The Manning Times

Clarendon County School Board approves teacher stipend at regular meeting

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County School District Board of Trustees convened for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 3, at the Clarendon School District Offices, where members approved a stipend for teachers, reviewed departmental reports, and discussed ongoing district policies.

Following an executive session, Board Chair John Bonaparte confirmed that the board approved a \$750 stipend for all certified teachers in recognition of their work during extended e-learning days.

Dr. Keisa Carr, Director of Communications and Community Relations, provided a statement emphasizing the district's commitment to fair compensation:

"The Clarendon County School District is committed to ensuring that our teachers are fairly compensated for their time and dedication, especially during the extended e-learning days. Following Dr. Shawn Johnson's request and the approval of the Board of Trustees, teachers will receive two half days off (February 21, already provided, and March 28) along with a \$750 monetary payment."

Dr. Carr also noted that teachers have already received over 7.5 hours of early dismissal throughout the school year. The Office of Finance is working to finalize the necessary processes for distributing the payments, though

a specific date for when teachers can expect to receive



During the public comment portion of the meeting, speakers addressed a variety of topics, including a request from Manning Santee American Legion Baseball to place a commemorative plaque at the Manning High School baseball field. The board acknowledged the request and thanked the organization for its long-standing relationship with the district.

George Frierson reflected on the historical significance of March 3, recalling the 1970 Lamar Riots and the pivotal role South Carolina played in the Brown v. Board of Education case. He urged the board and community to remember the past while advocating for equitable

Resident Terrey Streath voiced concerns about transparency, requesting clearer communication and timely responses to public concerns raised at board meetings. "Public comment is meant to be a dialogue, not a formality," Streath said. "When concerns are met with silence, it sends a message that our voices don't matter."

The board approved several overnight field trip requests during the meeting. The East Clarendon baseball team will travel to Myrtle Beach for the South Atlantic Maine Invitational Baseball Tournament from April 22-25. Walker-Gamble Elementary students were approved for two trips: a Jungle Jams field trip for first through fifth graders and a student trip to Myrtle Beach for 3K through first grade students from April 28-30. Manning

See STIPEND, Page 4

EDUCATION

School district put Man arrested after on Fiscal Caution amid audit delays

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has placed the Clarendon County School District (CCSD) under Fiscal Caution, citing continued delays in completing required financial audits. The designation follows a previous Fiscal Watch declaration in February 2024, after the district failed to submit its FY23 audit within the required timeframe.

According to a letter sent by State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver to district officials, CCSD did not submit its FY24 audit within 60 days of the December 1 deadline, prompting the escalation to Fiscal Caution. The district now has 60 days to submit a financial recovery plan, which will be reviewed by the SCDE.

AUDIT DELAYS LINKED TO FORMER

Dr. Keisa Carr, Director of Communications & Community Relations for CCSD, explained that the audit delays stem from financial issues inherited from former districts prior to the county-wide consolidation.

When Clarendon One and Clarendon Three merged to form Clarendon Four, unresolved financial issues remained. "Clarendon Two has never had a fiscal issue with any documents, anything. Well, the issue came with Clarendon One initially, and then Clarendon Four, that consolidated district." Carr went on to compare the consolidation to a marriage, if one partner has financial troubles, those challenges affect the entire household.

See AUDIT, Page 4

CRIME

overnight standoff

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

A Summerton man was taken into custody early Tuesday morning after an



Richard

hours-long standoff with law enforcement, during which he allegedly fired multiple shots from his home and refused to surrender, according to the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

ed at approximately 9:50 p.m. Monday to

reports of shots fired at a residence on Mazyck Street. A woman inside the home told authorities that her husband, later identified as 38-year-old Richard Smith II, was armed and had been shooting out of the back door of the house. She also stated that when she attempted to leave with her

children, Smith shut the door behind her, keeping a small child inside with him.

Deputies tried to make contact with Smith, urging him to come out of the house and release the child, but he refused and became hostile toward officers, the sheriff's office said. More shots were fired from inside the home toward deputies on

Due to the escalating situation, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) SWAT team was called in for assistance. Upon arrival, SWAT negotiators continued efforts to persuade Smith to release the child and surrender. After several hours, Smith emerged from the home with the child and surrendered to SWAT officers. The child was unharmed, and Smith was taken into custody.

Authorities said the motive for Smith's actions remains unclear. The incident is still under investigation, and charges against Smith are pending. He was transported to the Clarendon County Detention Center.

HISTORY

Dr. Rose Hilliard-Wilder: A trailblazer in education



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

This article is the second in a series celebrating influential women in our community for Women's History Month. Each feature highlights the remarkable contributions of local women whose leadership and dedication have left a lasting

Dr. Rose Ann Hilliard-Wilder's life and career were defined by groundbreaking achievements, unwavering dedication, and a passion for education that transformed South Carolina's school systems. As the first Black female superintendent in the state since Reconstruction, she was a champion for students and an inspiration to educators statewide. Her legacy, built over four decades, continues to impact generations of students, teachers, and administrators.

Born on November 4, 1955, in Santee, South Carolina, Dr. Wilder was one of seven siblings. She earned her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate in Education from South Carolina State College before beginning her career as an

elementary school teacher in Orangeburg County School District 3. Recognized early for her leadership abilities, she transitioned into administration, serving as an assistant principal, principal, curriculum facilitator, and assistant superintendent before assuming

the role of superintendent. Her historic appointment as superintendent of Clarendon County School District 2 in 1994 marked a pivotal moment in South Carolina's education history. She later led Clarendon County School Districts 1 and 2, Fairfield County Schools, and, upon retirement, was appointed by the state superintendent to oversee Williamsburg County Schools. Her leadership was marked by fiscal responsibility, academic progress, and a relentless pursuit of equity in education. In Clarendon District 1, she took a struggling, financially burdened district and transformed it into one of the highest academically performing high-poverty districts in the state.

She was named Outstanding Superintendent by the South Carolina School Boards Association in 1999 and was honored as

See WILDER, Page 4







FORECAST



• FAITH

Gable woman named SC's sole delegate to U.N. Women's Commission

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Linda Jackson, an elder at Melina Presbyterian Church in Gable, has been selected as the sole South Carolina delegate representing Presbyterian Women at the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Jackson will join delegates from across the country in New York from March 10-21, 2025, to engage in discussions centered on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is the United Nations' largest global policymaking body dedicated exclusively to advancing

women's rights.

"This is an amazing opportunity for me and my community," Jackson said. "With March being Women's History Month, I am excited to join women from around the world to learn and advocate for equality and justice."

Presbyterian Women, Inc. (PW), a national organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), sponsors a delegation to CSW in partnership with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. The delegation aligns with the organization's mission to stand with women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals facing injustice.

"As Presbyterian Women, we

work through a forgiven, freed, and empowered network of women across the PC(USA) united in faith, mission, and action," said Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Inc. "By advocating together, we unite our diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise, forging a more inclusive and empowered movement of women of faith. I look forward to joining our voices within these shared spaces of advocacy."

Following the session, Jackson will share insights from her experience with her local community and Presbyterian Women's network.

For more information on Presbyterian Women's delegation to the CSW, visit presbyterianwomen.org.



ADVOCATE. Linda Jackson (Photo C/O Linda Jackson)

PARTY

Clarendon County Democratic Party calls for action at annual convention

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Democratic Party (CCDP) convened on March 6 at the Clarendon County Courthouse, bringing together elected officials, party leaders, and community members to discuss the party's direction and the challenges ahead. The event featured speeches from key figures, including South Carolina Democratic Party (SCDP) Executive Director Jay Parmley, who delivered the keynote address in place of SCDP Chairwoman Christale Spain, who was unable to attend.

