## The Manning Times

### **CALHOUN COUNTY TEEN CHARGED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF CLARENDON HALL ALUMNUS**



ALUMNUS. Darius Aiken, graduate of Clarendon Hall, deceased following tragic shooting. (Photo C/O Clarendon Hall)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

A 16-year-old Calhoun County resident is facing murder charges after allegedly hallucinating and fatally shooting a neighbor, author-

The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office confirmed the identity of the victim as 19-year-old Darius Aiken, a former Clarendon Hall student who had recently returned to Elloree from

Deputies responded to a residence in the 300 block of Cardinal Road around 8 p.m. on March 14, where they found two victims suffering from gunshot wounds. Aiken was pronounced dead at the scene, while the second victim was airlifted to Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to investigators, the 16-year-old suspect, whose identity has not been released due to his age, had allegedly consumed a marijuana-laced gummy prior to the shooting. Witnesses told deputies that the teen reported feeling hot and began panicking.

"When he entered the kitchen, he observed two individuals 'wearing white masks," the

sheriff's office said in a statement. "He stated he went to his father's bedroom, retrieved a shotgun, cocked it, and returned to the kitchen."

The suspect then fired at Aiken, killing him, and shot at the second victim, who was struck by bullet shrapnel while attempting to flee.

Sheriff Thomas Summers later clarified that the victims were not wearing masks, and the suspect had been socializing with them before the shooting.

Authorities are investigating whether the edible the teen consumed may have been laced with a hallucinogenic substance. The suspect has been charged with murder, attempted murder, and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

#### REMEMBERING DARIUS AIKEN

Aiken was a 2024 graduate of Clarendon Hall, where he was well known for his bright personality and infectious smile. The school community is mourning his loss, remembering him as a beloved member of the Clarendon Hall family.

"To know Darius was to love him, and he

See AIKEN, Page 4

LAKE

### Body of missing kayaker recovered in Lake Marion

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Authorities have recovered the body of a missing kayaker from Lake Marion, following a search that began Saturday after an unoccupied kayak was found floating in the water.

The South Carolina De-

partment of Natural Resources (SCDNR) announced Sunday via social media that its dive team located the kayaker's body that afternoon. Officials used sonar and cell phone ping technology to track the individual's last known location before deploying recovery efforts.

The search was initiated after Nick Huddleston, a fisherman

participating in a tournament on Lake Marion, spotted an overturned kayak filled with water on Saturday.

"Just happened to see something in the water a little ways away. Started getting closer to it, drove towards it, and saw it was a kayak that had flipped over," Huddleston told local media outlets. "It had been full of water;

we tried to tow it, and it was so full of water, we had to leave it near a tree ... at that point, I tried to contact DNR."

SCDNR confirmed that the kayak was still equipped with fishing gear and a life jacket strapped to it when discovered. Investigators later identified the owner and launched a coordinated search effort.

The name of the deceased has not yet been released, pending notification of family.

SCDNR continues to emphasize the importance of wearing life jackets and taking necessary precautions when kayaking on open water.

This story is developing and will be updated as more details become available.

AWARD

### Lauren Beaty named South Carolina | Dr. Marva D. Williams: A Advanced EMT of the Year



HONOR. 2024 Advanced EMT of the Year Lauren Beaty (Photo C/O Clarendon County Fire

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Lauren Beaty, a longtime Clarendon County emergency medical responder, was named the 2024 South Carolina Advanced EMT of the Year at the South Carolina EMS Symposium on March 7.

Beaty, who has spent 17 years serving Clarendon County, was honored for her dedication to emergency medicine and patient care. The surprise recognition left her overwhelmed with gratitude.

"I was very emotional," Beaty said. "It's not just our county, it's the whole state. It means a lot that somebody thought that much of me to nominate me."

Beaty, a Sumter native and Crestwood High School graduate, began her career as a volunteer firefighter with Sumter's DuBose Station 12 during high school. Encouraged by her mother, who was an EMT in Clarendon County, she transitioned to EMS, earning her EMT certification in 2009 and advancing to an AEMT in 2013.

Her mother's influence on her career remains profound. When her mother passed away from cancer in 2015, Beaty took over her position at Clarendon County EMS, solidifying her deep person-

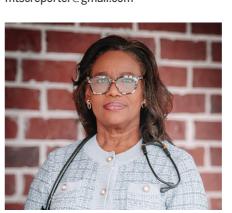
al connection to the service. "A lot of my emotional connection is with the people at Clarendon EMS," Beaty said. "They were there for my whole family during that time, and I consider so many of them family. Whether it was accompanying us to doctor's appointments, arranging transport for my mom, or simply checking in on us, they were always there. I remember countless moments where they stepped up, not just as coworkers, but as an unwavering support system. They truly carried us through that

See **BEATY**, Page **4** 

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### champion for community health

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com



This article is the third 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 impact.

For Dr. Marva D. Williams, medicine is more than a profession. It is a calling. Driven by a deep passion for helping others, she has dedicated her career to providing compassionate and comprehensive healthcare in Clarendon County, ensuring that her patients receive not only medical treatment but also trust and education.

"Practicing in Clarendon County has given me a unique perspective on patient care," Williams said. "In a close-knit community, healthcare goes beyond treatment. It is about building trust, educating families, and ensuring access to quality

care. I take pride in forming lasting relationships with my patients and addressing the specific health concerns that impact our region."

Williams specializes in both family and emergency medicine, two fields that allow her to care for patients at every stage of life. She was drawn to family medicine for its continuity of care and to emergency medicine for its immediate impact on patient outcomes.

"Over time, I was drawn to family medicine because of its opportunity to provide continuous and comprehensive care to individuals and families across all ages, genders, diseases, and parts of the body," she said. "I was also drawn to emergency medicine in regards to the aspect of seeing a more immediate result in the patient."

Throughout her career, Williams has navigated the challenges that come with being a woman in healthcare, a historically male-dominated field. Work-life balance, advocacy, and ensuring her voice was heard were hurdles she learned to overcome through perseverance and mentorship.

"I've learned to navigate these challenges through perseverance, mentorship, and staying committed to my purpose," she said. "Having a strong support system and believing in my own abilities has been key to overcoming obstacles."

Williams' role as both a provider and mentor is deeply personal. She recalls one of her earliest experiences in family medicine, when she had to deliver a cancer diagnosis to a patient.

See WILLAIMS, Page 4

**SEE INSIDE: SCOTT'S BRANCH SENIOR** SIGNS WITH THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL FOR BASKETBALL PAGE 11



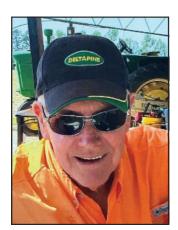


**FORECAST** 

67 high, 42 low







### **Edward NORRIS**

Edward Perry Norris, Jr., 86, husband of the late Frances Smith Norris, passed away at his home in Greeleyville, SC on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Edward was born in Darlington, SC on January 21, 1939, a son of the late Edward Perry and Evelyn Worrill Norris.

Edward is survived by their five children, and their spouses; Teressa Gamble and Johnny of James Island, SC, Tony Norris and Marian of Greeleyville, SC, Wendy Cogdill and Chris of Summerton, SC, Charlene McCord and Ken of Mount Pleasant, SC, and Hope Roberts and Will of Durham, NC. They have 11 grandchildren; Lawton Alise Boyd, John R. Gamble, III, Caroline Nash, TJ Norris, John Perry Norris, Reid Norris, Brent Cogdill, Blake Cogdill, John Kenneth McCord, Grace Bennett, and Faith Roberts; and 14 great-grandchildren; Addie Bell Boyd, Judge Boyd, Lillie Lee Boyd, Tony Norris, Amelia Norris, Lily Nash, Eliza Perry Norris, George Cogdill, Fielding Cogdill, Tillman Cogdill, Hendon Cogdill, Rylan Cogdill, Hadley Cogdill, and Camden Cogdill; and his siblings; Timothy Norris (Charlene) and Rose Marie Grooms (Cecil). In addition to his parents and his wife Frances, Edward was preceded in death by siblings; Elizabeth Worrill, Marguerite Perkins, Raymond Norris, Gene Norris, Danny Norris, Frankie Norris, and two infant sisters, Joyce Gail and Louise Evelyn Norris.

