services at this time. Memorials may be made to A Second Chance Animal Shelter,

PO Box 607, Manning, SC. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

**SONJA ROACH**  
Sonja Ann Gulliksen Roach, 62, wife of Ronnie Wayne Roach, died Monday, January 20, 2025, at McLeod Hospice House. Born May 12, 1962, in Atwater, CA, she was a daughter of the late Theodore John Gulliksen and the late Roberta McQueen Gulliksen. She was a beloved baker for Walmart and Sam's Club. Sonja adored her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of Manning; two children, Melody Stinchcomb (Mike) of Summerville and Ryan McCorkle of Littleton, CO; three grandchildren, Hannah Elizondo, Sarah Deshner and Emily Stinchcomb; six great grandchildren; two brothers, John Gulliksen (Laurie) of Hahira, GA and Eric Gulliksen (Nancy) of Summerville; a sister, Peggy Wigger (Brant) of Port St. Lucie, FL; and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date at Beaufort National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

**ANITRAL HOLLIDAY**  
Anitral Anderson Holliday, 36, wife of Jaeveral Holliday, died Friday, January 24, 2025, at her residence in Summerton, SC. She was born July 15, 1988, in Summerton, SC. A daughter of Robert Lee Smith and the late Queen Anderson. Public viewing was held Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning, SC. Funeral services were held 12 Noon Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at Gum Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Pinewood, SC. Burial will follow in the Churchyard Cemetery. The family is receiving friends at the home of Joseph and Janet Holliday, 1154 Doughty Rd.,

Summerton, SC. 2PM til 7PM, immediate family only, and at the home of her father Robert (Pammie) Smith, 17 Riley St. Sumter, SC.

**DELPHINE STARKS**  
Delphine Starks, 61 died Thursday, January 23, 2025 at her residences in Sumter, SC. She was born September 21, 1961 in Wilmington, NC. A daughter of the late Henry and Essie Mae Wright Starks. Public viewing will be held Friday, January 31, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning, SC. Funeral services will be held 12 Noon Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Faith Center Raccoon Rd. Manning, SC. Burial will follow in the Union Cypress AME Church Cemetery. The family is receiving friends at the home of her son and daughter-in-law Jeremiah and Crystal Starks, 65 Ridge Circle Dr. Camden, SC

**BOB FRAZIER**  
Robert "Bob" Lee Frazier, 88, of Manning, SC, formerly of Washington, PA, was called to the Lord, on January 23, 2025. Born on August 31, 1936, Bob was the only child of John H. and Helen M. Frazier. On January 2, 1987, he married Janice Alice Converse. Bob graduated from Washington High School in 1954 and embarked on a diverse career as an industrial engineer and hotel manager. After retiring, he and Jan relocated to South Carolina. Bob and Jan were devoted members of the Presbyterian Church at Manning, embracing the charming Southern lifestyle. Bob found joy in relaxing at the beach, antiques, participating in the local golf league, and traveling around the East Coast to visit family and his grandchildren. Bob loved competition and had a passion for playing golf. A lifelong sports enthusiast, Bob found his greatest joy in watching his children excel in baseball, football, wrestling, golf, and cheerleading. He took immense pride in their achievements, as well as in the successes of the many young athletes he coached over the years. In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Jamie Lynn Frazier. He is survived by his loving

wife Jan, children, John (Milla) Frazier of Goose Creek, SC, James (Tonya) Frazier of New Market, MD, Jeffrey (Samantha) Frazier of Mechanicsburg, PA, Lorraine (Michael) Parrish of Fairfax Station, VA, and Richard (Monica) Taylor of Vancleave, MS. He was also adored by his 12 grandchildren. The funeral will be private, and a celebration of life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Presbyterian Church at Manning. The family would like to thank McLeod Clarendon Hospice and his caretakers for their love and care. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

**WALTER YOUNG**  
MANNING – Walter David Young, 86, widower of Melva Jean Smith Young, died Thursday, January 23, 2025, at his home. Born November 2, 1938, in Alcolu, he was a son of the late William Jefferson Young and the late Mildred Loretta Hodge Young. He was the former owner of Turbeville Sportswear, a member of Woodmen of the World since 1957, and a member of Clarendon Baptist Church. He is survived by three daughters, Marie Tolson (Watson) of Lynchburg, Melodie Young of Florence and Cindy Welch of Turbeville; eight grandchildren, Sarah DenHartog (Rob), Edward Phillips (Caitlin), Andrew Tolson (Hannah), Alex Tolson (Grace), Dusty Ward (Kayla), Daniel Welch (Danielle), Danielle Jacobs (Noah) and Sabrina Blankenship (Zachary); nine great grandchildren; a special son-in-law, Eddie Phillips; and a special ex son-in-law, David Ward. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Jean Young Phillips; a brother, Francis Young; and two sisters, Edith Young Kellogg and Ruth Young Jones. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025, in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Mike DeCosta and the Rev. Patrick Goodwin officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Cemetery in Alcolu. Pallbearers will be David Ward, Carroll Welch, Legrande Jones, David Jones, Billy Moore, John K. Smith, Russell Harrelson and Wofford Rodgers, Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be Billy Coffey, Harry Blackmon, Dennis Reynolds, Larry Lewis, LeRoy Lewis, Jr., C.B. Mathis and Casey Connor.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 2148 Lake Shore Drive, Manning. Memorials may be made to City of Refuge, [www.cityof-refugeatl.org](http://www.cityof-refugeatl.org), or to Clarendon Baptist Church, P.O. Box 307, Alcolu, SC 29001. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