A CALL TO ACTION

CCDP Chairwoman Patricia Pringle opened the meeting by emphasizing the importance of grassroots organizing and voter engagement, particularly in light of recent Democratic losses in Clarendon County.

"We have to start now," Pringle said. "We can't wait until 2026 to get ready. We need to mobilize, educate, and bring more voters to the polls."

Quadri Bell, community liaison from Congressman Jim Clyburn's office, reinforced the urgency of action, pointing to voter turnout declines and the need to counter misinformation.

"This is not a celebration," Bell

said. "This has got to be a movement for us to work because if we leave here and just say, 'What a wonderful job we did,' we are in the wrong place. We need to come together, come up with a plan, and fight back against those who are trying to take us backward."

Challenges and priorities Parmley highlighted the contrast between Democratic priorities and former President Donald Trump's recent rhetoric.

"On Tuesday night, there were zero mentions in his speech about health care, but he talked about annexing Greenland three times," Parmley said. "Not one mention of affordable housing, but he talked about taking back the Panama Canal six times. No mentions of veterans' care, but he mentioned Elon Musk three times. That's what we're up against—an agenda that prioritizes the ultra-wealthy while ignoring the real struggles of everyday Americans."

Parmley stressed the need for direct voter engagement, urging party members to have conversations with neighbors and encourage voter participation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The convention concluded with the election of party officers for 2025. Patricia Pringle was re-elected as Chair, with Dr. Terrance Tindal serving as First Vice-Chair, Catherine James Stone as Second Vice-Chair, and Jessie Cave as Third Vice-Chair. Willie Briggs was elected as Executive Committeeman, with Moses Levy, Jr. as Alternate Executive Committeeman. Mary Cooper will serve as Executive Committeewoman, and Tamilla Green as Alternate Executive Committeewoman.

Additionally, delegates were selected to represent the county at the South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention on May 31 in Columbia.

RECOGNIZING DEDICATION

During the convention, the CCDP honored two individuals for their dedication and service. Willie White, a 100-year-old World War II veteran, was recognized for his lifelong commitment to the Democratic Party and his efforts to encourage voter participation in Clarendon County. Linda Pringle was also honored for her unwavering dedication to voter registration and election integrity, working tirelessly to ensure that citizens are informed and engaged in the electoral process.

As Democrats left the courthouse that evening, the message was clear: the work begins now. The party aims to strengthen voter outreach, counter misinformation, and mobilize support for Democratic candidates in the upcoming elections.



AWARD. CCDP Chairwoman Patricia Pringle presents Linda Pringle with an award recognizing her dedication to voter registration and election integrity during the party's annual convention. (Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy)



AWARD. Beulah Roberts accepts an award on behalf of Willie White, a 100-year-old World War II veteran, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the Democratic Party and voter participation in Clarendon County. (Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy)

• CLUB NEWS

Rotary roundup: County administrator highlights growth and infrastructure projects



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning Rotary Club welcomed Clarendon County Administrator Lynden Anthony as the guest speaker at its March 5 meeting at Porter Jack's. Anthony provided an in-depth overview of ongoing county projects, covering infrastructure, public services, and economic development.

"We have a lot going on right now," Anthony said. "The number of projects we have happening at the same time is unlike anything I've seen before."

One of the county's major initiatives is the construction of

a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 911 Dispatch Center, an \$8 million project slated to begin this fall. "Our current call center has been in the same location for over 25 years, and we're maxed out," Anthony explained. The new center will be built behind the sheriff's office on Commerce Drive.

Anthony also highlighted the new Turbeville Fire Station, a \$2 million project expected to be completed by May. The facility is modeled after the recently built Wyboo Fire Station. Additionally, the county is investing \$5.2 million in a new Public Works and Fleet Maintenance Facility, which will include an Animal Control Facility to meet increasing needs. "This will help us better manage our growing fleet and provide improved facilities for animal control," he said.

Another key development is a \$10 million water expansion project in the Davis Station area, including a new well and elevated storage tank, as well as 13 miles of new water mains extending to Camp Bob Cooper. The county is also making significant investments in wastewater expansion near the North Shore area, with a \$700,000 grant secured for infrastructure

improvements supporting a new hotel and restaurant.

The Turbeville Library project is moving forward with a \$3.5 million investment, funded by the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation and the state. "When you're on Main Street and you look, you'll see this gorgeous, 9,000-square-foot library with a limestone front," Anthony said. The library will be located in the heart of Turbeville, behind the town's central park.

At Santee Cooper Regional
Airport, the county has secured
\$3.3 million in FAA funding for
taxiway and lighting upgrades.
Additionally, efforts are underway to clear beaver dams and debris from Newman Branch near
Walker-Gamble School, a project
expected to take 10-11 months.
"We've already trapped several
beavers—and even a couple of
alligators," Anthony noted.

Economic development remains a priority, with industrial growth at Ramh Bay Industrial Park and the Alcolu Technology Park. "Business Development Corp's new 105,000-square-foot spec building is already up, and plans for a 150,000-square-foot facility are in the works," Anthony said. The county is also

working on residential develop-

ments, including Deer Creek's expansion of 400 homes and the Royal Oak project with 485 single-family residences.

While addressing growth,
Anthony acknowledged concerns about balancing residential expansion with business and industry development. "We have to maintain a balance," he said. "Housing growth is important, but it must be supported by industry to ensure sustainable tax revenue."

Other notable projects include renovations to Weldon Auditorium, set to begin this summer, and efforts to secure federal funding for upgrades at J.C. Britton Park and John C. Land Landing.

In closing, Anthony praised the continued economic momentum in Clarendon County, mentioning the recent 84 Lumber announcement and the construction of a new Lowe's in Manning. "It's exciting to see the transformation happening across the county," he said.

The meeting concluded with a Q&A session, where Anthony provided additional insights into county operations, including plans for tiny home zoning regulations and the future of animal control services.

• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

Tricks Grandpa played

The brain trust met the other day and got on the subject of grandfathers. They got into how their



One of the

brain trust

members

grandfather

tricked him

into being a

better foot-

ball player.

says his

Bobby **JONTE**

grandfather had taught them something in a devious way but that had made all the difference in their lives. Learning something from a grand parent can be valuable or simply a stupid thing that you will always remember whether it has any value or not. It can be just a stupid saying that you remember for years even though you can't remember the good stuff you should have learned in school.

you should have learned in school. The surprising thing is how much you can get and use by a grandfatherly trick.

One of my magician friends says he learned about magic from his grandfather. When he would go visit grandpa, papa would perform some sort of magic trick. When he asked how it was done, his papa told him the secret was in one of the books on the shelf. My buddy would spend the afternoon looking through books and trying to figure out how to do the magic trick. This went one for many years. It wasn't just magic tricks either. Papa would ask all sorts of

questions and they
would lead to finding
answers in "one of
those books on the
shelf."
Well, that worked

Well, that worked wonders. My friend is an excellent magician with an extensive library on magic and many other things. He is also a deep thinker and contributes that to his grandfather making him look up things in books.

Sometimes the trick was not an intellectual pursuit. One of the brain trust members says his grandfather tricked him into being a better football player. He was trying to make the football team but there were plenty of boys that were bigger than he was. Grandpa had a way to solve that. He was going to teach him some tricks about playing football. First

they had to cut some wood. As soon as the wood was cut, they could begin the football lessons.