He was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, Papa and friend. He married the love of his life, Frances, on March 22, 1959. They had five wonderful children, whom they cherished. He loved to cut up and make you laugh, fishing, gardening, and farming with his son. He especially enjoyed gospel music, playing the guitar, and watching Duke basketball. He will be deeply missed.

He was a member of Greeleyville United Methodist Church. To celebrate his wonderful life, a graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at New Market Cemetery, SC-375 in Greeleyville,

To make a contribution in his memory, please send donations to Dr. David Jeremiah at Turning Point Ministries, online at www.davidjeremiah.org or mail to Turning Point for God, PO Box 3838, San Diego, CA 92163. Online condolences may be sent to the family on the obituary page of our website, www.WilliamsburgFuneralHome.com.



### **Danny BURGESS**

Danny Lee "Treetop" Burgess, 68, died Thursday, March 13, 2025 at MUSC, Florence, SC. He was born December 2, 1956 in Greeleyville, SC. A son of Annie Ceil McClary Burgess and the late Cleveland Burgess.

Public viewing will be held 2:00 til 6:00 PM Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St., Manning, SC.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 PM Friday, March 21, 2025 at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Greeleyville, SC. Burial will follow in the Churchyard Ceme-

The family will be receiving friends beginning Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Carl and Hattie Nelson, 248 Holliman Rd., Greeleyville, SC from 2:00 PM til 8:00 PM daily.



Sammy NELSON

Sammie Nelson, 90, died Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at his residence, 1080 Moorer St., Manning, SC. He was born December 10, 1934 in Manning, SC. A son of the late Henry and Olivia Harrison Nelson.

Public viewing will be held 2:00 PM til 6:00 PM Sunday, March 16, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, Manning, SC.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Monday, March 17, 2025 at Harmony Presbyterian Church, Manning, SC. Burial will follow in the Church Cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at his residence.



Michael **JAMES** 

Michael Eugene James, 68, died Saturday, March 8, 2025, at McLeod Medical Center, Florence, SC. He was born April 19, 1956, in Chicago IL. A son of the late Alexander and Elizabeth McCray James.

Public viewing 2PM til 6PM Friday, March 14, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, Manning, SC.

Funeral services will be held 3:00PM Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr. Chapel, Manning, SC. Burial will follow in Reeseville AME Church Cemetery Alcolu, SC



### **Charles** LEMON

Charles Lemon husband of Lorraine Kinard Lemon died Saturday, March 8, 2025. He was born January 8, 1950 in Manning, SC. A son of the late Tassie and Alice McFadden Lemon Johnson.

Public viewing 2PM til 6PM Friday, March 14, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St., Manning, SC.

Celebration of life 11:00 AM Saturday, March 15, 2025 at The Weldon Auditorium, 7 Maple St., Manning, SC. Burial will follow in Elizabeth Baptist Church Cemetery, Manning, SC

The family is receiving friends at his residence, 1051 Shortleaf Dr., Manning, SC.

CLUB NEWS

### Rotary Roundup: McLeod Healthy Lung Initiative highlights early detection efforts



**RESPIRATORY.** Noah Kleckner (Left) and Karen Snider (Right) give a presentation on their lung initiative and how one can try to keep their lungs healthier. (Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning Rotary Club held its weekly meeting on March 12 at Porter Jack's, featuring guest speakers Noah Kleckner, Project Manager for the McLeod Healthy Lung Initiative Program, and Karen Snider, Program Coordinator and Community Liaison for the Healthy Lung Initiative Program.

Kleckner and Snider provided an overview of the McLeod Healthy Lung Initiative, which was established in 2018 with a mission to save lives through the early detection of lung cancer and enhanced access to care. They emphasized the program's accreditation at all seven McLeod hospitals and its commitment to providing uniform, high-quality screenings across the region.

"Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S.," Kleckner said, adding that it accounts for more deaths than breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers combined. "But early detection is making a major difference. When diagnosed at an early stage, the five-year survival rate jumps from just 6% for late-stage cases to over 60%."

The primary screening tool, a low-dose CT scan, has proven highly effective in detecting lung cancer early, particularly among high-risk individuals. While national screening rates remain low—between 6-10% of eligible

patients—McLeod's program has

screened approximately 33% of eligible individuals in its service area, significantly improving early detection rates.

One of the program's success stories is Fred Hamm, an early participant in McLeod's multidisciplinary conference. Hamm's lung cancer was detected early through annual screenings, allowing him to receive curative radiation therapy. His case, Kleckner noted, exemplifies the impact of routine lung screen-

Snider detailed the eligibility criteria for lung cancer screenings, which follow Medicare and Medicaid guidelines. Patients must be between the ages of 50 and 77 (or up to 80 for private insurance), be current or former smokers who have

quit within the last 15 years, and have a significant smoking history of at least 20 pack-years. She also highlighted McLeod's grant funding that helps provide screenings for uninsured patients, ensuring that cost is not a barrier.

"Many patients don't want to leave their hometown for screenings," Snider said. "But cover screenings at their local

now, with this new grant, we can McLeod facility, making it more accessible." The presentation also addressed the role of McLeod's lung nurse navigators, who

assist patients with follow-ups and connect them to treatment when necessary. Additionally, McLeod's use of AI-powered software helps flag incidental

lung nodules found during unrelated CT scans, allowing at-risk patients to receive timely evaluations.

In closing, Kleckner stressed the importance of ongoing community education, noting that McLeod representatives frequently participate in health fairs and other outreach programs.

For more information about the McLeod Healthy Lung Initiative, eligibility requirements, or available resources, individuals can contact the program's office

The Manning Rotary Club meets weekly, bringing together local professionals committed to service and community engagement.

• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

### A second chance at resolutions

Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, and Ash Wednesday: Lent has begun. Now you have 40 days to start back



Bobby **JONTE** 

on those resolutions you made at the first of the year. Anything could have happened. You made have over resolved. Your planning might not have been thought out as well as you should have. You weren't really thinking straight when you thought you could run a marathon with four weeks of training.

I'm always making plans. Of course I have already quit some of my secret projects that were not planned out correctly or were just dumb to begin with. Luckily, some of the projects are going along and will hopefully lead to success this your. There is a still a long way to go, but for now things are going swimmingly. (My friend in England says that all the time.)

Most people try to give up something for lent. They are not going to smoke or they are quitting drinking alcohol. They are going to exercise or something else that could well resemble a New Years Resolution. This is a second chance to right



This is a second chance to right that wrong or correct a poorly thought out

resolution.

that wrong or correct a poorly thought out resolution. Another good part of doing something during lent is you only have to hang in there 40 days.

Easter Sunday and it is back to your old bad behavior. So far this year I've heard some great plans for things to be given up for lent. Think about this. So far people will be giving up wine, mixed drinks, watching television, checking social media on their phones, and in place of those things they are adding exercise, reading and giving to foreign missions.

Those are all noble causes. I did have one friend that said he wasn't going

to quit anything; he was going to add a new vice for the next 40 days and see if he liked it. Imagine that, a teetotaler starting to drink alcohol or start smoking. That might be easier than giving up something.

At least you're getting a second chance at some of the things you knew you could accomplish at the first of the year. After your pulled hamstring after trying a daily run of 3 miles, you might be able to work in a twenty minute walk each day. It will probably be easy to get in a few cigarettes a day to see if you want to get back into smoking.

My tongue is firmly in my cheek when I say that I might even try to add something different to my secret projects. This time I'll have the project cut back enough that I will be able to do it without killing myself the first week.

Some of my projects failed because they were too ambitious. A little moderation will help. 40 days might be the perfect amount of time to get to a manageable project that has a better chance of being completed.

If that doesn't work, I'll wait until July 4th



• I FTTFR

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Veterans should be recognized for an entire month annually to fully honor their sacrifices, contributions, and ongoing challenges. Here's why:

1. Extended Education and Awareness - A month-long observance would allow for deeper discussions about veterans' historical and modern contributions, their roles in various conflicts, and the sacrifices they and their families make. Schools, media, and institutions could dedicate more time to educating the public about the realities of military service.

