

# The Manning Times

• BUSINESS

## Casino gambling debate begins - some local lawmakers support Santee resort



**PLANS.** A first glance at how the casino and resort will look if it's approved and constructed. . (Photo C/O The Times and Democrat)

**BY GENE ZALESKI**  
The Times and Democrat

Some Orangeburg County lawmakers are supporting a proposal to build a \$1 billion casino and resort in the Santee area.

"I think all our citizens are tired of the many years of all the talk and no action by outsiders to address the problems of the I-95 corridor," Orangeburg

County Legislative Delegation Chair and Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto said.

The Orangeburg Democrat said a casino could bring an "economic renaissance" to the entire region.

"This is our chance to control our own destiny," he said.

Greenville businessman and casino developer Wallace Cheves of Santee Development Corpo-

ration announced his plans to develop the resort and casino last month. He says it will entirely use private funds.

The company claims the casino will have a total impact of about a \$8 billion on the state's economy within the first 10 years, creating about 4,600 jobs and helping expand local tourism and business opportunities.

"It's not a stretch to say this

project can be as important to us as BMW has been to the Upstate," Hutto said. "Our people, schools and businesses will benefit dramatically as people traveling on I-95 will no longer pass us by but make us a destination place to visit and spend their money."

The developer claims the project would:

Bring in over \$58 million in

annual tax revenue.

Create 2,925 direct jobs, 813 indirect jobs and 880 induced jobs for a total of 4,618 annually.

Attract over four million annual visitors, including those from out of state.

**CASINO BILL**

Building a casino will require a change in the state's law. House Bill 4176, called the

See **CASINO**, Page 4

• CRIME

## Turbeville Correctional officer charged with bribery, misconduct



**ARREST.** Shontell Patrice Gamble being placed under arrest for bribery and misconduct. (Photo C/O South Carolina Department of Corrections)

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

A correctional officer at Turbeville Correctional Institution has been charged with an ethics violation and misconduct in office after allegedly accepting a bribe and communicating with an inmate using an illegal cellphone, according to the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC).

Shontell Patrice Gamble, 31, of Manning, was arrested following an investigation by the SCDC Inspector General's office. Authorities allege that Gamble accepted money from an inmate

in exchange for undisclosed favors while working at the prison. She was fired from her position.

The SCDC released the arrest warrants Friday and reminded the public that, following an arrest, the burden of proof lies with the state to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Gamble faces charges of accepting a bribe, an ethics violation under South Carolina law, and misconduct in office. Additional details regarding the financial transactions and communications between Gamble and the inmate were not immediately available.

No court date has been announced.

• SPOTLIGHT

## Clarendon County featured in national segment

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

Clarendon County is stepping into the national spotlight thanks to a recent segment on the Viewpoint Project with Dennis Quaid, which highlights the county's growing success in workforce development and community collaboration. The feature, part of the program's "Discover America: Great Places to Live and to Start and Grow Business" series, showcases the county's intentional partnerships between

education, industry, and local government.

The opportunity arose in early 2024 when Senior Producer Anthony Davis reached out to Clarendon County Deputy Administrator Sharmane Anderson with interest in featuring the community. After internal discussions and guidance from Economic Development Director George Kosinski, county leadership saw the segment as a way to promote how Clarendon County is preparing students for success in a modern workforce.

See **VIEWPOINT**, Page 4&5

• WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## Fawn Pedalino: Grounded in values, driven to serve



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

This article is the fourth and final in a series celebrating influential women in our community for Women's His-

tory Month. Each feature highlights the remarkable contributions of local women whose leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact.

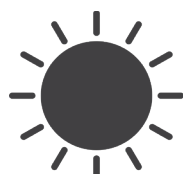
In the South Carolina House of Representatives, Rep. Fawn Pedalino is known

See **PEDALINO**, Page 5



**FORECAST**

70 high, 46 low



**SUBSCRIBE!** \$35 in county

LEARN ABOUT YOUR COUNTY! \$45 out-of-county



**Joyce  
WILDER**

Joyce Carolyn Califf Wilder, 78, wife of Gerald Camlin Wilder, died Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at her home. Born August 12, 1946, in Greenville, she was the daughter of the late Frank Taylor Califf and the late Bertie Mae Harvey Califf. She was a member of Greeleyville Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years of Manning; three children, Gerald C. "Jay" Wilder II (Heather) of Summerton, Justin M. "Matt" Wilder (Brooke) of Sumter and Carolyn Lacey Wilder of Manning; six grandchildren, Gerald "Camlin" Wilder III (Raven) of Vance, Richard "Benton" Wilder of Statesboro, GA, David Morris Wilder (Hannah) of Manning, Mathew "Boykin" Wilder, Justin Buford "Ford" Wilder and William Gibbons "Gibb" Wilder; a great granddaughter, Palmer Elaine Wilder; a great granddaughter due in July; a brother, Lowell Califf (Cheryl) of Pelzer; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025, in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Phillip Reynolds and Pastor Jay Wilder officiating. Burial will follow at Clarendon Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers will be grandsons and nephew, Kevin Brooks Califf.