An hour of chopping down some trees was followed by some practice throwing and catching the football. The next day, more throwing and catching the football followed an hour of cutting logs with a saw. After a few weeks of spiting wood, throwing the football wasn't such a big deal. At the end of the summer, grandpa had a big pile of firewood and my friend had big muscles and a good throwing arm to make the football team.

Most guys had a story that their grandpa had taught them something that they use to this day. At the time they learned this skill or trick or joke they didn't realize they were learning anything. They were just hanging out with a grandparent. Years later they figured out what had happened.

One guy said his grandpa was about the laziest human on earth. If they had a chore to do, grandpa would read directions, study parts manuals and analyze ways to do the task the easiest way possible. He studied a problem before doing anything and was a model of efficiency. That was a valuable lesson also.

One grandpa loved card games. He taught one of my friends to play cards. Grandpa didn't care about anything but playing. Well, my friend was young and when he lost the card game he started crying and didn't want to play anymore. Grandpa tried to get him to play more games but he didn't want to play anymore.

Grandpa said that he would play the next game left-handed and my friend won. From then on my friend would play his grandpa in cards as long as grandpa played left handed. They played that way for many years until his grandpa passed away. It took my friend ten years to figure out that the left-handed card playing was the best grandpa trick of all.



• LETTER

Letter from the Editor

Dear reader,

As we welcome March, I'm excited to share that this month, *The* Manning Times is celebrating Women's History Month by featuring local women who have made an impact on our community. Throughout the month, we'll continue to highlight inspiring women who have shaped our county's history and continue to influence its future. We started last week with Pansy Ridgeway, Manning's first female mayor, whose leadership paved the way for future generations. This week we share the life of Dr. Rose Wilder, the first Black female superintendent for the state of South Carolina.

Women's History Month holds

special meaning for us because *The* Manning Times is powered by an all-female staff. I am disproportionately proud to be part of this hardworking, dedicated team of women. Our publisher, Leigh Ann Maynard, started on the sales staff 15 years ago and took over as publisher a few years later, leading the paper with dedication and vision. Alex Feagin, our office manager, and Katherine Hutchinson, our graphics director, have been with us for almost three years and are the backbone of our daily operations. Our newest team members, sales representatives Leighann McManus and Sara Duck, have already proven to be invaluable additions, bringing fresh energy and

enthusiasm to our office.

As a small but mighty team, we work hard to bring you the news that matters—from local government meetings and high school sports to church events and community celebrations. We are always looking for stories that deserve to be told, so if there's something happening in Clarendon County that you think we should cover, don't hesitate to call or email us

Happy March! I hope to see you around town or at the office soon. Thank you for being part of *The Manning Times* family—we couldn't do this without you.

Warm regards, Melissa



• COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 14

- HAPPY PI DAY
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK BEGINS

MARCH 15

MAR. 15 - CAROLINA BASS CHALLENGE

MARCH 17

- HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- MUMC LENTEN LUNCHEON
 12:00 NOON SHARP. PLEASE CALL
 803.435.8115 BY THE FRIDAY
 BEFORE TO RESERVE TICKETS
 FOR THE MONDAY OF THE LENTEN
 LUNCHEON

MARCH 20

HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING / SPRING EQUINOX

MARCH 21-23

25 PALMETTO SPORTSMEN'S CLASSIC OUTDOOR SHOW, STATE FAIRGROUNDS, COLUMBIA: PALMETTO STATE'S WILDEST WEEKEND!

MARCH 22

• WORLD WATER DAY

• LIONS CLUB PANCAKE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address, phone number and signature. Please send the letter in Microsoft Word. Letters do not represent in any form the opinion or beliefs of The Manning Times. We reserve the right not to publish letters based on libelous or otherwise obscene material.

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The editorials above are the opinion of the management of *The Manning Times*. Columns are the personal opinion of the writer and may not reflect the views of *The Manning Times*. Letters to the Editor are written by readers of *The Manning Times*. We will not publish unsigned letters.

STIPEND

FROM PAGE 1

High School's Student Council will attend the state convention in Chapin from March 14-16. The Manning Elementary Beta Club will travel to Myrtle Beach for a leadership convention from March 27-28. Additionally, the Manning High School Golden Pride Marching Band will embark on college tours from April

23-24.

The Office of Finance presented a financial report for January, reporting year-to-date revenues of \$25.9 million and expenditures totaling \$24.2 million.

The Office of Personnel announced that preparations are underway for the 2025-26 contract cycle, ensuring employment agreements are issued before the May 1 deadline. The department is coordinating with schools and department directors to assess staffing needs.

Updates from the Office of Instruction highlighted prepara-

tions for SC Ready testing, with a focus on targeted interventions for students at all performance levels. Additionally, early childhood registration has officially opened, a milestone that has generated significant community interest

The Office of Special Services reported full compliance with special education referral timelines and noted that the district's special education graduation rate has surpassed the state average for the first time since consoli-

The board discussed ongoing

policy revisions, particularly procedural adjustments following district consolidation. Members acknowledged the need for continued policy updates to align with operational changes.

During the executive session, the board approved the release of three students to another school district where they had previously attended.

As the meeting concluded, members reflected on recent school visitations, highlighting positive engagement with students and staff. Additionally, board members honored the

memory of June Briggs, a former District Two employee and board member, who recently passed away.

Chairman Bonaparte emphasized the board's commitment to growth and community collaboration, encouraging residents to remain engaged and supportive as the district continues to evolve.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for April 7, 2025

AUDIT FROM PAGE 1

Carr noted that the Clarendon One and Clarendon Four audits had to be completed before the newly formed CCSD audit could be finalized. "We couldn't move forward until the previous audits were done," she said, adding that the 2022-2023 audit is near completion.

Despite the Fiscal Caution designation, Carr emphasized that daily operations remain unaffected and that the district is fully compliant with financial processes moving forward. "Our daily operations, our financial operations are going great," she said. "Any advice from our auditor along and along, they have found that we've already corrected."

NEW BOARD TAKES RE-SPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSIGHT

The CCSD Board of Trustees, which recently seated new members, will now attempt to monitor the audit process and ensure compliance with state deadlines.

"Even though this happened before the newly elected school board, we know that we are responsible. We will resolve this issue when we submit audits to the State Department of Education," said Board Chairman John Bonaparte. "The new board members will ask for updates in the audit process, in advance to the due date to the Department of Education."

Bonaparte also noted that the financial recovery plan referenced in the SCDE letter was initially drafted in September 2024 and will be reviewed by the new board. "The recovery plan mentioned in the letter was written in September 2024. [The board] will ask for a copy to understand what is stated for the district to provide SCDE and ensure they are completed and sent for review," he said. "If the original plan needs updates, then we will update and submit changes to the Department of

To prevent future delays, Bonaparte said the board will increase financial oversight, ensuring audits begin on time and that all necessary documentation is provided to auditors in a timely manner. "We will make sure the auditing session begins on time and have all our employees provide information to the audit team in a timely manner to ensure the audit is submitted according to the statute," he said.

NEW LEGISLATION AIMS TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The district's financial struggles have prompted legislative action at the state level. On March 7, 2025, Governor Henry McMaster signed H. 3792 into law, a measure aimed at improving fiscal oversight in CCSD.

ing fiscal oversight in CCSD.

The bill, sponsored by Representative Fawn Pedalino and Senator Jeff Zell, amends Act No. 106 of 2021 to revise the election process for school board members and ensures the district's annual budget remains under the approval of the Clarendon County Council.

"This legislation ensures our school district operates with greater oversight and financial responsibility," Pedalino said in a statement. "It is a victory for our students, parents, and taxpayers."