**KATIE JUSTICE**  
Katharina "Katie" Hoschele Justice, wife of Jackie "Jack" Phill Justice, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at her home. Born January 11, 1944, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, she was the beloved daughter of the late Hermann Hoschele and the late Katharina Bartel Hoschele. She was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Summerton. Katie married the love of her life, Jackie Justice, on August 9, 1960, in her hometown of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Together they built a life filled with love and family, eventually retiring to Lake Marion, Summerton, South Carolina. Katie's life was a testament to resilience and devotion. Born during challenging times in Germany, she carried her strength and warmth across continents to create a loving home for her family. Her legacy lives on through the many lives she touched with her kindness and unwavering love. She is survived by her devoted husband of 64 years of Summerton; three children, Jackie P. Justice, Jr. (Pam) of Bath, NC, Diane L. Sapp (Morgan) of Hilliard, OH and Denise Justice of Palmetto, FL; proud grandmother to fourteen grandchildren; and cherished aunt to countless nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, John Phill Justice. A memorial was held at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025, in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Antony Ben-jamine officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at Stephens Funeral Home. The family would like to thank Crescent Hospice for their loving and compassionate care. Memorials may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, 12 North Cantley Street, Summerton, SC 29148. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. [www.stephensfuneralhome.org](http://www.stephensfuneralhome.org)

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● SMITH'S VIEW

# Breaking Up..

“It’s not you,” she said, “It’s me.” Something in her tone, her lowered eyes, and her shift in the chair told him it was a lie; it was definitely him. He knew their relationship had been running cold for the last few weeks, and he was pretty sure he knew why.

“Are you breaking up with me?” he asked. “It’s not really a breakup; it’s more like taking a break, you know?” she explained. There was something in her tone that communicated, “I am not going to tell you the whole story.”



Clay SMITH

Jesus looked sadly down at his nail-scarred hands as her shadow retreated. What else could he do to show her that he loved her best and it would be his love that would set her free?

him,” he said. “I’m sure you can’t trust him.” She knew he was usually right but didn’t want to listen this time.

“Have you been stalking me? How do you know him? How can you know anything about him? This is why I need to break up with you. You always act like you know more than anyone else. You’re always telling me what is right and wrong. What makes you so sure that you know what is right and what is wrong? And don’t tell me about how you know things I can’t even understand!” she shouted.

“I thought you just wanted a break. Now you are saying you want to break up?” he asked, with a gentleness in his voice.

She replied angrily, “This conversation is over. This is why I can’t have you in my life anymore. You are always asking me to think about some ‘deeper meaning’ about what I say and what I do. I just want to live my life, have fun, and live free.” She got up to leave.

“Before you leave,” he said, “I ask you to remember two things. Remember, I have always wanted the best for you. Anytime I shared wisdom with you, that sounded like a rule; it was because I wanted you to have the best life possible. And remember, I will always love you.”

She grimaced, paused, and looked at him. A tear formed in the corner of her eye. She brushed it away, turned, and walked on with a determined stride. She was finally going to live her life her way. What did he know anyway? Weren’t his words just ideas from stuffy old men?

Jesus looked sadly down at his nail-scarred hands as her shadow retreated. What else could he do to show her that he loved her best and it would be his love that would set her free? His heart was breaking. Another one of the people he died for had succumbed to the temptation to walk away. The temptation looked so good, but he knew the temptation destination: destruction.

How many of us have broken up with Jesus because he cramped our style? How many of us have come back to him to admit life without him just doesn’t work? How many of us have to say walking away from Jesus, doing our own thing, was the worst mistake we ever made?

The good news? He still loves you. Always.

Clay Smith is the Lead Pastor at Alice Drive Baptist Church.

● LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Y’all, I am just so proud of the stories we’ve been able to share recently in The Manning Times. It’s a privilege to bring you the news and profiles that highlight the heart of our community, and this week’s edition is no exception as we kick off Black History Month.

This week, we’re featuring two remarkable women whose stories you won’t want to miss. The first is Patricia Pringle, auditor and president of the Clarendon County Democratic Party. I had the pleasure of speaking with Patricia for over an hour during our interview, and she is a truly fascinating woman. I’m delighted with how her story turned out and hope it inspires you as much as it did me.

The second story highlights Dr. Diane Burnette, a native of New Zion, whose new book chronicles the histo-

ry of the Walker-Gamble School. Our conversation was another long and rewarding one, filled with insight and passion. Dr. Burnette’s work is both thorough and heartfelt, capturing the stories of Black families in eastern Clarendon County during the civil rights era. Her mission to share these experiences is vital, and I urge anyone with an interest in local events and history to read her book.

In other exciting news, we’ve officially launched our e-editions! You can now find The Manning Times



Melissa FOUST-McCOY

online at [manninglive.com](http://manninglive.com). For a limited time, they’re free to access, so be sure to check them out and enjoy the convenience of reading your local news online.

As always, I want to hear from you. From business openings to community events, local profiles to fundraisers and simple acts of kindness, we love telling the stories that matter to Clarendon County. If you’ve got the scoop, don’t hesitate to call the office or email us at [manningstimes@gmail.com](mailto:manningstimes@gmail.com).

Thank you for letting us share your stories and for being part of our community. Here’s to another great week in Clarendon County!

Warm regards,  
*Melissa*



● POLAND'S VIEW

# A Day in the Life of a Garbage Man

Let this harrowing tale serve as a warning. Be careful of what you wrap in aluminum foil.

A British judge stopped a man’s 12-year legal battle to dig up a hard drive storing 8,000 bitcoins worth \$750 million from a landfill. James Howells claims his ex-girlfriend mistakenly trashed his hard drive in 2013 and it ended up in 350,000 tons of garbage. Someone had to recover his fortune.

Just like that, my days as a garbage man burst into life with startling clarity. While attending the University of Georgia, I worked two summers doing whatever needed to be done at Elijah Clark State Park. A major duty involved the ritual of gathering garbage from campsites. First thing in the morning, we’d drive a Massey Ferguson tractor from campsite to campsite and throw garbage into a large wooden trailer. The destination? A large pit, which every so often we’d douse with gasoline and burn everything from discarded fishing gear, broken skis, to clumps of aluminum foil holding everything from charcoal embers to food and more.

One broiling summer day Mr. Frances Fortson, park superintendent, summoned all the garbage men to a meeting. We faced a crisis. The evening before a woman had wrapped her false teeth in aluminum foil after a meal of fried fish, yellow rice, and salad. A family member had tossed the foil into the garbage. Mr. Fortson gave us garbage men—always at his disposal—a directive.