2. Addressing Ongoing Challenges - Many veterans face challenges such as PTSD, homelessness, and difficulty transitioning to civilian life. A month dedicated to veterans could bring national attention to these issues, promoting better support systems and policies.

3. Parity with Other Observances - Other groups, such as women, Black Americans & people of other nationalities, and LGBTQ+ individuals, have month-long observances to highlight their history and struggles. Veterans, who have played a vital role in shaping the nation's history and security, deserve a similar level of recognition. Currently, we only recognize them for one day each

4. Encouraging Community Involvement – A month would allow more time for businesses, schools, and organizations to engage in activities such as fundraisers, veteran support programs, and apprecia-

tion events. This could lead to more sustained efforts to support veterans beyond just a single day.

5. Reflecting on Military History and Policy - A full month could encourage national discussions on military history, foreign policy, and the evolving role of the armed forces. This would provide a broader perspective on how military service impacts both the individuals who serve and society as a whole.

Expanding Veterans Day into a Veterans Month wouldn't just be about gratitude; it would be about sustained recognition, education, and action to better support those who have served.

(Ms.) Terrey M. Streath

### • A NEW GENERATION

### Just don't worry about it

As a newlywed and new homeowner and first-time dog mom, I have a lot of



**HUTCHINSON** 

worries floating around in my brain at all times. I've written about society's expectations and the internet's knack for making those expectations feel more overwhelming than ever

before. I am still personally working on ignoring those expectations and focusing on what is best for myself and my family. Unfortunately, there are still plenty of very real, very important responsibilities. There's a term for the nonstop churning of responsibilities and tasks that take over your brain: mental load. Your mental load is every task, every appointment, every person that you have to carry around in your brain. The dog needs his flea medicine next week and it's been a few days since you've given Mom a call and when is the last time you replaced your HVAC air filter? And while you're trying to keep a handle on those things, you're also working a job and trying to make time to spend with your friends or on yourself.

Mental load feels neverending, and it can make it difficult to focus on the moment or enjoy things that you normally enjoy. So what's the worst thing a person can say to another person who is clearly struggling under the weight of their mental load? "Just don't worry about it." or "It will get done." Can I just quickly point out that the reason it gets done is because there's a person

in the household who is worrying about it? My eye is twitching just writing this. Then there's my personal favorite, "Just tell me what needs to get done and I'll help." But having to do the thinking and instructing is just as much work as doing it yourself, and it certainly does not help with the mental load aspect of

Oh, how I wish to be a little kid again, blissfully unaware of everything that simply has to get done. I now understand why my mom was so stressed out sometimes. Luckily, I have found a few things that have helped to take a load off (pun intended).

First and most obvious, make lists. Own a daily planner. Color code it, draw pretty flowers on the pages, or just slap a to-do down in handwriting only you can read. It does not matter. It's important to put all these thoughts down, not just in case you forget about them, but so you can forget about them. Write them down and then don't think about it again until you check your planner at the start and end of the day. Easier said than done, I know. But just like you can exercise to train your body, you can train your brain. Whenever you start to feel anxious about impending dates or errands, just remind yourself that it's written down and then let the thought go. Eventually your brain will do this automatically and you will feel the weight of your mental load lighten.

Another way to reduce mental load is to communicate with the person you live with. Whether it's your spouse, roommate, or parents, the mental load should be getting shared. Let them know when you

have a busy week ahead and ask them to take some things off your plate, or just ask them to be patient with you. This is difficult for many people to do, but it's so important because not only does it help with mental load, it helps to ensure your relationships aren't impacted negatively. If I let my husband know I have a tough week at work coming up, he will know to pitch in a little more than usual around the house. But he will also know that if I'm stressed or cranky, it's not because of

My favorite way to reduce mental load is to set an allotted time for tasks (errands, chores, planning, etc.) and then when the time is up, it's time to shut it all out and relax. On weekdays, I try to have every task done by 8 p.m. so I can spend the remainder of my night doing things I just really enjoy, like crafts or reading. This keeps me highly productive and it tends to free up my weekends because I've accomplished most of my goals throughout the work week. When Friday rolls around, there is almost no mental load at all. Others might prefer to distribute things more evenly throughout the whole week so they don't feel as rushed, and that's okay too.

If your mental load is causing you to be less present in your life and relationships, it is worth trying something new to lessen the burden. Everyone deserves time to not have to worry about things. I will never tell you to just not worry about it because I know that's the least helpful advice ever. But I will tell you that if you want to lighten your mental load, you should try finding ways to worry less.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### 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

**DONATIONS ONLY** 

 WORLD WATER DAY LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 7:30AM-10:30AM. LOCATION WYBOO COMMUNITY CENTER. FREE BREAKFAST. DIABETES TESTING, AND VISION TESTS. BOB LEWIS 843-425-6424. JIM BOYKIN (803) 472-0054.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

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### AIKEN

FROM PAGE 1

had a smile that would light up the room," Clarendon Hall shared in a statement. "Please keep his family in your prayers, especially our Dean of Students, Alison Fry."

Aiken spent his high school years living with Alison Fry and her family, a relationship she described as profoundly life-changing.

"Darius walked into our lives, and we didn't even know we needed him," Fry wrote in a heartfelt social media tribute. "I never thought it was possible to love a child so much who wasn't my biological child ... He always had a way to make me laugh, even on some of the darkest days."

Fry shared that Aiken had once confided in her that he felt he had no family, but in her words, "D, you had no clue how loved and precious you truly were to so many."

Clarendon Hall held a time of prayer in Aiken's memory at 8:15 a.m. on Monday morning, with students, staff, and community members gathering in remembrance.

As the investigation into Aiken's tragic death continues, his loved ones are leaning on their faith and the support of the community.

"Though life is never perfect, I praise God for the wonderfully blended family He has given me. I praise God for the gift of Darius," Fry said. "We may not get everything perfect, but we love each other hard, and I can't thank God enough for Clarendon Hall."



### **BEATY**FROM PAGE 1

difficult time, and I will forever be grateful."

Currently stationed at Summerton's Station 3, Beaty balances her EMS career with her passion for animals. She operates a horse boarding and training facility alongside her husband, Ben, whom she married in 2018. Their farm is home to 15 horses and several rescue dogs, including Great Danes.

Despite her commitment to EMS, Beaty envisions eventually dedicating more time to her farm and starting an official animal rescue organization.

"As long as I enjoy it,

I'm going to be here," she said. "But I'd love to start a 501(c) for rescuing animals and be at the farm full-time one day."

Beaty was nominated for the award by a colleague, an experienced EMS provider whom she admires for his mentorship and teaching skills.

Deputy Chief of Medical Operations Stephanie Hughes played a key role in ensuring Beaty attended the symposium, convincing her under the pretense of evaluating new ambulance models. The ruse worked, and Beaty was caught off guard when her name was announced.

"There were so many of my people there, and just having them there and happy for me as well was a really good feeling," Beaty said. "I could see the excitement in their faces, and it meant the world to me that they were there to celebrate this moment. These are the people who have shaped my career, who have supported me through the toughest times, and who continue to inspire me every day. To share that moment with them, to hear their cheers and feel their encouragement, was overwhelming in the best way possible."

For now, Beaty plans to continue serving Clarendon County while managing her farm, grateful for the opportunity to be part of a career that has given her both a family and a purpose.

"I've learned so much," she said. "Clarendon has some of the best providers, and I feel very honored to be part of this team."



### **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

March

### WILLIAMS

"The patient immediately noticed the heartbreak in my voice and responded with, 'Dr. Williams, did you give me this cancer? No. You caught this disease early for me by diving deep into the concerns I presented you with instead of dismissing it. You did not let up until we had an answer and now I have a shot at fighting this.' His words struck my heart and I think of them daily ... Moments like these remind me why I chose this profession and reinforce my commitment

to serving others."
As a woman in medicine, Williams recognizes the significance of National Women's History Month and the barriers that women have had to overcome in healthcare.

"[This] is a time to celebrate the resilience, innovation, and contributions of women—especially in fields like healthcare where we've had to overcome barriers," she said. "As a female healthcare provider,

I see this month as an opportunity to honor the women before me who paved the way and to try and inspire the next generation of women in medicine."