Governor McMaster acknowledged concerns about local legislation but said CCSD's financial challenges made the bill necessary. "I applaud the Clarendon County Legislative Delegation's commitment to guarding against the potential waste of taxpayer resources and improving transparency," he said.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CCSD?

The district must submit its financial recovery plan within 60 days, and all outstanding audits must be completed by June 30, 2025, to bring CCSD back into full compliance with SCDE standards.

Bonaparte assured the community that the district remains committed to fiscal responsibility. "I am not sure of any adjustments at this time, however whatever it takes to fund our district efficiently, that's what [the board] will do," he said. "We will be good stewards of the district's finances."

Carr echoed that sentiment, emphasizing that the Fiscal

Caution designation reflects progress rather than additional financial trouble. "This status is solely a reflection of the previous district's fiscal challenges and it's not related to the forthcoming audit for the consolidated district. All audits conducted on Clarendon Two were clear of any issues, as I stated earlier, demonstrating our commitment to financial transparency and responsibility."

The district plans to keep staff and the community informed throughout the process. Bonaparte also suggests residents refer to the IG report for facts on audits. "The Superintendent will communicate to teachers and staff, and I will speak to the public via newspaper with a State of the District," Bonaparte said.

With Fiscal Caution in place and increased scrutiny from both state officials and local lawmakers, the district must continue navigating oversight and reporting requirements in the months ahead. For now, district officials maintain that they are on track to complete all outstanding audits and bring the district back into compliance.

WILDER

South Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2014. A dedicated advocate for professional development, she served as President of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, where she worked to advance policies that benefited educators and students alike.

Her contributions did not go unnoticed. In 2020, St. Paul Elementary School was renamed Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary School in her honor. In March 2020, the South Carolina legislature passed a senate resolution recognizing her lifetime of service. Following her passing in 2022, Congressman James Clyburn paid tribute to her legacy on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 2025, she was posthumously inducted

into the South Carolina Educator Hall of Fame.

Dr. Wilder's impact on South Carolina education is immeasurable. Her leadership, resilience, and commitment to "every child, every chance, every day" serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations. Her life's work ensured that students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, had access to quality education and the opportunities they deserved. As the state celebrates Women's History Month, Dr. Rose Hilliard-Wilder stands as a testament to the power of perseverance, education, and visionary leadership.

New in Town!

84

LUMBER

84 Lumber's new operation, located at 2678 Ram Bay Road in Manning, will be used as a floor and roof truss manufacturing facility. This is the company's second truss plant in South Carolina, focusing on coastal Carolina markets in Savannah, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and the surrounding areas. The company's first component plant in the state was announced in December 2023 and is located in Lugoff.



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CLARENDO

Economic Development

County council approves funding requests, ordinances at March meeting













CLUB. Clarendon County employees were recognized for their years of dedicated service during the March 10, 2025, County Council meeting. Honorees included individuals from various departments, each acknowledged for their commitment to serving the community. (Photos C/O Clarendon County Administration)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Council approved all agenda items during its regularly scheduled meeting Monday, March 10, at the council chambers on Sunset Drive. Discussions covered funding requests, board appointments, and multiple ordinances, including a temporary moratorium on tiny-home subdivision applications.

The meeting opened with a recognition of county employees for their years of service. Linda Lemon presented the awards, honoring six individuals for their dedication to Clarendon County. Jerimy Baker was recognized for five years with Fire/EMS as

an FF3/EMT and commended for his service in keeping the community safe. Judge Janice Coney was honored for 10 years as a Magistrate Judge and her dedication to justice. Rebecca Massey, who has served as the Director of Register of Deeds for 10 years, was thanked for her role in maintaining county records. George Kosinski, also with 10 years of service, was acknowledged for his contributions as the Director of Economic Development. Connie Wise was recognized for 15 years leading the Assessor's Office, and Vickie Williams was honored for 15 years as the Director of Grants, securing vital resources for the

"These individuals have demonstrated exceptional ded-

ication to Clarendon County, and we sincerely appreciate all they do to keep our community moving forward," Lemon said.

Following the recognitions, the council reappointed Larry Johnson to the Planning Commission for District 2 and accepted the county's fiscal yearend audit report presented by Lori Salley of McGregor & Co., LLP.

The council approved two hospitality fee funding requests, allocating \$6,000 to promote the upcoming Puddin' Swamp Festival and \$8,500 for marketing efforts related to the 71st anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, hosted by the Clarendon County Branch NAACP and the Pearson Foundation.

Additional funding from the

Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund was approved, including \$45,000 for the maintenance of the I-95 Exit 119 beautification project, \$56,250 for marketing initiatives by the Clarendon Chamber of Commerce, and \$21,250 for Santee Cooper Country's out-of-area marketing.

The council also advanced several ordinances with first readings. Ordinance 2025-01 places a three-month moratorium on applications for tiny-home subdivisions. Ordinance 2025-02 approves a development agreement for the Deer Creek at Wyboo project. Ordinance 2025-03 authorizes the transfer of a county-owned property. Ordinance 2025-05 implements countywide ani-

mal control regulations, while Ordinance 2025-06 establishes a noise control policy for unincorporated areas of the county. Ordinance 2025-04 pertains to an incentive agreement with "Project Buon Giorno," including a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement and special source revenue

Due to print deadlines, additional and more in-depth coverage of discussions, including details on the executive session, updates from County Administrator Lynden Anthony, and Chairman Jay Johnson's report, can be found on manninglive. com.

The next Clarendon County Council meeting is scheduled for April.



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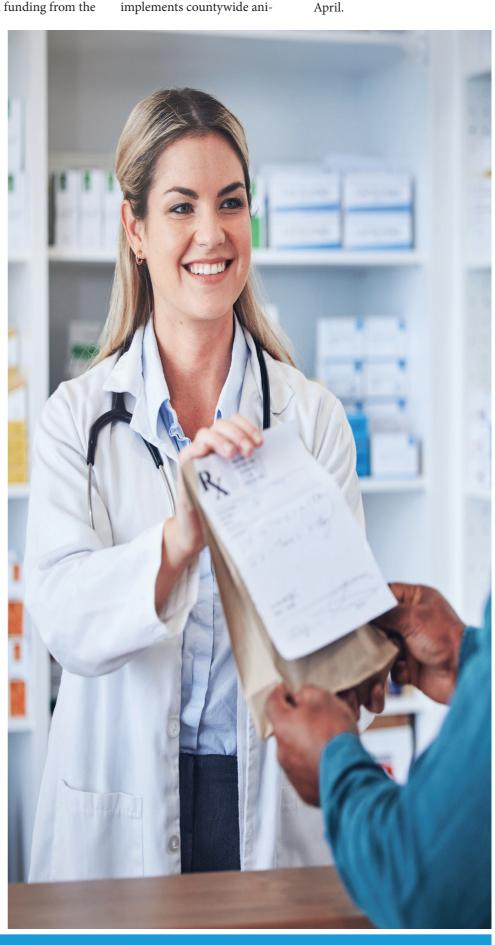
(803) 825-4113

Williamsburg Pharmacy

Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm | Saturdays, 9am - 1pm 411 Thurgood Marshall Hwy., Kingstree, SC (843) 355-3300

HopeHealth Pharmacy Greeleyville

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm | Saturdays, 9am - 12pm 215 Varner Avenue, Greeleyville, SC (843) 426-2170













«CLINTON Hi there, I'm Clinton, a fetching 4 ½ year old, 60lb, hound bully mix! I've got a zest for life that's as big as my acrobatic jumps. I'm known for my sweet nature and friendly disposition. I love a good game of fetch and I'm always ready for a new adventure. My ideal day would be spending time with an active family who can match my high spirits. I promise, with me around, there's never a dull moment. I have been neutered. I am also current on my vaccinations and tested negative for heartworm.