“Find that woman’s teeth.” To the garbage pit we went, not to look for bitcoins but a bite machine.



Tom POLAND

We waded into and through it all as the toothless woman stood over the pit shading her eyes and peering at her would-be heroes...

another. “Do you see any aluminum foil?” “Yes, ma’am. Plenty.”

He opened up scrap after scrap of foil, shaking out their contents. Onion peelings, rotten vegetables, potato leftovers, and in one case a snarled bird nest of monofilament spilled out.

Another garbage man, holding up a skeleton like the Bonefish restaurant logo, said, “Looks like a bass.”

“No, we fried crappie and bream,” the woman shouted back.

And so it went. We took a break around 3 o’clock, then returned to the pit. By now the heat had built and the work was taking its toll. The woman maintained her vigil on the rim.

“Ma’am, here’s some fried fish, yellow rice, and salad stuff. Pink napkins too.”

“Yes, yes” she said excitedly. We used those. Do you see any aluminum foil?”

“Yes ma’am, looking at a clump right now” and in a scene reminiscent of Bill Murray cleaning out the pool in Caddy Shack, he reached down and pulled up a clump of aluminum foil and opened it.

A true hero held up a fine set of choppers to the immense relief of the jubilant woman on the pit’s rim.

For the rest of us, it was just another day in the life of a garbage man.

Tom Poland is a Southern Writer. His website is [www.tompoland.net](http://www.tompoland.net), and he can be reaching at [tompol@earthlink.net](mailto:tompol@earthlink.net)

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# The Manning Times

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BURNETTE

FROM PAGE 1

children in Eastern Clarendon County.”

Burnette’s parents, Murray and Jannie Montgomery, were founding faculty members at Walker-Gamble School, dedicating their entire teaching careers to educating African American students during segregation. “They taught for 30 years,” she said. “Their work, and that of other educators, inspired me to preserve this history.”



**DIANE BURNETTE, PH.D.**

Her book, *Bright Gold and Blue: An Intimate History of the Walker-Gamble School, 1953–1970*, reflects Burnette’s personal connection to the school and its role as a pillar for the community. She began researching the book in 2010 and spent over a decade gathering information from archives in New York, Columbia, and Clarendon County. “The research was extensive,” Burnette explained. “I reviewed early copies of East Clarendon School District 3 Board of Trustee meeting minutes over a 10-year period, starting from the late 1950s up through the end of the 1960s.”

Life for Black families and the fight for education

Walker-Gamble was a source of pride and opportunity for Black families in New Zion, Turbeville, and Gable. “I wanted to give the reader a sense of what life was like on the other side of Clarendon County,” Burnette said. “The community faced significant demographic and economic challenges, but parents were incredibly supportive of education because they saw it as the best way to improve their children’s lives.”

Burnette traces the origins of Walker-Gamble back to one- and two-room community schools that existed before 1953. In her book, she captures the early years of Walker-Gamble, including its growth and the contributions of figures like Walker and Gamble, who worked tirelessly to ensure Black children had access to education despite systemic inequalities.

“The school became a part of the community, and the community became part of the school,” Burnette said. “It represented the enduring dreams, ambitions, and hopes of a people who struggled for equality and dignity.”

Walker-Gamble and *Briggs v. Elliott*

Burnette’s research shares another perspective on the events in Clarendon County

during the same era as the landmark *Briggs v. Elliott* case in Summerton, which became one of the cases leading to the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. While *Briggs v. Elliott* focused national attention on the fight for educational equality and brought significant backlash to Black families in Summerton, *Bright Gold and Blue* sheds light on the experiences of African Americans in Eastern Clarendon County.

Her book places the story of Walker-Gamble within the broader context of national and global events, including the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. “One of the things that I argue is that we cannot look at the events about the birth of Walker-Gamble and the life of Walker-Gamble within a silo,” she said. “Those years, 1953 to 1970, happened within a county, within a state, within a world.”

Despite the unique challenges faced in Eastern Clarendon, Burnette focuses on how Walker-Gamble’s history reflects the enduring dreams and ambitions of a community determined to rise above adversity. “Walker-Gamble School stood as a lasting legacy that represented the aspirations of a community,” she said. “Their place in history endures throughout generations past, present, and future.”

Looking ahead

Burnette hopes *Bright Gold and Blue* will preserve the legacy of Walker-Gamble and inspire others to recognize the importance of African American history. “There’s so much going on in the world right now where African American history is trying to be erased,” she said. “African American education history is a part of American history. There’s nothing to be ashamed about it.”

Burnette’s future projects include a collection of essays about growing up in New Zion during the 1960s and a follow-up book exploring life after Walker-Gamble, focusing on the integration of schools in Eastern Clarendon County. “My books focus on stories of African Americans living in rural areas of the South,” she said. “I hope everyone will follow me as I go through my writing journey.”

Burnette’s publishing company, New Zion Stories LLC, will soon launch a website to showcase her work. For now, *Bright Gold and Blue* is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats.

For Burnette, the story of Walker-Gamble is deeply personal, yet universal in its themes of hope, determination, and community strength.

“This book, to me, firmly places and gives a lasting testimony to a school that reflected the sacrifice and contributions of a community of people who were faithful, who saw education as important and wanted the best that they could provide for their children.”



# A Second Chance ANIMAL SHELTER



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**ALPHIE**

Hi there! I'm Alphie. You have to admit, I'm a good-lookin' bully mix, right? But I'm also a sweet and friendly soul. I've got energy to spare and a playful spirit. I love to play fetch. I can chase and chew on toys all day long. I'm looking for a forever home where I can share my love and playfulness. If you're looking for a loyal companion who will always be by your side, then I'm your guy. I'm neutered and current on age-appropriate vaccinations.

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● COMMUNITY

# New director to lead Second Chance Animal Shelter with a heart for animals

**BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY**  
mtsreporter@gmail.com

Kim Coulter, a longtime resident of Sumter and military family transplant, has taken the reins as Director of Second Chance Animal Shelter in Clarendon County. With a steadfast commitment to animal welfare and a deep connection to the community, Coulter brings years of experience and an ambitious vision to her new role.