Williams is particularly excited about advancements in women's health, including improvements in breast cancer screenings through artificial intelligence and laser analysis.

Williams is particularly excited about advancements in women's health, including improvements in breast cancer screenings through artificial intelligence and laser analysis. She actively engages with the community through health screenings, preventive care talks, and collaborations with local organizations to bridge healthcare gaps.

Despite the demands of her profession, Williams prioritizes balance.

"Balancing professional and personal responsibilities is an ongoing challenge, but I've learned that setting boundaries and prioritizing self-care are essential," she said. "I make time for my family, engage in activities that bring me joy, and remind myself

that taking care of my own well-being allows me to be a better provider for my patients."

Looking ahead, Williams hopes to continue mentoring women in medicine and advancing healthcare in meaningful ways.

"To young women aspiring to enter health-care: believe in yourself and don't be afraid to take up space in this field," she said. "Find mentors, keep learning, and stay passionate about making a difference. Challenges will arise, but your dedication and resilience will shape you into a strong and capable professional."

Williams continuously finds inspiration in her patients, her colleagues, and the generations of women who paved the way before her.

"Each day, I am reminded of the importance of compassion, perseverance, and the power of healthcare to change lives," she said.

For Williams, the true measure of success lies in the trust she builds with her patients and the lasting difference she makes in their lives.

# New in Town!

# BA BER

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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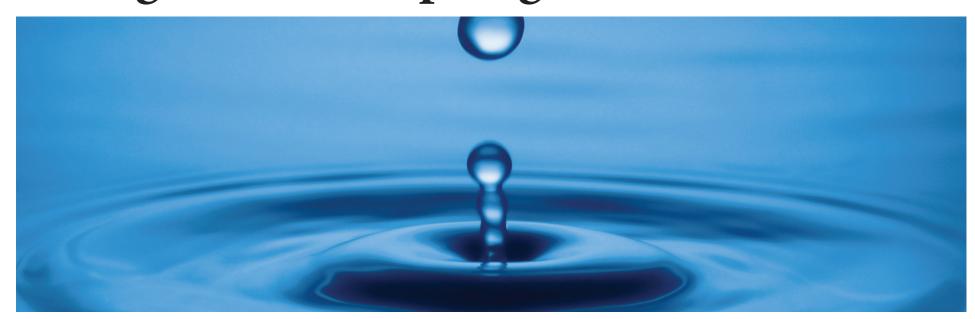
CLARENDO

Economic

OUNTY

GOVERNMENT

### Summerton Town Council addresses water billing concerns, apologizes to residents



#### BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Summerton Town Council convened for its regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, where discussions were dominated by resident concerns over water billing errors, reports from town departments, and upcoming community events.

Mayor Keith Bowman and town officials faced mounting frustration from residents regarding delayed water bills and unexpected overages. Shoquona White, clerk of the town's water department, addressed the council and public, explaining that extreme weather conditions, staffing shortages, and meter-reading delays led to an extended billing cycle, which resulted in higher-than-usual charges

"The late billing caused confusion, and we take full responsibility for that," White said. "We are working diligently to correct these issues and ensure they do not happen again."

White also acknowledged a system-generated \$5 late fee that was automatically applied to some accounts due to the billing delay. She assured residents that the fee was being manually removed from affected accounts, though the process was tedious. Council members echoed White's sentiments, emphasizing their commitment to fixing the

Mayor Bowman expressed his concerns over the public backlash White received, particularly personal attacks and online criticism, which nearly led her to resign. "We understand the frustrations, but we must remember that town employees are human too," Bowman said. "Disrespect and personal attacks are not the way to address concerns."

Council members apologized for the inconvenience caused to residents and committed to improving communication, including adding notifications on bills and social media about any future billing delays.

Town department reports

The Public Works Department reported ongoing infrastructure improvements, including repairs to water leaks and maintenance of public spaces. Public Works Director Anthony Smith stated that the town was working on fixing two leaks downtown, though progress was slow due to previous road construction that left the area heavily cemented.

Chris Waddell of American Engineers, Inc., provided updates on critical projects. He noted that bids were open for two initiatives: replacing failing fire hydrants and upgrading outdated water meters with digital systems. Bids will be reviewed on April 3, with the goal of modernizing Summerton's water infrastructure.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Police Chief Donell Dixon provided a report on recent incidents, including a case of arson and growing concerns over panhandling near businesses. He introduced a proposed ordinance to regulate aggressive panhandling, citing complaints from business owners and residents. The council unanimously

approved the first reading of the ordinance, moving it forward for final approval.

Chief Dixon also rescinded a previously submitted retirement notice, stating he wanted to continue serving and assisting in rebuilding the department. The council expressed support for his decision.

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS AP-**

The council approved requests for two upcoming events. Evelyn Gamble, owner of Secret Oasis, received approval to host a community Easter egg hunt on April 12, with vendors along Railroad Avenue. Additionally, the Lighthouse Foundation, organizers of the town's annual Juneteenth celebration, were granted permission to hold a parade and festival on June 19. The event will include a beauty pageant and other community activities.

### **RESIDENT CONCERNS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

During the public participation portion of the meeting, multiple residents voiced concerns about town maintenance, zoning enforcement, and public safety. Residents raised issues about stray dogs roaming the area and questioned what the town could do to enforce animal control policies.

Other concerns included the need for stronger enforcement of zoning ordinances, particularly regarding abandoned and deteriorating properties. Town Administrator Mary Adger acknowledged the challenges posed by limited staff and assured residents that steps were being taken to address complaints.

The council closed the meeting by reaffirming their commitment to transparency and accountability. "We are all working toward the same goal: improving our town," Councilman Robert Sandifer said. "It takes time, but progress is happening. We just ask for patience and coopera-

The meeting adjourned after an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The next town meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.



### HopeHealth now has three pharmacy locations to serve Clarendon & Williamsburg Counties!

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**«DOMINO** Hey there, I'm Dashing Domino! I'm a young, adorable, playful, and funny guy. I love to make people laugh with my antics. I have a big personality and I'm not afraid to show it. I'm vocal and I love to 'talk' to my human friends. Water is my absolute favorite thing. I could play in it all day! I'm a bully/basset mix, which makes me quite unique. I'm not too fond of other dogs, so I'd do best in a home where I'm the only pet. I do have heartworm, but don't worry, it's treatable. Adopt me. I'll make you laugh, keep you entertained, and love you unconditionally. I am neutered and up to date on my vaccinations.

**«LUNA** Hi Hello, I'm Lovely Luna. I'm just 7 months old and life's a big adventure for me! I'm a little shy at first but give me some time and I'll show you how sweet and friendly I can be. I love to play - toys, feathers, strings, you name it, I'll chase it! I'm also a great friend to other cats; we can have so much fun together. I'm still learning about the world, but I promise to bring joy and love into your life. Adopting me means gaining a loyal companion who'll always be there to brighten your day. I am spayed and current on all age-appropriate vaccinations and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and Aids.

If you are interested in adopting either Domino or Luna, 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





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who has diabetes, appropriate documentation from a qualified physician, and:

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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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

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#### **MEETING**

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

#### **FOR SALE**

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### **LEGALS**



The Manning Times • 230 E. Boyce St. Manning • 803-435-8422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE FOLLOWING ESTATES MUST FILE THEIR CLAIMS ON FORM #371ES WITH THE PROBATE COURT OF CLARENDON COUNTY, THE ADDRESS OF WHICH IS 411 SUNSET DR. MANNING SC 29102 WITHIN EIGHT (8)
MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST NONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE TO CREDITORS OR WITHIN OND (1) YEAR FROM DATE OF DEATH, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER (SCPC 62-3-801, ET SEC), OR SUCH PERSONS SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED AS TO THEIR CLAIMS, ALL CLAIMS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENTED WRITTEN STATEMENTS ON THE PRESCRIBED FROM (FORM #371 ES) INDICATING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLAIMANT, THE BASS OF THE CLAIM, THE AMOUNT CLAIMED, THE DATE WHEN THE CLAIM WHICH AS TO THE CLAIM AND AD SECRIFION OF ANY SECURITY AS TO THE CLAIM AND A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SECURITY AS TO THE CLAIM WHO ANY SECURITY AS TO THE CLAIM WILL BECOME DUE. AS TO THE CLAIM WILL BECOME DUE, THE NATURE OF ANY UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE CLAIM, AND A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SECURITY AS TO THE CLAIM.