«FREYA Hi there, I'm Freya, a pretty 10-month-old black DSH. I might be a bit shy when we first meet but give me a little time and I promise to show you my playful side. I love to chase after toys and curl up in a warm lap. I'm sweet, friendly, and I love cuddles. I'm gentle too and enjoy hanging with my feline friends at the shelter. I'm still learning about the world and gaining confidence every day. I've got a lot of love to give and I can't wait to find my forever home.

If you are interested in adopting either Clinton or Freya, or any of the other wonderful pets at the shelter, you can get pre-approved by completing our online application at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com. Adoption fees: Dogs: \$125 Cats: \$100





FAX: 803.485.4306



Previous amputation of the foot, or part of either foot, or History of ulcers, or History of pre-ulcerative calluses,

or Diabetic Neuropathy with evidence of Callus formation, or Foot deformity, or Poor blood circulation

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AUCTIONS NEW LOWCOUNTRY & MIDLANDS ONLY

HUGE PUBLIC AUCTION. SAT., FEB. 8 AT 9:30AM. 138 LITTLE TOOT LANE, DORCHESTER, SC. SELLING FOR MR. AND MRS. TERRY CARROLL. AT PRESS TIME WE ARE STILL TAGGING ITEMS. WILL BE AN ALL DAY AUCTION INCLUDING **BUT NOT LIMITED TO** CARS, VANS, BOX TRUCK, SHOP EQUIP., TONS OF TOOLS, SEVERAL UTILITY TRAILERS, FURNITURE, NEON SIGNS, GLASSWARE, ADVERTISING ITEMS, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES OF ALL KINDS, AND SO MUCH MORE! PREVIEW FRI., FEB. 7 FROM 10AM-6PM. BROWSE WEBSITE: WWW. COGBURNAUCTION.COM. 803-860-0712

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION IN 80 S.C. NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY \$375. YOUR 25-WORD CLASSIFIED AD WILL REACH MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION READERS. CALL RANDALL SAVELY AT THE S.C. NEWSPAPER NETWORK, 803-750-9561.

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ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE TO MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION S.C. NEWSPAPER READERS. YOUR 25-WORD CLASSIFIED AD WILL APPEAR IN 80 S.C. **NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY** \$375. CALL RANDALL SAVELY AT THE SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPER NETWORK, 803-750-9561. THE CLARENDON HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS AT 6:15 P.M. ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT FOR JULY AND DECEMBER).

MEETING

THE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT SOUTHERN SENIOR LIVING IN THE AYCOCK **BOARD ROOM LOCATED AT** 3147A SUMTER HIGHWAY, MANNING, S.C. 29102.

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RHYTHM PORTABLE OXYGEN KIT EXT BATTERY , HOUSE CHARGER, AUTO CHARGER NEBULIZER KIT \$75.00 WALKER \$25.00 **OLDER WHEELCHAIR** \$50.00 RE SOUND HEARING AIDS \$2000.00 CALL PHIL 443-857-1352

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES
ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE FOLLOWING ESTATES MUST FILE
THEIR CLAIMS ON FORM #37JES WITH THE
PROBATE COURT OF CLARENDON COUNTY,
THE ADDRESS OF WHICH IS 411 SUNSET
DR. MANNING SC 29102 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 62-3801, 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
FROM (FORM #371 ES) INDICATING THE NAME
AND ADDRESS OF THE CLAIMMANT THE BASS
OF THE CLAIM, THE AMOUNT CLAIMED, THE
DATE WHEN THE CLAIM WILL BECOME DUE,
THE NATURE OF ANY UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE
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AS TO THE CLAIMM.
ESTATE: JOE HIITON JONES NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

ESTATE: Joe Hilton Jones Case No# 2025ES1400043 Personal Representative: Rhonda Denise Address: 4334 Old Manning Rd, New Zion, SC 29111

Attorney: E. Leroy Nettles III Address: PO Box 699, Lake City, SC 29560 (2/27-3/13)

FSTATE: Mario Roberto Molina ESTATE: Mario Roberto Molina Case No# 2024ES140016 Personal Representative: Cynthia Molina Address: 3154 Olanta Highway Turbeville, SC 29162 Attorney: Elbert K. Turbeville Address: PO Box 699, Lake City, SC 29560 (03/13-03/27)

Ten-Dale Family Farms, 1322 Les Tindal Rd. Pinewood, SC 29125 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 33.60622, W-80.375443 in Clarendon County, SC. A proposed maximum groundwater withdrawal of 51 million gallons per year from the McQueen Branch aquifer has been developed from Branch aquifer has been developed from calculated water use requirements for one (1) agricultural well(s) on approximately 71 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 April 7th, 2025, close of business day, 5:00pm EST. Please submit comments using SCDES's ePermitting webpage (https://epermweb.dhes.cs.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search) by navigating to the project and using the "add comment" aba to 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 of the page of wishing to be notified of the final permit decision must make comment on the application and/or make request to receive notice of the final decision and must provide SCDES with a correct name and mailing address. (4/7/25)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CLARENDON IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Case No.: 2024-CP-14-00369 Case No.: 2024-CP-14-00369
Sandra Walker, Barbara Pittman, and Yvette W.
Butler, personally, and as the Personal
Representative of the Estate of Wilfred J.
Walker,
Plaintiffs,

vs. Estate of Charles F. Walker, Jr., Estate of Brunette Walker, Estate of Charles F. Walker, III. Delores Walker, Howard C. Walker, Eddie Walker, Cheryl W. Morgan, Estate of Sidney P. Walker, Estate of Mary W. Wyatt, Estate of Doris Brunson, Lance Adonis Lee, Reginald Lee, and Edward Lee and John Doe and Richard Roe as

all persons claiming a right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon, the real estate described in the Complaint herein, including but not limited to any unknown owners, or any person, any unknown infants or persons in the military service designated in a class as John Doe and Richard Roe as to property designated as Clarendon County Tax Map No. 187-05-02-

04-000 SUMMONS TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to Answer the Complaint in this action, the original of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint upon the undersigned attorney at his office located at 121 Executive Center Drive, Suite 218, Columbia, SC 29210, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and, if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiffs in this action will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Complaint.
ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM IT IS ORDERED that Kevin Sandiffer, Esquire, is appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for unknown Defendants who may be minors, incompetent Defendants who may be minors, incompetent or under other disability, if any, collectivel designated as John Doe and Richard Roe. NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an action has been

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an action has been hereby commenced and is now pending in the Clarendon County Court of Common Pleas by the above-named Pleanthiffs against the above-named Defendants regarding an action to Quiet Title to Real Property, Plaintiffs have reason to believe Defendants may own or have some interest in the property. The below parcel is the subject of this action and is owned by Plaintiffs. Those certain piece, parcel or tracts of land, lying, being and situate in Clarendon County, South Carolina, consisting of 2.38 acres and 10.29 acres, identified as "the Southern Portion on Tract 3" and Tract 4, respectively, on that certain plat prepared by R. G. Mathis, on that certain plat prepared by R. G. Mathis, H. F. Oliver and Associates, entitled "Plat of Three Tracts of Land Surveyed at the Request of Charles F. Walker, dated October 23, 1979

and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Judgment Roll #14,406.