Originally from Conway, Coulter moved to the area in 1983 when her father was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base. Although her family still lives in Sumter, Coulter considers herself a local through and through. “I might as well have been born here,” she said with a laugh.

Coulter’s background is steeped in customer service, a skill set she credits for preparing her to handle the shelter’s day-to-day operations. “I’ve been working in customer service in some form since I was 15,” she said. “That experience has taught me how to juggle multiple priorities and connect with people, which is a critical part of running the shelter.”

Her journey at Second

Chance began in 2019, when she responded to an Indeed advertisement for the position of Animal Control Administrator. Over the past five years, Coulter has worn many hats at the shelter, including Rescue Coordinator and Veterinary Technician. When the opportunity to step into the director’s role arose, Coulter jumped at the chance. “The shelter has definitely grown on me. It’s in my blood at this point,” she said.

The shelter currently cares for approximately 80 to 85 dogs and 30 cats, many of which arrive from animal control or are surrendered by the public. Coulter and her team work tirelessly to provide vaccinations, medical care, and daily exercise for their animals, all while coordinating adoptions and rescue placements.



KIM COULTER

“Most of our animals go to rescues because adoptions are slow,” Coulter explained. “We’re constantly working to find homes for them, whether locally or through transport to other areas. It’s a team effort to get them ready with vaccines, paperwork, and making sure they’re healthy before they leave.”

Food and medical care are among the shelter’s biggest expenses. “We go through about 100 pounds of dog food every day,” Coulter noted. “Just a few weeks ago, we had 47 puppies in our care, including six nursing mothers. Keeping up with those needs is a challenge.”

The shelter receives no state, federal, or county funding, relying entirely on donations and fundraisers to operate. Events like their annual golf tournament, to be held on March 29 this year, and their recent barbecue fundraiser are critical to keeping the shelter afloat.

While Coulter praised the dedication of the shelter’s small group of long-term volunteers, she emphasized the pressing need for new faces to lend a hand.

“We need new blood to come in and help us walk dogs, give them exercise, and just get involved,” she said. “Some of our volunteers have been with us for years, and while we’re grateful for them, we need more people to step up. There’s so much to do.”

The shortage of volunteers impacts everything from animal enrichment to administrative tasks. Coulter believes greater community involvement could transform the shelter’s ability to meet the needs of the animals in their care.

Coulter’s goals for Second Chance extend beyond simply keeping the shelter running. She envisions a future where the shelter becomes a more prominent part of the community. “A lot of people still don’t even know we’re here,” she said. “I’d love to see us grow our name and get more people involved.”

One of her key objectives is to strengthen the shelter’s partnership with Clarendon County Animal Control. “We’ve had a long-standing partnership to help save animals from animal control, but as the county moves toward building a new facility, we hope we can continue that collaboration,” Coulter said.

The construction of the shelter’s new clinic, while a work in progress, represents another step forward. “We’re making great progress, but every time we fix something, we find something else that needs attention,” she said. “We want to make sure it’s done right the first time.” Coulter added that the shelter remains optimistic about opening the clinic sometime in 2025, which will allow them to provide much-needed on-site medical care for their animals.

Those interested in supporting Second Chance Animal Shelter can donate food, money, or supplies. “Dog food, puppy food, and funds for medical care are always in high demand,” Coulter said. Volunteers are especially needed to help with walking dogs, assisting at events, and other daily tasks.

For Coulter, her role as director is more than just a job. “We’re doing the best we can to make a dent in the overpopulation of animals and to give them the second chance they deserve,” she said.

For more information or to get involved, visit the shelter’s website or contact them at 803-473-7075.

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● COMMUNITY

# Chasity Miles-Anderson crowned Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina 2025

BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Chasity Miles-Anderson's journey of resilience and advocacy reached a new milestone on January 18 as she was crowned Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina 2025. The competition, which focuses on advocacy and communication rather than traditional beauty standards, brought together four contestants from across the state to highlight the needs and accomplishments of individuals with disabilities.

For Miles-Anderson, the title is both a personal triumph and a platform to promote her mission: addressing mental health, education about spinal cord injuries, and accessibility for children and adults.

Her journey to this point has been marked by extraordinary challenges. On Aug. 30, 2022, her life was forever changed when gunfire erupted near her home in Sumter. That evening, she returned from errands to find neighbors celebrating a birthday with ongoing shooting. Concerned for her family's safety, Miles-Anderson stepped outside to retrieve her phone and call the police. Moments later, a bullet struck her, shattering her spine and leaving her paralyzed.

"I fell instantly," she recalled. "I was a week away from turning 32 and a month away from getting married. In an instant, everything changed."

Despite enduring significant physical and emotional trauma, Miles-Anderson has turned her pain into purpose. She now channels her experiences into advocacy, focusing on bridging gaps in education and resources for those with spinal cord injuries.

"My platform, 'People of Determination,' is about educating others and creating change across multiple areas, from



MS. WHEELCHAIR SOUTH CAROLINA - CHASITY MILES-ANDERSON

accessible spaces to mental health support for those adapting to life with disabilities," she said. The state pageant consisted of several components, including interviews, on-stage questions, and discussions on community service. One of her on-stage questions addressed firearm safety, a deeply personal topic. "I was shot with a firearm, but I remain pro-firearm because the issue isn't the gun. It's education and responsibility," she explained. "We need to teach firearm safety and accountability to prevent tragedies like mine." As Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina, she will represent the state in the Ms. Wheelchair America pageant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this August. The weeklong national competition will feature representatives from all 50 states, each vying for the chance to promote disability advocacy on a larger scale.

Miles-Anderson's duties as state titleholder include meeting with legislators, visiting schools, and participating in public speaking engagements. She hopes to inspire others to view challenges as opportunities for growth.

"I want to show that resilience is possible, even when life takes an unexpected turn," she said. "Your life isn't over just because it's different. It's a chance to create a new path."