ESTATE: Mario Roberto Molina Case No# 2024ES1400167 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)

ESTATE: Vera McKenzie Coker Case No# 2025ES1400068 Personal Representative: Hubert Dwayne Coker Address: 5740 Salem Road New Zion, SC 29111 Attorney: Elbert K. Turbeville Address: PO Box 699 Lake City, SC 29560 (03/20-04/03)

Abandonment Notice :Lot 8 Owner: Mr. Cromer RV - Prowler Michael Leviner, Randolph's Landing , T&N Septic Tank, T&N enterprises and JRL Real Estate and Development (03/20)

Ten-Dale Family Farms, 1322 Les Tinda 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 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 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) 598-4220 or e-mail at Ashley. Carothers@des.sc.gov. SCDES invites and will 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.dhec sc.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search) 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/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 Cabe INO.: ZUZ4-CP-14-00369 Sandra Walker, Barbara Pittman, and Yvette W. Butler, personally, and as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Wilfred J. Walker,

vs.
Estate of Charles F. Walker, Jr., Estate of Bru-nette 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, inter-est in or lien upon, the real estate described in the Complaint herein, including but not limited the Complaint nerein, 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.

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to Answer the Complaint in this action, the origi-nal 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 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 ITIS ORDERED that Kevin Sandifer, Esquire, is appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for unknown Defendants who may be minors, incompetent or under other disability, if any, collectively designated as John Doe and Richard Roe. NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an action has been hereby commenced and is now pending in the

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 Plaintiffs 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, 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 Tax Map No. 187-05-02-004

lax Map No. 187-U5-U2-U04 Robert D. Blanchard, Sr. (Bar No. 102004) Dial Grimm & Dept., LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 121 Executive Center Drive, Suite 218 Columbia, SC 29210 803-828-7661 (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 permit that will allow the sale and on-Fremises 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

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

PARTINERSHIP, A SUUTH CAROLINA NUNPROF-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"), 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 Poard For more information contact Clarge. Board. For more information, contact Clarendon County First Steps at clarendonfirststeps@gmail.com or (803) 433-2848. Dr. Myra Pearso

Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership

CRIME

### Chamber calls for volunteers

### **SUBMITTED**

The Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce is calling on volunteers to help make the 44th Annual Striped Bass Festival the best one yet. With the county's largest festival just around the corner, organizers are seeking individuals and organizations to assist with a variety of tasks, from greeting sponsors to selling

t-shirts and supporting vendors. A volunteer meeting is scheduled

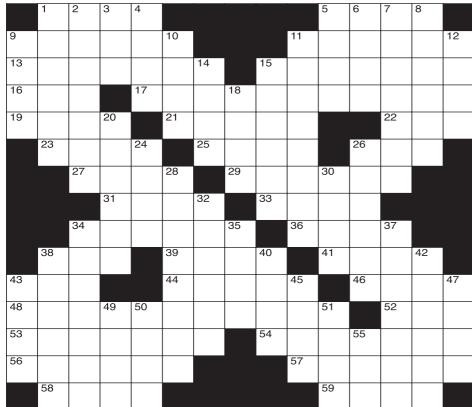
for Thursday, March 20, at the Clarendon Chamber office, located at 19 N. Brooks St. in Manning. The onehour session, set for 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., will provide information on how to get involved in the upcoming festival.

"Every helping hand makes a difference," the Chamber stated in a social media post. "Join us for our next meeting and bring a friend—or just give the Chamber a call to learn how you can help."

The Striped Bass Festival, a long-standing tradition in Clarendon County, celebrates the local community with a lineup of family-friendly activities, food vendors, and entertainment. Volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the event runs smoothly.

For more information on how to get involved, call the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce at (803) 435-4405.

# **CAMEZONE**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 11 12



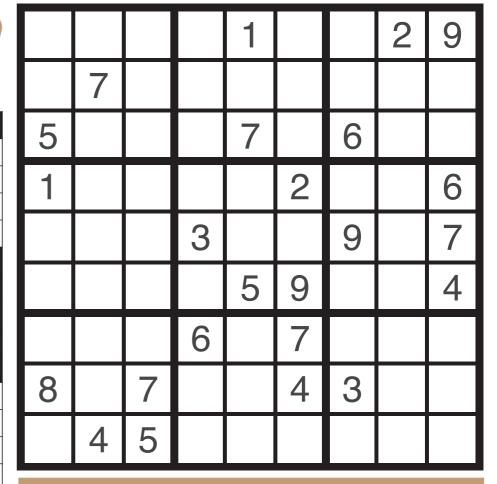
### CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE DOWN ACROSS

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## GUESS WHO I am an actress born in Louisiana on March 22, 1976.

I was a fashion model at age seven. I had a breakout role as a party girl who sets her sights on Harvard Law School. I won several awards for playing a country star with an equally famous husband.

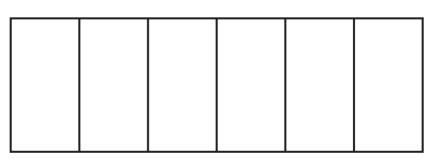




### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to working from home.

**FECOIF** 



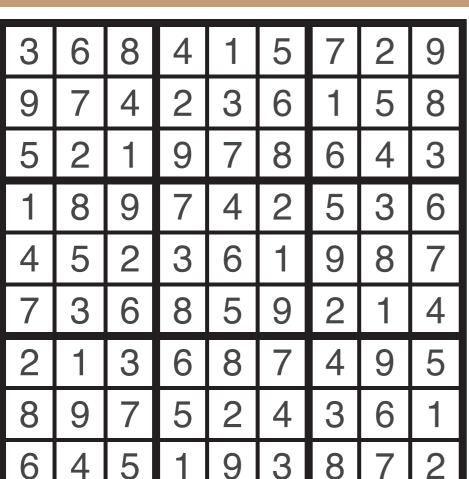
### FUN FACT

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



**FUN FACT: SEVEN** 

## CON'T PEK! GAME ANSWERS BELOW



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### **ELEVEN AGENCIES TEAM-UP** FOR OPERATION ICE STORM



### **SUBMITTED**

The impact of law enforcement inter-agency cooperation was on full display during the Sumter County Sheriff's Office's Operation "ICE" Storm last week as nine agencies converged on I-95 to assert Interstate Criminal Enforcement.

The presence of law enforcement agencies saturating a section of the interstate during the operation not only promoted safety and prevented accidents but also protected the public by arresting criminals.

Some of the finest officers from ten agencies gathered in the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Training Center on Sunday afternoon, February 23, to prepare themselves for a safe week of enforcing the law and protecting citizens from criminals. Following dinner, Sheriff Anthony Dennis greeted the visiting agencies, and key operation organizers

conducted a briefing.

The participating agencies include:

- The City of North Augusta Police Department

- Aiken County Sheriff's Office
- Clarendon County Sheriff's Office - The City of Darlington Police Department
- The Florence County Sheriff's Office - The City of Florence Police Department
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP)/Air and Marine Operations (AMO), Jacksonville, FL

- South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

- The Sumter County Sheriff's Office - Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office Also participating in the operation were air units from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and Customs and Border Protection.

While enforcing traffic laws, Operation Ice Storm completed 1,250 traffic stops for violations. Fifty of those stops required officers to deploy K-9s.

One missing person was located who had been reported missing by family members from Florence County. The individual was found to be safe, and their family was notified.

Officers seized illegal drugs, firearms, counterfeit goods, and illicitly gained currency during traffic stops.

Seizures:

- 1,112 grams of Methamphetamine
  469.5 grams of Marijuana
  Eight grams of Crack Cocaine
- Six firearms
- \$337,850 in counterfeit goods \$10,680 in illicit gained currency

The operation also recovered one stolen vehicle, several stolen IDs, and credit cards with a card reader used in fraud.

25 arrests were made, including five fugitives with warrants and three aliens who will be placed into removal proceedings by ICE. We know these fine officers do excel-

lent work every day in their respective jurisdictions, and to have them partner with us for this operation was an honor and a powerful testimony of their professionalism," said Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis.