#14.406. Tax Map No. 187-05-02-004 Robert D. Blanchard, Sr. (Bar No. 102004) Dial Grimm & Denter, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 121 Executive Center Drive, Suite 218 Columbia, SC. 29210 803-828-7661 (2012) 2012 (27) (03/13/03/27)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Georgio's Restaurant. intends to apply to the South Carolina
Department of Revenue for a license and/or
permit that will allow the sale and On-Premises
consumption of Beer and Wine at 5978 Alex
Harvin HWY, Manning, SC 29102. To object
to the issuance of this license and/or permit,
you must submit form ABL-20, postmarked no
later 3/71/25
Mail protests to SCDOR, ABL Section, PO Box
125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907 or email to
ABL@dor.sc.gov. NOTICE OF APPLICATION ABL@dor.sc.gov. (02/20/25)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CLARENDON COUNTY FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS PARTNERSHIP, A SOUTH CAROLINA NONPROF IT CORPORATION

Please take notice that Dr. Myra Pearson, Chairperson of Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership, a South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation (the "Corporation"), hereby calls a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation at 9 o'clock a.m. on March 20, 2025, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the amendments to the Bylaws of the Corporation, and conducting such other business as may come before the Board. For more information, contact Clarendon County First Steps at clarendonfirststeps@gmail.com or (803) 433-2484.

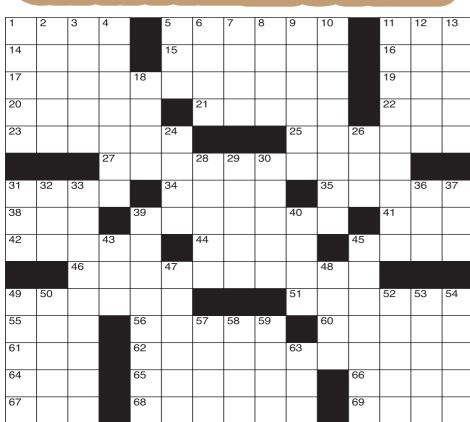
Dr. Myra Pearson
Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership Please take notice that Dr. Myra Pearson

Readiness Partnership



HELP. John's Place Executive Director Terry Gregory (far right) poses with a check for \$880 raised through the Walking Towards Recovery Shoe Drive, alongside supporters from Manning High School's FFA program and John's Place board members. From left: Logan Layne, Manning High School agriculture teacher and FFA advisor; FFA students Jorden Simon and Kaylin Dingle; John's Place board members Dawn Still and Deanna Ward; and Gregory. The funds will support John's Place in its mission to aid individuals in recovery. (Photo C/O Sara Duck)

GAMEZONE



CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE **DOWN ACROSS**

44. Ornamental box

49. A cotton fabric with

51. The vast grassy

plains in S. America

of your own identity

56. Noted consumer

60. Spanish sports club

advocate

55. Your consciousness

1. Brushed aside 31. Wet dirt 2. Water sprite 32. Russian city 3. Ones to look up to 33. Observed 4. Monetary units 36. Furious 5. A number everyone 37. Drivers' licenses has 39. Musical compo-6. Marine invertebrate sition 7. One who takes you 40. Auction to court 43. They __ 8. Indicates outer 45. Women 9. Parallelograms 47. Inspire with love 48. Japanese ankle 10. Strains 11. Cross sock 12. A way to remove 49. Appears 50. Old World lizard 13. Some pages are 52. The leading dog-__ 18. Ukraine city performer 53. Type of protein 24. A citizen of Den-

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(abbr.)

Rohan

26. Summer month

28. Hindu queens

29. Jewelry brand

30. Fictional rider of

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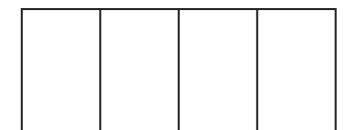
1. Cut a little bit off 5. State with confidence 45. Gov't investigators 11. River in NE Scotland 46. Uncertain 14. Not narrow 15. Lacking social polish a satiny finish 16. Amount of time 17. Frame 19. Automobile 20. Toadstools 21. High school dances 22. Utilize 23. Challenged 25. One-sided greed

61. Body part 27. Showing extreme 62. Tractability 64. Woman (French) 31. Potted plants 54. Pennsylvania town 65. Ready and willing to 34. Everyone has one 57. Art __: around 1920 be taught 35. Lake in Botswana 58. __ Blyton, chil-66. Muslim ruler title 38. E.T. rode in one dren's author 67. Depressed 39. Juniors' parents 59. Abnormal breath-41. Small amount 68. Gradually gave way 63. A place to sleep 42. Mother of Perseus 69. Clear-thinking

Wo SCRAMBL

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to agriculture.

DEFE



FACT

Movie Question: How many films did Sean Connery star in as James Bond?



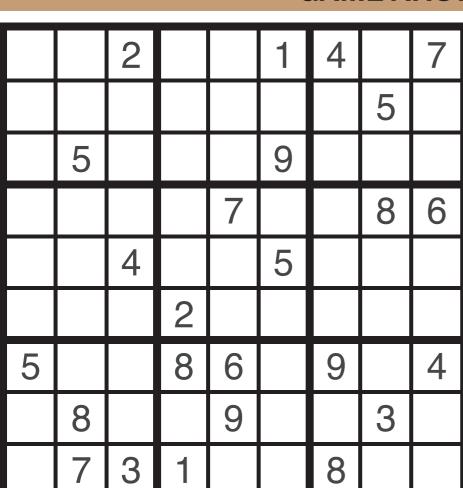
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FUN FACT: SEVEN

I am an actor born in Florida on March 13, 1950. I helped found the St. Nicholas Theater Company. I've appeared in many movies that showcase my versatility. I was nominated for an Academy Award for my work in

a dark comedy about a Minnesota city.

DON'T PEEK! GAME ANSWERS BELOW



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BRAD SIGMON BECOMES FIRST SC INMATE TO BE EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD

BY TIFFANY TAN, POST AND COURIER

COLUMBIA — In the last minute of his life, as he waited for the bullets to pierce his heart, Brad Sigmon was still.

He sat restrained from forehead to ankles, a black hood pulled over his face. His chest, marked by a red-and-white bullseye attached to his black jumpsuit, hardly moved up and down.

The shooters and their rifles were positioned across from Sigmon, hidden behind a wall with three rectangular

The 13 people in the execution chamber's witness room did not make a sound.

When the booming shots came without warning at 6:05 p.m. March 7, the bullseye was blown off. Sigmon's rounded stomach moved twice as blood bloomed on his chest.

Three minutes later, a man with a stethoscope declared him dead.

This was how life ended for a 67-yearold man who, in suburban Greenville County nearly a quarter-century ago, beat his estranged girlfriend's parents to death with a baseball bat.

Three of their family members witnessed what was an execution historic in its rarity.

a condemned inmate to death by firing squad. It also marked the execution method's return to the U.S. after 15 years, having last been used in June 2010, when Utah put to death inmate Ronnie Lee Gardner.

The firing squad had been used in Utah two previous times — and in no other state — since the modern era of the up into a recliner, until both stopped U.S. death penalty began in 1976.

Sigmon also became the oldest South Carolina inmate to be executed during this period.

In the hours before his execution, the U.S. Supreme Court denied his attorneys' pleas to spare his life. Gov. Henry Mc-Master also turned down his request for clemency despite Sigmon's proclamations of becoming a witness to God's compas-

sion and kindness on death row.

In his last words, Sigmon quoted multiple Bible passages to make a case that the merciful and loving God of the New Testament has primacy over the angry and vengeful God depicted in the Old Testament.

"An eye for an eye was used as justification to the jury for seeking the death penalty," Sigmon said in a statement read by his federal public defender, Gerald "Bo" King, after the execution chamber curtain was opened at 6:01 p.m.