Despite a condensed preparation period, Miles-Anderson excelled in the pageant, which was revitalized after a hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Angela Young, a former titleholder, helped relaunch the event to provide a platform for South Carolina women who use wheelchairs.

Now, Miles-Anderson is focused on honing her platform and raising awareness for issues affecting people with disabilities. She also plans to meet with South Carolina's lieutenant governor and expand her advocacy work through speaking engagements at schools and community organizations.

"My mission is to create meaningful change," she said. "With determination and perseverance, we can break down barriers and build a more inclusive world."

For Miles-Anderson, the road to advocacy is about more than winning a crown. It's about using her voice to shine a light on the challenges and triumphs of those living with disabilities.

For more information about Ms. Wheelchair America, visit [www.mswheelchairamerica.org](http://www.mswheelchairamerica.org).

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Gamble Family Farms, 5300 Black River Rd., New Zion, SC 29111 has applied to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services for a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit, under the Groundwater Use and Reporting Act for one (1) proposed agricultural irrigation well(s) located at approximately N 33.835728, MEETING W-80.114267 in Clarendon County, SC. A proposed additional groundwater withdrawal of 106 million gallons per year from the McQueen Branch aquifer has been developed from calculated water use requirements for one (1) agricultural irrigation well(s) on approximately 130 acres. Additional information concerning this application may be obtained from Ashley Carothers by calling (803)898-4220 or e-mail at Ashley.Carothers@des.sc.gov. SCDES invites and will receive comments on the application until 01/23/2025, close of business day, 5:00pm EST. Please submit comments using SCDES's Permitting

webpage. (https://epermweb.dhec.sc.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search) by navigating to the project and using the "Add Comment" tab at the top of the page. Comments may also be sent to: SCDES/Bureau of Water, Attention: Ashley Carothers, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Interested parties wishing to be notified of the final permit decision must make comment on the application and make a request to receive notice or the final decision and must provide the SCDES with correct name and mailing address.

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tion to the highest bidder after thirty (30) days have expired. Sale notices will be posted in three (3) public places for 15 days prior to sale. A copy of this notice Will be sent certified mail to all lien holders of record. Storage charges of \$35.00 per day will be added until this property is claimed and the charges are paid. West Manning Auto Repair 195 and HWY 261 Manning, SC 29102 803-473-3333

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COMMUNITY PICTURES



SNOW

FROM PAGE 1

and warm shelter to residents venturing out in the cold. Meanwhile, road crews focused

on clearing major thoroughfares and addressing the icy patches that lingered in Summerton and other areas.

By January 23, the thawing process had begun, with temperatures gradually rising to the 40s and 50s later in the week.

However, black ice remained a concern, particularly in less-traveled areas. Emergency officials continued to caution residents about icy conditions during the early morning hours when temperatures hovered below freezing.

The winter storm's impact was relatively mild, with fewer than 15 reported traffic accidents and minimal property damage. Nevertheless, the storm offered Clarendon County families a rare chance to connect and enjoy a break from their routines,

making the most of the unexpected winter weather.

As the county returns to its usual mild winter weather, the brief storm will be remembered as both a challenge and a celebration of community spirit in the face of nature's surprises.





BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

SCOTT'S BRANCH COMES UP SHORT

Scott's Branch played a tough game on Friday in which they were outscored in every quarter. They were beaten by the Charleston Math & Science Riptide 73-36. The Eagles were in a tough position after the first half, with the score already sitting at 38-16.

It was another big night for Ben Gilliard, who posted 21 points along with seven rebounds and three steals for Charleston Math & Science. The contest was Gilliard's third in a row with at least ten points. Zion King was another key player, putting up 13 points and seven assists.

Scott's Branch has been struggling recently as they've lost three of their last four matchups, which put a noticeable dent in their 5-11 record this season. Those losses can't be blamed on the team's offensive performance across that stretch, as they averaged 50.8 points per game. As for Charleston Math & Science, they pushed their record up to 13-3 with the victory, which was their eighth straight at home.

When Scott's Branch and Charleston Math & Science next hit the court, they'll be up against teams who recently just can't seem to lose. Scott's Branch will try to stop Baptist Hill's three-game winning streak when the meet at 8:00 p.m. on January 24th. Meanwhile, Charleston Math & Science will take on Bethune-Bowman and their six-game winning streak at 7:30 p.m. on January 24th.

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LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY DROPS SEASON-HIGH SCORE ON HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Winning is always nice, but doing so behind a season-high score is even better (just ask Laurence Manning Academy). They managed a 70-64 victory over the Hilton Head Christian Academy Eagles on Tuesday. For the Swampcats, this counts as revenge for the 59-42 win the Eagles walked away with the last time they faced one another back in December of 2023.

Several Eagles players turned in solid performances despite ultimately coming up short. Perhaps the best among those players was Ethan Foster, who dropped a double-double on 19 points and ten boards. Those ten rebounds gave Foster a new career-high. The team also got some help courtesy of Finn Ussery, who went 5 of 10 on his way to 14 points.

Laurence Manning Academy pushed their record up to 7-8 with the victory, which was their third straight at home. Those victories came thanks to their offensive performance across that stretch, as they averaged 60.3 points per game. As for Hilton Head Christian Academy, they are on a seven-game losing streak that has dropped them down to 2-12.

Laurence Manning Academy has already played their next contest, a 59-56 win against John Paul II on the 16th. Hilton Head Christian Academy has also already played their next matchup (against Wilson Hall), but no score has been uploaded at the time of writing.

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CLARENDON HALL COMES UP SHORT

Clarendon Hall was not able to break out of their rough patch on Monday as the team picked up their tenth straight defeat dating back to last season. They were outmatched by the Calhoun Academy Cavaliers and fell 67-19. The Saints were in a tough position after the first half, with the score already sitting at 43-8.

Calhoun Academy's success was the result of a balanced attack that saw several players step up, but Hunter Thornburg led the charge by putting up ten points in addition to six boards and three steals. Chase Strickland was another key player, going 5 of 6 on his way to 12 points.

Clarendon Hall's loss dropped their record down to 0-9. As for Calhoun Academy, the victory (which was their fifth in a row) raised their record to 15-3.