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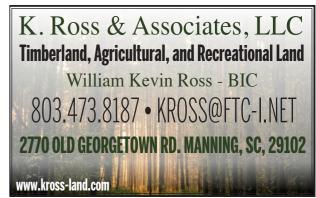
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GOVERNMENT

### Turbeville Council approves water project loan forgiveness

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

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

mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Turbeville Town Council convened for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at Town Hall, where members addressed key infrastructure projects, financial updates, zoning matters, and community initiatives. The meeting, called to order at 6:30 p.m., opened with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance before council members approved the agenda and the minutes from the February 10 meeting.

One of the primary topics of discussion was Resolution 2025-01, which authorizes loan forgiveness for the Puddin Swamp Water Line Project through the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority. The resolution allows the town to receive financial relief for the ongoing water infrastructure improvement project, which involves a water main extension along Puddin Swamp Road. The project was approved for funding through the South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, ensuring the town does not incur long-term debt, as the loan will be forgiven upon compliance with state and federal conditions. Town officials emphasized the importance of this funding in improving service reliability and maintaining necessary infrastructure.

Zoning issues were also a key point of discussion, particularly a request regarding a Main Street property where a business owner is interested in placing storage containers on a General Commercial lot for rental use. The zoning map indicates that this type of use falls under an exception, meaning the owner must appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals for approval. In other zoning matters, officials reported an inquiry

regarding the expansion of a grain business and its potential impact on nearby properties. The council also voted to approve a new BZA member, Becky Keefe, to ensure that zoning and land-use matters continue to be reviewed efficiently.

During the financial report, council members reviewed the February financial statement, which showed \$206,873 in income and \$133,423 in expenditures, leaving a positive balance of \$73,450 for the month. Revenue sources included \$117,857 in administration funds, \$53,190 from water services, and \$35,826 from sewer services. The town's largest expenditures included \$48,247 for water operations, \$40,938 for sewer operations, and \$20,773 for police expenses. Town officials noted that financial management remains a priority, particularly as the town moves forward with large-scale projects like the water main extension and potential infrastructure upgrades.

The utility report provided updates on ongoing water and sewer projects. The Puddin Swamp Water Loop Project is progressing but may experience delays due to supply chain issues with water meters. Officials are also awaiting responses from insurance companies regarding an accident involving the town fountain, which occurred in December. The claim is still being processed. In an effort to secure additional funding, the town is reviewing grant opportunities through the SCMIT/ SCMIRF grant program for street department equipment upgrades.

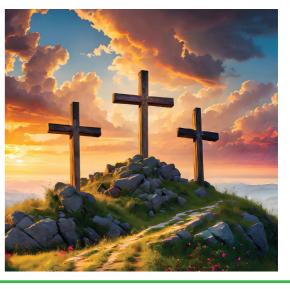
Council members also received an update on the construction of the new Turbeville Library, which remains on schedule despite minor logistical challenges. During the public participation segment, Quan Barnes proposed a Back to School Bash aimed at supporting local students. This event was approved with Councilmember Judy Coker making a motion to approve, and Councilmember Herbert Mims seconded the motion.

Town Administrator Howard Garland provided a detailed update on various administrative matters. He reported that delinquent business license collections totaled \$7,218.66, with the town receiving \$3,609.33 in recovered funds. Work is ongoing on the 2025-26 municipal budget, which includes a 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for town employees. Garland also discussed continued coordination with the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper) regarding grant opportunities for public works projects. The town recently finalized a five-year lease extension agreement with Clarendon County for a permanent stage on Town Square, a necessary step in securing full funding from the Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) grant program.

During the Mayor's Report, updates were provided on recent resident concerns, including a water service disconnection due to delinquent payments. The town attempted to contact the resident regarding the overdue balance, but the number provided was out of service. The issue remains unresolved. Another zoning request under review involves a permit for digital signage at East Clarendon High School, which must comply with the town's revised zoning ordinance. Officials also reminded council members of the March 30 filing deadline for Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) with the South Carolina Ethics Commission.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next Turbeville Town Council meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025, at Town

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# SPORTS SHORTS

#### BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY & MAXPREPS

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Varsity baseball

#### **EAST CLARENDON**

East Clarendon had to endure a four-game losing streak dating back to last season, but that streak is no more. They won by a run and slipped past the South Florence Bruins 7-6. For those keeping track at home, that's the closest win the Wolverines have posted since April 25, 2024.

Barnes McConnell was a major factor while hitting and pitching. He looked comfortable on the mound, pitching 3.2 innings while giving up no earned runs off two hits. McConnell was also stellar in the batter's box, going a perfect 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBI. Those two doubles gave him a new career-high.

In other batting news, the team relied heavily on Dawson Beard, who went 2-for-4 with one triple, one stolen base, and one run. That triple was his first of the season. Another player making a difference was Kenley Sullivan, who got on base in three of his four plate appearances with one RBI.

East Clarendon's first victory this season bumped their record up to 1-3. As for South Florence, their defeat dropped their record down to 5-3.

Coming up, East Clarendon is taking a road trip to square off against Manning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. As for South Florence, they will host West Florence at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday. West Florence will roll in looking for their ninth straight win, something South Florence surely won't give up without a fight.

#### **LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY**

Laurence Manning Academy suffered their closest defeat since March 8, 2024 on Saturday. They fell just short of the Pinewood Prep Panthers by a score of 3-1. The Swampcats' loss signaled the end of their undefeated season.

Having lost for the first time this season, Laurence Manning Academy fell to 3-1. As for Pinewood Prep, their victory bumped their record up to 5-2.

Laurence Manning Academy will have a little extra prep time after the defeat as they won't be playing again for a while. They'll take on Orangeburg Prep at 7:00 p.m. on March 27th. As for Pinewood Prep, they will head out on the road to challenge Northwood Academy at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Northwood Academy will aim to continue their three-game streak of scoring more runs each match than the last.

#### **MANNING HIGH SCHOOL**

The Manning Monarchs will head out to take on the Timberland Wolves at 7:00 p.m. on Monday. The two teams have had a bumpy ride up to this point with four consecutive losses dating back to last season for Manning and nine for Timber-

land dating back to last season. Manning lost 19-13 to Wilson on Friday.

Meanwhile, Timberland started off well but failed to capitalize on an early lead against Goose Creek. They came up short against the Gators on Thursday, falling 20-2.

Timberland saw two different players step up and record at least one hit. One of them was Greg Tumbleston, who scored a run while going 1-for-1.

Timberland's loss dropped their record down to 0-5. As for Manning, their defeat dropped their record down to 0-3.

Manning beat Timberland 4-1 in their previous matchup back in April of 2022. The rematch might be a little tougher for Manning since the squad won't have the home-field advantage this time around. We'll see if the change in venue makes a difference.

Varsity softball

### **EAST CLARENDON**

The East Clarendon Wolverines will face off against the Latta Vikings at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Both come into the match bolstered by wins in their previous matches.

East Clarendon's pitching crew heads into the game hoping to repeat the dominance they displayed on Saturday. They came out on top against South Florence by a score of 4-0.

Meanwhile, there's no place like home for Latta, who bounced back after a loss on the road on Saturday. They narrowly escaped with a victory as the squad sidled past Conway 3-2. For those keeping track at home, that's the closest win the Vikings have posted since March 8, 2024.

Latta's victory bumped their record up to 3-1. As for East Clarendon, the win got them back to even at 1-1.

East Clarendon might still be hurting after the 9-2 loss they got from Latta when the teams last played back in May of 2019. Can East Clarendon avenge their defeat or is history doomed to repeat itself? We'll find out soon enough.

### **CLARENDON HALL**

After a string of five wins dating back to last season, Clarendon Hall's good fortune finally ran out on Saturday. They fell just short of the South Florence Bruins by a score of 3-1.

Clarendon Hall's defeat dropped their record down to 1-1. As for South Florence, they are on a roll lately: they've won three of their last four games. That's provided a nice bump to their 5-2 record this season.