"At that time, I was too ignorant to know how wrong that was. Why? Because we no longer live under the Old Testament law but now live under the New Testament," Sigmon said.

Sigmon and his attorney had exchanged nods. King also placed his hand over his heart, patting it several times. A fatal spurning

The killing that led Sigmon to the death chamber was brutal and followed a night of drinking and using crack cocaine.

Sigmon admitted to fatally beating David Larke, 62, and Gladys Larke, 59, on the morning of April 27, 2001, before kidnapping their daughter, Rebecca Barbare. Barbare had ended her three-year It was the first time South Carolina put relationship with Sigmon, asked him to move out of her mobile home and moved in with her parents next door.

Sigmon struck both victims in the head nine times with the baseball bat, according to investigators. He moved back and forth between the couple's kitchen, where he struck David Larke, and the living room, where Gladys Larke had curled moving from his repeated blows.

Sigmon took David Larke's gun, waited for Barbare to return from dropping off her children at school and forced her into her SUV. She managed to jump out of the vehicle and escape, though Sigmon chased her and shot her in the foot.

He fled the state and was arrested 10 days later at a campground in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

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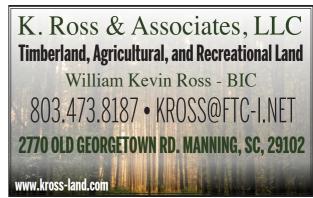
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Box 13, Manning Summerton Presbyterian Church - 16 South Canty Street Jordan Methodist Church - Highway 260, Jordan Summerton Southern Methodist Church Lake Marion Baptist Church - Off Hwy 301, North Santee Taw Caw Baptist Church - Summerton Liberty Hill AME Church - Summerton Trinity AME Church - 39 W. Rigby Street, Manning. Liberty Free Will Baptist Church - 2761 Liberty Church Rd., Manning. Trinity Church - U.S. 301, Alcolu Lighthill Baptist Church - Manning. Triumph The Church Kingdom of God in Christ - Davis Station Little Star Pentecostal Holiness Church - Juneburn Road, Manning. True Wav Holiness Church, Highway 521 in Alcolu Macedonia Church of God by Faith, Inc. - 26 Mazyck St., Summerton Turbeville First Baptist Church - 1020 Morris Street, Turbeville Turbeville Southern Methodist Church - Turbeville.

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COLLISION

Manning man killed in single-vehicle crash

Union Community Christian Church - Nesbitt Rd.

Wyboo Community Church - 12135 Highway 260, Manning

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Manning Church of Christ - 311 E. Keitt St., Manning.

Manning Progressive Church of Jesus - Hwy. 521, Manning.

Manning Deliverance Temple - (Apostolic Denomination) 6422 June Burn Rd, Manning

A Manning man was killed in a single-vehicle crash Friday evening on U.S. Highway 521, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol and Clarendon County Coroner Jacqueline Blackwell.

The collision occurred around 5:05 p.m. near Ridge Road when a 2008 Honda sedan traveling south ran off the road to the left

and struck a tree, said SCHP Corporal Nick Pye. The driver, who was the only occupant, sustained fatal injuries at the scene.

Blackwell identified the victim as Anthony Tyrell Johnson, 40, of Manning. An autopsy has been scheduled for next week at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

The crash remains under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol.



• COLLISION

Little River man dies in single-vehicle crash on highway

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

A Little River man died this afternoon following a single-vehicle crash on Highway 260,

authorities confirmed.

Kevin P. Mann, 67, of Little River, was involved in a wreck that resulted in a vehicle partially submerged in water, according to the Clarendon County Coroner's Office. Emergency crews responded to the scene, but Mann did not survive.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. An autopsy has been scheduled for next week to determine the exact cause of death.

Officials closed a section of Highway 260 while first responders worked the scene and urged motorists to seek alternate routes. Further details about the crash have not yet been released.



• LOCATED

Woman found safe after being reported missing

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Sheriff's Office has confirmed that Tracy L. Murphy has been found safe. Authorities announced the update in a social media post Sunday night but did not provide details on where she was located or the circumstances surrounding her disappearance.

Murphy, 5'2", 155 pounds,

with blonde hair and hazel eyes, was reported missing after she failed to arrive in Derry, Pennsylvania, as expected. She was last seen at Lakevue Landing on March 7, 2025, and surveillance footage captured her black 2022

Hyundai Tucson (SC license plate: KET 782) heading north toward Manning at 10:14 a.m. that morning.

Her family and authorities were concerned, as she had not been in contact and has a history of depression, mental illness, and diabetes.

The circumstances of her recovery remain unclear at this time. This is a continuing story, and we will update as more information becomes available.

• SPORTS

Charity golf classic to benefit local animal shelter

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

A Second Chance Animal Shelter (ASCAS) is set to host the 1st Annual Sherri Arment Memorial Charity Golf Classic on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the Players Course at Wyboo.

The event will begin with registration at 8 a.m., followed by a

shotgun start at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit ASCAS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue and care of animals in need.

dedicated to the rescue and care of animals in need.

The tournament will feature a four-man Captain's Choice format with a 10-point handicap system, and mulligans will be available. Participants will enjoy a tournament package that

includes green fees, a cart, conti-

nental breakfast, and lunch.

Entry fees are \$40 for Players Course members and \$55 for non-members, with payments required upon entry. Sponsorship opportunities are available, including hole sponsorships for \$50 or \$100, offering businesses and individuals the chance to display their name on the course.

Event entry forms are available at multiple locations in

Manning, including: A Second Chance Thrift Store, Players Course at Wyboo, The Shoppe on Brooks, and the Chamber of Commerce

Commerce
For additional information, interested participants may contact event organizers Ruthe Lambert at (803) 460-4405, Sara Cobb at (918) 724-1054, Herb

Whetsell at (843) 509-3737, or

Beauford Coulter at (803) 840-

5059.

Organizers encourage early registration as participation is expected to be high. Those interested in sponsoring the event or donating prizes for the tournament can also reach out to the contacts listed.

For updates, follow ASCAS on Facebook at ASCAS Manning

SPORTS/SHORTS

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

LACROSSE

Tuesday, March 4 Blythewood 2, Laurence Manning 14

The Swampcats came out firing Tuesday night, scoring four goals in the first quarter and taking a commanding 9-1 lead into halftime. Jordan Ives led the offensive attack with three goals, while Logan Starnes added two. Gavin Neill and Cole Lambert each chipped in a goal. The defense smothered Blythewood, with standout performances from Cameron Johnson, Brady Irick, and Mitchell Henderson. In goal, Cooper Mooneyham registered multiple saves to

anchor the Swampcats' defensive effort. Laurence Manning will host Beaufort next on Saturday, March 8, at noon.

Saturday, March 8 Beaufort 12, Laurence Manning 13

Laurence Manning clawed back from an early deficit to edge out Beaufort in a hard-fought 13-12 victory on Saturday. The Swampcats trailed 4-2 after the first quarter and 6-5 at halftime but dominated the third quarter with five goals, displaying sharp offensive execution. Beaufort mounted a late rally, but LMA held on for the win.

Jordan Ives led the Swampcats with four goals and an assist, while Aaron Nivens contributed three goals and two assists. Camdyn Strickler also netted three goals, and Hunter Stanfield added two. Brock Tamburello controlled the faceoff circle, winning 20 of 24 attempts. Defensively, Noah Tucker, Gavin Brown, and Cade Hodge anchored the Swampcats, while goalkeepers Phoenix Tisdale and Cooper Mooneyham combined for 13 saves.