Both teams will have to hit the road in their upcoming games. Clarendon Hall will face off against Dorchester Academy at 7:35 p.m. on Thursday. As for Calhoun Academy, they will take on Thomas Sumter Academy at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday.

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GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

EAST CLARENDON HOLDS OFF MANNING

The East Clarendon Wolverines basketball team scored 50 points and limited the host Manning Monarchs to 47 in the Wolverines league triumph on Saturday.

The Wolverines now have a 3-9 record. They play next when they travel to Lake City for a AA Region 7 game on Monday, January 27. East Clarendon will confront a Panthers team coming off a 59-38 league win over Manning (Manning, SC). The Panthers record now stands at 9-4.

With the loss, Manning falls to 5-11 on the campaign. The Monarchs host Kingstree (Kingstree, SC) to confront the Blazers in a AA Region 7 game on Tuesday, January 28. The Blazers go into the game with a record of 15-4. Kingstree won 49-32 in their recent non-league game against Midland Valley (Graniteville, SC)

SCOTT'S BRANCH PILES UP THE POINTS AGAINST CHARLESTON MATH & SCIENCE

Scott's Branch waltzed into their contest on Friday with two straight wins... but they left with three. They took their matchup with ease, bagging a 42-11 win over the Charleston Math & Science Riptide. That's more bragging rights for the Eagles, who also won the pair's last head-to-head.

Scott's Branch got their victory on the backs of several key players, but it was Siara Lundy out in front who posted six points along with nine boards and five assists. Lundy has been hot recently, having also posted three or more steals the last four times she's played. Another player making a difference was Trayiona Maxfield, who earned 12 points and three steals.

Scott's Branch smashed the offensive glass and finished the game with 16 offensive rebounds. That strong performance was nothing new for the team: they've now pulled down at least 16 offensive boards in four

consecutive games.

When it comes to explaining why Charleston Math & Science lost, don't look at Cynay Taylor. Despite the final result, she put up six points.

Scott's Branch is on a roll lately: they've won five of their last six contests, which provided a nice bump to their 9-7 record this season. The wins came thanks to their defensive effort, having only surrendered 27.5 points per game. As for Charleston Math & Science, their defeat was their seventh straight at home dating back to last season, which dropped their record down to 1-8.

Scott's Branch has already played their next matchup (against Baptist Hill), but no score has been uploaded at the time of writing. Charleston Math & Science has also has no score uploaded for their next game, this one against Bethune-Bowman.

Article generated by infoSens-tience based on data entered on MaxPreps

LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO THREE

Laurence Manning Academy waltzed into their game on Tuesday with two straight wins... but they left with three. They secured a 27-22 W over the Hilton Head Christian Academy Eagles.

Despite the loss, Hilton Head Christian Academy still got an impressive performance from Anna Kate Taylor, who posted seven points and 11 rebounds. The dominant performance also gave Taylor a new career-high in blocks (two).

Laurence Manning Academy is on a roll lately: they've won seven of their last eight matchups, which provided a nice bump to their 9-3 record this season. As for Hilton Head Christian Academy, they are on a three-game losing streak that has dropped them down to 4-8.

Laurence Manning Academy has already played their next contest, a 53-29 defeat against John Paul II on the 16th. As for Hilton Head Christian Academy, they also wasted no time getting back out on the court and have already played their next game, a 45-22 loss against Wilson Hall on the 17th.

Article generated by infoSens-tience based on data entered on MaxPreps

CLARENDON HALL FALLS TO ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Clarendon Hall Saints basketball squad (Summerton, SC), was outscored 58-44 in Tuesday's non-league battle with the host St. John's Christian Academy Cavaliers (Moncks Corner, SC)

With the victory, St. John's Christian Academy advances its record to 6-6 on the year. The Cavaliers host Colleton Prep Academy (Walterboro, SC) to meet the War Hawks in a SCISA 3A Region IV battle on Friday, January 17. The War Hawks enter the battle with a record of 12-4. Colleton Prep Academy lost 69-34 in their recent non-league battle against Orangeburg Prep (Orangeburg, SC)

The Saints now own a 4-2 record. They put it on the line next when they travel to Lee Academy for a non-league battle on Thursday, January 16. Clarendon Hall will meet a Cavaliers squad coming off a 54-22 league win over King's Academy (Florence, SC). The Cavaliers record now stands at 7-2.