Both squads will have to hit the road in their upcoming games. Clarendon Hall will have a little extra prep time after the loss as they won't be playing again for a while. They'll take on Thomas Sumter Academy at 5:30 p.m. on April 7th. As for South Florence, they will head out to square off against Crestwood at 6:00 p.m. on Monday. South Florence's pitching crew has only allowed 2.7 runs per game this season, so Crestwood's hitters will have their work cut out for

**LAURENCE MANNING** 

Winning is always nice, but doing so behind a season-high score is even better (just ask Laurence Manning Academy). They blew past the Orangeburg Prep Indians 19-4 on Thursday. The win was familiar territory for the Swampcats, who have now won five contests in a row.

Kaylee Parmenter Avins made a big impact no matter where she played. She struck out seven batters over five innings while giving up just two earned (and two unearned) runs off five hits. Avins was also big at the plate, scoring a run while going 2-for-

In other batting news, Ashley Rae Hodge was a standout: she went 4-for-5 with one home run, four runs, and three RBI. That home run marked the first that she launched this season. Marlee Black was another key player, getting on base in four of her five plate appearances with three RBI, two runs, and one triple.

Laurence Manning Academy kept the outfield on their toes and finished the game with 16 hits. They easily outclassed their opponents in that department as Orangeburg Prep only managed

Laurence Manning Academy's victory was their fourth straight on the road dating back to last season, which pushed their record up to 8-1. Those victories came thanks in part to their pitching effort, having only surrendered 2.0 runs on average over those games. As for Orangeburg Prep, their defeat dropped their record down to 1-1.

Both teams are looking forward to the support of their home crowds in their upcoming games. Laurence Manning Academy will square off against Wilson Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Laurence Manning Academy knows how to get runs on the board -- the squad has finished with ten runs or more in their past four matches -- so hopefully Wilson Hall likes a good

challenge. Orangeburg Prep will have a little extra prep time after the loss as they won't be playing again for a while. They'll take on Colleton Prep Academy at 6:00 p.m. on March 25th.

Varsity lacrosse

#### **SWAMPCATS DOMINATE TRINITY COLLEGIATE**

March 11

Laurence Manning's lacrosse team delivered a commanding 17-2 victory over Trinity Collegiate on Tuesday night. The Swampcats surged to an 8-0 lead in the first quarter and extended it to 12-0 by halftime, maintaining control throughout the game. Jackson Timmons fueled the offense, winning 14 of 15 faceoffs, while Jordan Ives led the scoring effort with five goals and three assists. Coleman Elmore added four goals and one assist, and Hunter Stanfield, Timmons, and Logan Starnes each netted two goals. Defensively, Gavin Brown, Noah Tucker, and Cade Hodge stifled Trinity's offense, keeping them scoreless in the first half. Phoenix Tisdale recorded five saves in goal.

#### **LMA ROLLS PAST CAMDEN MILITARY ACADEMY**

March 13

The Swampcats improved to 5-1 on the season with a dominant 16-4 win over Camden Military Academy on Thursday. LMA controlled the pace early, jumping to a 5-0 lead and extending it to 9-2 at halftime. Jackson Timmons powered the attack by winning 17 of 20 faceoffs, while Camdyn Strickler led the scoring with four goals and one assist. Coleman Elmore added three goals, Brock Tamburello and Jordan Ives each had two, and JJ Ward found the net once. Defensively, Gavin Brown, Noah Tucker, Cade Hodge, Tristen White, and Brady Irick held CMA to just two goals per half. Phoenix Tisdale had 11 saves in goal.

SPORTS

### Scott's Branch senior signs with The Apprentice School for basketball



BASKETBALL. Siara Lundy (Center) signing on to attend The Apprentice School to play basketball and study welding. (Photo C/O Scott's Branch High School)

### **BY JOEY BUSBY & MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY**

mtscreporter@gmail.com

With a basketball in one hand and a welding torch in the other, Scott's Branch senior Siara Lundy is forging her own path. The standout point guard officially signed with The Apprentice School in Newport News, Virginia, blending her love for basketball with a career in skilled

"My deciding factor was mainly due to my love of welding

and basketball," Lundy said. On the court, Lundy is known for her aggressive drives to the basket, sharp decision-making, and leadership as a facilitator. But heading into the next level, she has her sights set on growth.

"I want to improve my threepoint game and be more of a leader," she said.

Balancing the demands of

college athletics and academics will be no easy feat, but Lundy welcomes the challenge.

"I feel like I'll be able to handle it, but I know it will be challenging," she admitted.

Her father, a lifelong influence, has fueled her competitive

fire from the beginning. "My dad motivated me growing up—watching him play and just going outside and playing

with him," Lundy said. Beyond the game, she believes

The Apprentice School will shape her future in ways that extend past the hardwood.

"I feel like it will teach me better time management and give me new responsibilities," she

As she steps into a male-dominated environment at a trade-focused institution, Lundy hopes to inspire other young women to take bold steps toward their futures.

"I would tell them not to be

afraid to go," she said. "Since The Apprentice School is a trade school, there will mostly be men there, but I would advise them to be themselves."

Lundy's signing is more than just a milestone—it's a testament to the power of passion and perseverance. With a fierce drive and a vision for her future, she's ready to carve out her own legacy, one basket and one weld at a time.

















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### Debate over Drug Court judge's salary sparks discussion on pay equity and program funding



### BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

mtscreporter@gmail.com

A recent social media post by House Representative Fawn Pedalino has ignited debate over the salary of Third Circuit Drug Court Judge Amy Land, highlighting stark disparities in Drug Court judge compensation across South Carolina. While supporters argue that Land's full-time role justifies her \$110,000 salary, critics contend that her pay is disproportionate compared to other Drug Court judges, many of whom receive stipends or serve on a volunteer

### THE SALARY DISCREPANCY

Judge Land presides exclusively over Drug Court cases across four counties, Clarendon, Lee, Sumter, and Williamsburg, handling administrative duties in addition to overseeing court proceedings. Her compensation is funded through a longstanding budget proviso that predates her tenure, originating from when the Third Circuit was selected for South Carolina's pilot Drug Court program in 2000.

Solicitor Ernest A. Finney III, whose office oversees the Third Circuit Drug Court, clarified that Land's salary is set by a longstanding budget proviso and not directly determined by his office.

"The Third Circuit covers four counties and has always only had one full-time judge to handle its cases," Finney wrote in response to The Manning Times' inquiry. "I would ask you to review Section 8-21-320 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to give you the background of how salary is determined and what sources fund it. This office does not set salary or schedule for the judge."

By contrast, Drug Court judges in most other circuits receive significantly lower compensation. Documents from the South Carolina Drug Court program show that many judges receive stipends ranging from \$7,800 to \$12,000 annually, while others volunteer their services without compensation. In some circuits, Drug Court judges are full-time magistrates or probate judges who preside over Drug Court as part of their broader judicial

responsibilities.

Pedalino, in a Feb. 7 Facebook post, questioned whether Land's salary was disproportionately high and suggested that influential connections may have played a role in securing her compensation.

"This disparity is not only unfair to taxpayers but also to those relying on vital drug court programs, as this excessive salary allocation diverts much-needed resources away from critical services," Pedalino wrote.

She later stated that she would push for Land's salary to be reduced to \$12,000 per year, in line with what many other Drug Court judges receive.

#### **JUDGE LAND'S DEFENSE: A UNIQUE, FULL-TIME ROLE**

Land, however, pushed back against claims that her salary is excessive. In an interview, she noted that she serves as the only full-time Drug Court judge in the state, handling not only courtroom duties but also the administrative responsibilities of the program.

The Third Circuit Drug Court is different from many others in that we operate in four counties, and I am responsible for overseeing the entire process, from case review to participant progress and compliance," Land said. "I am on call for participants and their families 24/7, and my role extends beyond the

Supporters argue that the demands of a full-time Drug Court require a different compensation structure. Jack Greenan, Administrative Manager of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit's Drug Court, noted that circuits with parttime Drug Court judges often face delays in handling violations and treatment adjustments.

"With a full-time judge, accomplishments or contraventions can be addressed immediately," Greenan said. "In our case, it can be two weeks before a participant is in front of a judge."

Greenan further explained that having a dedicated Drug Court judge can improve program effectiveness by providing consistency, accountability, and stronger relationships between the judge and participants.