BASEBALL

Wednesday, February 26 Manning 1, Ben Lippen, 22 The Manning (SC) varsity baseball team lost Wednesday's home non-conference game against Ben Lippen (Columbia, SC) by a score of 22-1.

Tuesday, March 4 West Florence 11, East Clarendon 1

The West Florence (Florence, SC) varsity baseball team won Tuesday's home tournament game against East Clarendon (Turbeville, SC) by a score of 11-1.

SOFTBALL

Thursday, March 6 East Clarendon 1, Blythwood

The East Clarendon Varsity Girls Softball team lost their game against Blythewood High School by a score of 1-5.

EAST CLARENDON VICTO-RIOUS

BY MAX PREPS

East Clarendon got themselves on the board against South Florence on Saturday, but South Florence never followed suit. They came out on top against the South Florence Bruins by a score of 4-0. This was payback for the Wolverines, who suffered a 12-1 loss the last time these two teams met.

The win got East Clarendon back to even at 1-1. As for South Florence, their defeat dropped their record down to 3-2.

Coming up, East Clarendon will square off against Hannah-Pamplico at 7:00 p.m. on Monday. As for South Florence, they wasted no time getting back out on the field and have already played their next game, a 5-1 victory against Atlantic Collegiate Academy on the 8th.

Article generated by infoSentience based on data entered on MaxPreps

• REC BALL

County recreation department offers open play basketball and golf lessons

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Recreation Department is expanding its sports programs, offering local youth and adults a chance to

stay active and hone their skills through open-play basketball and golf lessons.

Basketball enthusiasts can participate in open-play sessions at Weldon Gym on Tuesdays and Sundays, with designated time slots based on age groups. Children ages 8-10 take the court first, followed by sessions for 11-13-year-olds, 14-18-year-olds, and an adult session for players over 18. A nominal fee of \$1 per participant ensures accessibility for all. Youth players must be accompanied by a parent or

guardian.

For those interested in golf, lessons with instructor Donald Hardy begin Tuesday, March 18. The program, designed for ages 7 and up, offers monthly instruction at a cost of \$30. Participants will have the opportunity

to develop their skills under Hardy's guidance, learning the fundamentals of the game while enjoying Clarendon County's scenic courses.

For additional information on golf lessons, residents can call 803-473-3543.

• FISHING

Christie conquers NPFL at Santee Cooper



WINNER. Oklahoma's Jason Christie set a new NPFL three-day weight record of 82 pounds, 12 ounces, surging from sixth place after Day Two to earn his first NPFL Shield and the \$100,000 prize. (Photo C/O Tanner and Travis Lyons)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Coming into the Strike King NPFL Stop One at Santee Cooper Lakes, estimates suggested that 75 pounds would be enough to claim victory. But Santee Cooper—and Lakes Marion and Moultrie-had other plans, delivering big bass throughout the event. Despite changing temperatures and high winds, Oklahoma's Jason Christie set a new NPFL three-day weight record of 82 pounds, 12 ounces, surging from sixth place after Day Two to earn his first NPFL Shield and the \$100,000 prize.

As the top ten lined up to weigh in, Caleb Kuphall briefly set a new NPFL three-day total weight record, but his time at the top was short-lived. Christie surged ahead with a massive 32-pound, 5-ounce bag on the final day, claiming the hot seat. The last angler to weigh in, Day Two leader Corey Casey, faced his toughest day of the tournament, managing just 15 pounds, 5 ounces. Despite tying Kuphall in total weight, Casey finished second due to the tiebreaker.

With several giants landed over three days, Harmon Davis claimed Big Bass honors with a 10-pound, 9-ounce lunker caught on Day One. Twenty-three anglers cracked the 20-pound mark on Championship Sunday, including North Carolina's Josh Hooks, who jumped to 40th place with his biggest bag of the week to secure the final check.

CHRISTIE COMES ROARING BACK

Two "dirty thirty" bags were all Jason Christie needed to erase a slow Day Two and charge to victory. The Oklahoma pro stuck to his strengths, locking in a BOOYAH Covert Spinnerbait and going to work on Santee Cooper. He kicked off the tournament with 31 pounds, 6 ounces on Day One, followed by 19 pounds, 1 ounce on Day Two, before surging back to the top with a dominant 32-pound, 5-ounce bag on Sunday—the biggest limit of the day.

All week, Christie focused on cypress trees in Lake Marion, in a well-known area referred to as "The Brickyard." Searching for the coldest water temperatures he could find, he keyed in on iso-

lated trees in 2 to 5 feet of water.
"Throughout practice and
during the tournament, I looked
for the coolest water in the area

because I didn't want my fish to leave and try to spawn," said Christie. "Some parts of the lake were further along, but where I was focusing, the cooler water kept them positioned where I could catch them."

Fishing just north of Eutaw Springs, he slow-rolled a ½-ounce BOOYAH Covert Single Colorado Blade spinnerbait, rotating between chartreuse/ white/blue and chartreuse/white.

"I opted to fish the NPFL this season because I wanted to fish more," he said on stage. "When I'm back home in Oklahoma, I don't fish a whole lot, so this keeps me focused and hungry. Anytime you can get a victory, it's special. When you do this long enough, you never know when it's going to be the last one."

SC ANGLER CASEY FALLS TO SECOND

After increasing his weight from Day One to Day Two, changing conditions finally caught up with Day Two leader Corey Casey, as he struggled to find quality fish on Sunday. He kicked off the event on Friday with 27 pounds, 3 ounces, then called an audible on Day Two,

relocating to land 30 pounds,

4 ounces. As the last angler to weigh in on the final day, his 15-pound, 9-ounce limit dropped him to second place—still a strong finish for Stop One of the 2025 NPFL Season.

On Day Two, strong winds forced Casey to abandon his main area and move to a more protected deep weed point. While he had confidence in the spot, he was surprised to find quality fich staging to speyr.

quality fish staging to spawn.

"I wanted to jump around and hit a few places where I could actually fish," said Casey. "The first spot I got to had them. It was a one-cast spot, and that cast was producing 30 pounds—I definitely didn't expect that"

definitely didn't expect that."

Still, Casey had a gut feeling that fishing the same spot backto-back wouldn't pan out, and he was right. He landed no keepers and moved on. Working his way back down the lake, he jumped between spots and slowly built a small limit. When the camera guy left at 2:00, it was game on—Casey caught his entire Day

on—Casey caught his entire Day Three bag in short order. "I salvaged the day," he added. "And honestly, it's nice to lose by almost ten pounds rather than making it close. Even if Christie hadn't caught a big one late, he

still would have edged me out. It

was a phenomenal week, and to start the season like this at home is incredible."

For Casey, competing at a high level on his home waters is more than just personal pride—it's also a reflection of the knowledge he's built as a full-time guide on Santee Cooper.

"I'm a guide on Santee Cooper—Corey Casey Guide Service—and this is my second year doing it," he concluded. "I also have to thank my local sponsors for their support: Arrow Fencing LLC, Atlantis Heating & Air, Diamond Decorative Coatings, Kennedy's Grading, Excavation & Materials, New Haven Construction LLC, Phantom Outdoors - Tournament Grade Fishing Apparel, Riverland Services - Tree and Land Management, and Rodney Wrenn - Custom Wood Framed Metal Buildings."

Top ten: Jason Christie 82-12 Corey Casey 73-0 Caleb Kuphall 73-0 Bill Lowen 71-12 Hank Cherry 71-3 Patrick Walters 71-0 Keith Bardolf 68-12 Greg Hackney 67-13 Buck Mallory 67-12 Buddy Gross 67-4

















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