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Antioch RMUE Church - Pinewood.
Apostolic Revival Center - Manning.
Bethlehem Methodist Church - Davis Station.
Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - Summerton.
Biggers AME Church - S.C. 261 East, Manning.
Briggs Chapel Missionary Baptist Church - Summerton.
Christ Tabernacle FWG Ministry - Summerton.
Church of God by Faith - Davis Station.
The Church of God Prophecy - Alcolu.
The Church of God of Prophecy - Home Branch
Clarendon Baptist Church - Alcolu.
Community Deliverance Temple - U.S. 301 North.
Congregation Temple Bethel - S.C. 261 East, Manning.
Cornerstone Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church - 2116 Greeleyville Highway., Manning.
Cross Roads Bible Fellowship - 5546 Paxville Hwy Manning
Cypress Fork Freewill Baptist Church - Cypress Forks community.
Deep Creek Pentecostal Holiness Church - Bloomville Highway.
Deliverance Ministries - Summerton.
Ebenezer Baptist Church - 105 Dinkins St., Manning.
Elizabeth Missionary Bapt. Church - U.S. 301 South, Box 748, Manning.
Emmanuel Baptist Church - 1794 Old Georgetown Road, Manning.
Faith Center - Rev. J. W. Carter Road, P.O. Box 233, Manning.
Fellowship of Praise - 8280 Old No. 6 Highway, Santee.
First Assembly of God - 3574 Hwy 260/Lake Road.
First Baptist Church - 49 West Boyce Street, Manning.
First Servant's Church - 6 Keitt St., Manning.
Fourth Crossroads Baptist Church - Off Highway 261.
Friendship AME Church - Silver Community
Friendship Presbyterian Church USA - 10123 Black River Rd., New Zion.
Global Harvest Church - Hwy 521 North.
Good Shepherd Baptist Church - 1891 Oak Grove Church Rd.
Goodwill Freewill Baptist Church - 1329 Goodwill Church Rd. Manning.
Grace Christian Fellowship Church - Raccoon Road, Manning.
Grace Gospel Church - Summerton. Rev. A.N. Adrans.
Grace Missionary Baptist Church - 7 E. Keitt Street, Manning.
Great Commission Ministries - 1631 Trinity Church Rd. I-95 & Highway 301, Alcolu.
Greater Union Cypress AME Church
Green Hill Baptist Church - Alcolu.
Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church - 1158 Driggers Rd., Manning.
Hickory Grove Baptist Church - Turbeville.
Home Branch Baptist Church - Manning.
Home Branch Church of God of Prophecy - 2211 Connor Road.
Holy Rock Holiness Church - Foreston.
Hope Lutheran Church - American Legion, Manning.
Horse Branch Freewill Baptist Church - Turbeville.
House of God - 119 W Huggins St., Manning.
Howard Chapel AME Church - New Zion.
Israelite Holy Temple Outreach Ministry - 125 W. Huggins St., Manning.
Jehovah Jireh Outreach - P.O. Box 13, Manning.
Jordan Methodist Church - Highway 260, Jordan.
Lake Marion Baptist Church - Off Hwy 301, North Santee.
Laurel Hill AME Church - 2032 M.W. Rickenbaker Road. Summerton
Liberty Hill AME Church - Summerton.
Liberty Free Will Baptist Church - 2761 Liberty Church Rd., Manning.
Lighthill Baptist Church - Manning.
Little Star Pentecostal Holiness Church - Juneburn Road, Manning.
Macedonia FBH Church - Silver.
Macedonia Church of God by Faith, Inc. - 26 Mazyck St., Summerton.
Manning Baptist Temple - Raccoon Road at I-95 and Highway 261.
Manning Church of Christ - 311 E. Keitt St., Manning.
Manning Deliverance Temple - (Apostolic Denomination) 6422 June Burn Rd, Manning.
Manning Progressive Church of Jesus - Hwy. 521, Manning.

Manning United Methodist Church - 17 E. Rigby Street.
Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church - Horse Branch Road, Turbeville.
Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist Church - 314 W. Huggins St., Manning.
The Master's Place - 7 S. Church Street, Manning.
McKenzie Tabernacle Church - New Zion.
Melina Presbyterian Church - Sardinia.
Mt. Calvary FBH Church - Boyce Street, Manning.
Mt. Carmel United Freewill Baptist Church - 207 Reardon St., Manning.
Mt. Chapel Baptist Church - Hwy. 260, Manning.
Mt. Hope FBH Church - Pinewood.
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church - Plowden Road.
Mt. Pleasant Union Methodist Episcopal Church.
Mt. Zero Baptist Church - S.C. 261, Paxville.
Historic Mt. Zion AME Church - Potato Creek Road.
New Bethel Holiness Church - Davis Crossroad, 1287 Starks Drive, Summerton.
New Covenant Holiness Church - 3699 Alex Harvin Highway, Manning.
New Covenant Presbyterian Church - U.S. 301 South, Manning.
New Harmony Presbyterian Church - New Harmony Church Road, Alcolu.
New Hope AME Church - Pinewood.
New Light Baptist Church - Davis Station.
New Start Community Church of the Nazarene - 4686 J.W. Rames Rd, Manning.
New Town Freewill Baptist Church - West Turbeville Highway, Lake City.
New Zion Church - Salem Road, New Zion.
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church - 2529 Raccoon Road, Manning -
Paxville Baptist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville.
Paxville United Methodist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville.
Pine Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church - Turbeville.
Pine Grove AME Church - 7779 Kenwood Rd.
Pine Grove Church - Turbeville, SC
Prayer House Mission Church - Davis Crossroads, Summerton.
The Presbyterian Church - North Brooks Street, Manning, Dr.
Providence AME Church - Mallet Road, Manning.
Providence Christian Church - Dozier Mallet Road, Manning.
Restoration Ministries Church of God - Manning.
Rock Hill Baptist Church - Old Georgetown Road, Manning.
Santee AME Church - Dingle Pond Road, Summerton.
Santee Baptist Church - Hwy. 260, Manning.
Sardinia Presbyterian Church - Sardinia.
Seacoast Manning - Weldon Auditorium.
Second Baptist Church - Alfred Henry Drive, Manning.
Shiloh AME Church - Foreston.
Society Hill AME Church - 1030 Morella Road, Manning.
Spring Hill AME Church -
St. James AME Church -
St. Luke Baptist Church - Foreston.
St. Mark AME Church - First Street, Summerton.
St. Mary's Catholic Church - N. Cantey St., Summerton.
St. Matthias Anglican Church - North Duke at Canty, Summerton.
St. Paul Holiness Church - St. Paul.
St. Peter AME - Rimini.
St. Philip RMUE - Old River Road, Pinewood.
Summerton Baptist Church - East Main Street.
Summerton Presbyterian Church - 16 South Canty Street.
Summerton Southern Methodist Church
Summerton United Methodist Church - Corner of S. Church St. and Briggs St.
Taw Caw Baptist Church - Summerton.
Trinity AME Church - 39 W. Rigby Street, Manning.
Trinity Church - U.S. 301, Alcolu.
Triumph The Church Kingdom of God in Christ - Davis Station.
Truckers' Christian Chapel - TA Travel Center, I-95, Exit 119.
True Way Holiness Church, Highway 521 in Alcolu
Turbeville First Baptist Church - 1020 Morris Street, Turbeville.
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● MS. PRINGLE GOES TO CHARLESTON



Patricia Pringle, Clarendon County Auditor and Democratic Party Chairwoman, poses outside after attending President Joe Biden's farewell speech in Charleston on January 19, 2025.

# A county leader’s journey of service and inspiration

BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Patricia Pringle's life is a testament to resilience, breaking barriers, and serving her community. From her roots in Pinewood, to her groundbreaking career in STEM and leadership roles in public service, Pringle has dedicated herself to making a difference.