"Drug Court isn't just about

enforcing rules; it's about building trust," Greenan said. "Participants respond differently when they see the same judge week after week, rather than cycling through different ones who may not be as familiar with their progress or struggles. Having a full-time judge allows for more immediate interventions, ensuring that setbacks are addressed quickly and that participants stay on track with their recovery."

#### **HOW OTHER CIRCUITS OPERATE**

Interviews with Drug Court officials across the state revealed a wide range of funding and operational structures.

In the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Drug Court operates with two part-time judges who also serve as magistrates. Judges receive stipends funded through the state, while program expenses such as drug testing, counselors, and coordinators are covered through a mix of state funds and participant fees.

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which spans five counties, has four part-time Drug Court judges, most of whom serve as probate or family court judges. According to Jeff Kidd, Administrative Chief of Staff, and Lee Reaves, Program Director, the circuit has never employed a full-time Drug Court judge.

"We rely on volunteer judges or those with other judicial duties," Kidd said. "There are benefits to having a dedicated judge, but we also believe judicial independence is important in a program like this."

Reaves expanded on this point, explaining that using multiple judges rather than one full-time Drug Court judge helps ensure neutrality and objectivity in decision-making.

'When a single judge runs Drug Court full-time, they become deeply involved in the program and its participants," Reaves said. "That can be an advantage in terms of consistency, but it also introduces challenges when it comes to maintaining strict judicial impartiality."

Kidd agreed, noting that having several judges involved allows for a system of checks and balances, preventing any single judge from becoming too embedded in the daily operations of the program.

#### **FUNDING CONCERNS AND CALLS FOR REFORM**

Pedalino has since expanded her critique beyond Land's salary, calling for statewide standardization of Drug Court programs to ensure fairness in funding and administration. In a March 6 post, she outlined a plan to:

-Standardize Drug Court operations across all circuits -Ensure funding is allocated primarily toward rehabilitation services

-Implement key performance metrics to track success

Kidd expressed concern about statewide standardization, noting that addiction trends, available resources, and judicial structures differ significantly even within his own circuit. He cautioned that a one-size-fits-all approach may not account for local needs and could ultimately reduce program effectiveness.

When we expanded beyond Beaufort County, we expected to see similar issues, but we didn't," Kidd explained. "In some counties, we were seeing a lot of opioid and fentanyl use, while in others, methamphetamine was more prevalent. That changes the way you run the program. You can't standardize everything because what works in one place might not work in another."

Meanwhile, state officials remain divided on whether uniform pay structures or operational models would be beneficial.

#### **BALANCING COST. EFFEC-TIVENESS, AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE**

The debate over Land's salary underscores broader discussions about the role of Drug Courts, the fairness of judicial compensation, and how best to allocate resources.

Drug Court programs are often seen as cost-effective alternatives to incarceration. The South Carolina Department of Corrections estimates that it costs taxpayers more than \$36,000 per year to house an inmate, while Drug Court programs are designed to rehabilitate individuals at a fraction of that cost.

Yet, questions remain about whether higher salaries for full-time judges result in better outcomes. While Land argues that constant availability and administrative oversight improve success rates, Pedalino and other critics believe that money would be better spent expanding services rather than increasing judicial compensation.

One major distinction between the Third Circuit and many other Drug Court programs is the cost burden placed on participants. Unlike the Third Circuit, where funding from the budget proviso eliminates many out-of-pocket expenses, several other circuits require participants to pay for treatment, drug testing, or entry fees. These costs can total thousands of dollars over the course of the program, creating financial barriers for those struggling with addiction.

"Our program does not charge participation fees," Land said. "Many Drug Courts require defendants to pay for entry, treatment, or drug testing. Because of our funding structure, we are able to minimize financial barriers for participants."

Supporters of Land argue that her full-time presence and the program's funding model help make rehabilitation more accessible, allowing more participants to complete Drug Court without the financial strain that exists in other circuits.

For now, Land's salary remains unchanged, but as discussions continue at the legislative level, the future of Drug Court funding in South Carolina may be reshaped in the coming months.

### **A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES**

The case of Judge Amy Land's salary has become a flashpoint in a larger debate: Should Drug Court judges across South Carolina receive standardized pay, or should circuit-specific needs determine funding?

With calls for reform growing louder, the issue is likely to remain a point of discussion. Whether Pedalino's push for salary adjustments leads to legislative changes remains uncertain, but the conversation about Drug Court funding and judicial compensation in South Carolina is far from over.

GOVERNMENT

### Manning City Council approves cemetery ordinance, sewer project contract

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning City Council held its regular meeting on March 11, voting unanimously to move forward with an ordinance restricting burials within city limits and awarding a contract for a critical sewer improvement

The council unanimously approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-01, amending Section 18-4 of the City of Manning Code of Ordinances to prohibit burials outside of designated cemeteries. The revision removes the City Council's authority to grant burial permissions and ensures that future interments occur only in established cemeteries. The second reading is set for April.

In other business, the council awarded a contract to CBG Construction for the city's 107-yearold Sewer Improvement Project. While the initial agenda listed the contract amount at \$5,947,007, City Administrator Scott Tanner later clarified that the final approved amount was \$6,366,486.

City officials also presented department reports, including

updates from the Manning Fire Department and Public Works Department.

Fire Chief Mitch McElveen highlighted recent department training, personnel promotions, and community engagement efforts such as Career Day at Manning High School. The department responded to 22 alarms in February, including one working structure fire, two vehicle accidents, and 15 emergency calls. The fire department also installed new equipment, including a bunker gear extractor washer and plumbing system upgrades.

The Public Works Department provided an overview of its activities for February, showing continued efforts in maintaining city infrastructure and services. The utility crew handled 129 service calls, 108 miscellaneous calls, 35 landfill hauls, and 28 routine maintenance tasks. Additionally, they responded to 80 water-related calls and 79 sewer

The street crew remained active, managing daily maintenance tasks, while the flatbed crew was responsible for handling 97.3 tons of debris hauled to the landfill. The department

also installed new connections and replaced meters as part of ongoing infrastructure improve-

City officials emphasized the importance of these maintenance efforts, particularly in preparation for the upcoming sewer improvement project.

The council entered an executive session to discuss a legal matter related to zoning under South Carolina State Code 30-4-70(a)(2). No action was taken following the closed session.

The next Manning City Council meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.

• ART

### Clarendon Hall announces two photo contest winners

BY KATHERINE HUTCHINSON mtscreporter@gmail.com

Clarendon Hall recently celebrated two students who displayed superior photography skills. The two students, 6th grader Brynlee Stoner and 4th grader Preseley Evans, submitted photos of the school's campus. The photos highlight the beauty of the campus and display aspects of student life.

Stoner explained the inspiration behind her photo, stating, ""I loved seeing the snow this January at my school! We never get this much snow so I decided to take a picture so I could remember this amazing day"

Evans said, ""I took this picture because I love cheering for the Saints, and this is one of my favorite spots at school!"

Congratulations to Brynlee Stoner and Preseley Evans for showing their talent in photography and winning the contest!







#### • MUSIC

# MHS Monarch Connection Jazz Band earns excellent rating at state assessment







BAND. The Manning High School Monarch marching band displays their talent and skills once again, earning an excellent rating. (Photos C/O Jordan Jefferson)

### SUBMITTED

The Manning High School Monarch Connection Jazz Band received an Excellent rating at the South Carolina Band Directors Association Jazz Performance Assessment held at Newberry College on March 1 and 2. Under the direction of Dr. Jordan Jefferson, the band performed Manteca by South Carolina native Dizzy Gillespie, Summertime from Porgy & Bess by George and Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward, and Fantasy by Earth, Wind & Fire.

Christel Hatfield was also recognized as the Best Soloist of

he event. "Thank vo

"Thank you, Monarchs, for always representing Clarendon County with excellence!" the band stated in a release.

# Manning Showcase

April 16, 2025
3 pm until 6 pm
Manning Fire Department
38 W Boyce Street

Stop by and meet all the departments that keep the City of Manning running smoothly! Learn about the vital work each department does, ask questions, and discover the resources available to you as a Manning resident.





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