Born in 1959, Pringle grew up in a family of eight siblings in a close-knit rural community. Her father, a farmer and Baptist pastor for several churches in the area, was an early inspiration for her dedication to public service. "My father always believed in making sure children had the best opportunities they could have," Pringle said. "He was active in the NAACP and the Democratic Party, and he always taught us to stand up for what's right and do everything we can to help others."

Pringle's early academic achievements foreshadowed her trailblazing career. Graduating salutatorian from Scott's Branch High School in 1978, she went on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from South Carolina State College. Armed with her education, she entered the male-dominated STEM field, breaking barriers as the first Black female chemist at the Albemarle Corporation in Orangeburg.

"It was intimidating at first," Pringle said. "I was often the only Black person and the only woman in the room. But I learned to thrive by being disciplined and precise." During her nearly two decades in the chemical industry, Pringle not only contributed to major projects but also became a mentor and leader, managing safety protocols and providing training to colleagues, including PhD chemists and engineers. "Those experiences taught me the value of preparation and leadership," she said. "It's a mindset I carried into public service."

In 1994, Pringle began her public service journey by joining the



Clarendon County School District 1 Board of Trustees, where she eventually served as chairwoman. In 2002, she was elected Clarendon County Auditor, a role she continues to hold. Pringle said her motivation to serve stems from her desire to help people and stay connected to her community.

"I wanted to be closer to home and make a bigger difference," Pringle said. "As auditor, I get to help more people and be of service to the community. It's not just about numbers, it's about making sure things are done right for everyone in Clarendon County."

Pringle's leadership extended to the Clarendon County Democratic Party, where she became chairwoman in 2016. Under her leadership, the party focused on voter engagement and education. Despite the challenges of the 2024 election cycle, Pringle remains optimistic about the future.

"This election was disappointing," Pringle admitted, citing significant losses at the local and national levels, including Senator Kevin Johnson's reelection bid and Congressman

Jim Clyburn losing Clarendon County. "But setbacks don't mean defeat. We're already planning how to regroup, engage new voters, and rebuild."

Pringle stressed the importance of holding elected officials accountable. "We congratulate those who won, but we'll ensure their decisions reflect the needs of our community," she said. "What works for the nation doesn't always work for Clarendon County, and our focus will remain local."

Pringle recently attended President Joe Biden's farewell speech in Charleston, an invitation she received as a former national delegate to the Democratic National Convention. For Pringle, the experience was both an honor and a reminder of the values she strives to uphold.

"President Biden's message about staying engaged and continuing to move forward resonated deeply with me," Pringle said. She reflected on Biden's recognition of South Carolina's pivotal role in his presidency and his commitment to diversity and inclusion, citing milestones such as the appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

"His words reminded me why we do this work," Pringle said. "It's not the time for a pity party. It's time to get back to work and continue building a better future."

Pringle credits her faith and upbringing for her resilience and drive. Despite facing challenges early in life, including multiple childhood surgeries to correct hip displacement, she never let obstacles define her path. "What God has for me, it is for me," Pringle said. "I believe every experience, every role I've taken, has prepared me to serve my community."

Looking ahead, Pringle is committed to carrying forward Biden's call to action. "We're not giving up," she said. "Together, we can ensure Clarendon County continues to thrive, one step at a time."

● COMMUNITY

# Turbeville Council passes ordinances at Jan. meeting

BY MELISSA FOUST-McCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Turbeville Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, where it unanimously passed two significant ordinances and reviewed updates from town officials, including a detailed financial and utility report.

The meeting began with an invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the adoption of the agenda before moving to public participation and council actions.

The council unanimously approved the second readings of two key ordinances. Ordinance 2025-01 established an updated zoning plan for the town, replacing the 1994 zoning ordinance. This update, developed in collaboration with the Santee Lynches Council of Governments, was finalized following a public hearing held on Dec. 10, 2024.

The second ordinance, 2025-02, amended the 2024-25 municipal budget to reflect adjustments in revenues and expenses. Notable changes included an increase in the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue to \$172,447 and the addition of \$843,513 for the Puddin Swamp Water Line Loop project. The adjustments aim to align the town's budget with updated revenue projections and infrastructure priorities.

Town Administrator Howard Garland presented the financial and utility reports, highlighting fiscal stability and key infrastructure improvements.

Garland reported that the town's millage rate remained unchanged for the current fiscal year, and the Homestead Tax Exemption revenue was slightly adjusted to \$11,999. The Local Option Sales Tax revenue showed a significant increase, reflecting strong community support and consistent economic activity.

A notable financial highlight was the allocation for the Puddin Swamp Water Line Loop project, a critical infrastructure improvement aimed at enhancing the town's water service capacity. The \$843,513 expense is offset by matching revenues, ensuring that the project remains fully funded without placing additional strain on the budget.

Garland also noted ongoing efforts to secure grant funding for other infrastructure projects. While a recent application for the Horse Branch/Hwy. 301 water line extension was unsuccessful, discussions with the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (SCRIA) have provided insights into improving future applications. The town plans to reapply during the next grant cycle.

The utility report included updates on the town's water and sewer services, with Garland emphasizing the importance of maintaining reliable service for residents. He commended staff for their efficient handling of maintenance issues and highlighted ongoing communication with state and regional agencies to ensure compliance with regulations.

Garland's report also detailed efforts to address repeated accidents involving the town fountain, including discussions about potential safety measures such as installing a concrete barrier or relocating the fountain. Mayor Tammy Hicks echoed these concerns in her report, noting that the safety of the fountain remains a priority for the town.

Hicks highlighted other community-focused initiatives, including progress on plans for a new municipal stage, updates on town decorations during the holidays, and her active participation in events such as the town's Christmas parade.

The council adjourned with plans to attend a Pee Dee Council of Governments meeting on Jan. 15 to discuss future grant opportunities. Officials expressed optimism about continued growth and infrastructure improvements for the town.


The next regularly scheduled council meeting is set for Feb. 11, 2025.

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