Honorary pallbearers will be Ray Mouzon, Brian Smith, Bobby Hartzog, Tommy Rogers, Tommy Mishoe and Darrell Turner.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 504 Legrande Street, Manning.

Memorials may be made to Greeleyville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 276, Greeleyville, SC 29056, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org



**William  
BARRETT**

William Glenn Barrett, Sr., 79, husband of Joann Lee Barrett, died Monday, March 10, 2025, at his home.

Born January 22, 1946, in Manning, he was a son of the late James Danniell Barrett, Sr. and the late Lydia Alberta Stone Barrett. He was a retired truck driver.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years of Alcolu; five children, Lydia Ann Tilton (Timothy), Belinda Faye Frey (Roland), William Glenn Barrett II (Melinda), Lisa Marie Barrett, all of Alcolu, and Jennifer Michelle Barrett (Luis Juarez) of Manning; thirteen grandchildren; five great grandchildren; two brothers, James D. Barrett, Jr. and John E. Barrett, both of Manning; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Bertie Jean Strickland.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at the Manning Cemetery with the Rev. William Jeffers officiating.

The family will receive friends immediately following the graveside service.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

**Pearl HARRISON**

Pearl Elizabeth Cooper Harrison, 88, died Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Lake Marion Nursing Facility in Summerton, SC. She was born August 20, 1930 in New Zion, SC. A daughter of the late Sidney and Annie Bell Williams Cooper.



**Rosa Lee  
MILLER**

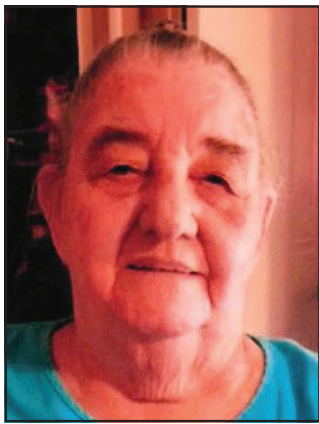
Rosa Lee Sweetman Miller, 82, died Monday, March 17, 2025, at her home.

Born March 1, 1943, in Manning, she was a daughter of the late Scott Winfield Ridgeway and the late Olive Treymaine Shady Ridgeway.

She is survived by a son, Jason Miller (Julia Neuweiler) of Virginia Beach, VA; a granddaughter, Kristana Miller of Virginia Beach, VA; a sister, Marion Hoffman of MD; and a brother, Scott Ridgeway of Goose Creek.

There are no services at this time.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org



**Julia  
AKERS**

Julia Mattie Hagerman Akers, 94, widow of Rev. Harold Akers, died Thursday, March 13, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

Born December 11, 1930, in Bradshaw, WV, she was a daughter of the late John Henry "JR" Hagerman and the late Hattie Mae Vance Hagerman. She was a member of Roderfield House of Prayer in West Virginia. She loved sewing, quilting, gardening and canning.

She is survived by 10 children, Rev. Johnnie Akers (Josie) of WV, William Akers of WV, Rev. Lana Lambert (Larry) of NC, Loretta Duncan (Valentia) of WV, Brenda Hagerman of VA, Carol Stimson (Brian) of WV, Elise Cowan (Tim) of Summerton, Doug Akers of IL, Verdie Shaffer of WV, and Jerry Akers (Julie) of Summerton; two adopted children, Diedra Steele (Denny) of WV and Raymond Akers (Tanya) of Turbeville; 42 grandchildren, 67 great grandchildren, 21 great-great grandchildren; and 4 siblings.

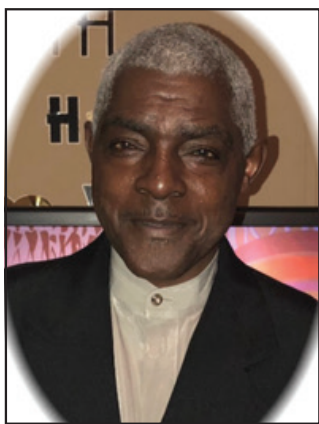
In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Ruby King and Diana Chaffens; two daughters-in-law, April Akers and Drema Akers; a granddaughter, Julia Jean King; and 11 siblings.

A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025, at St. Paul Cemetery with the Rev. Johnnie Akers and the Rev. Lana Lambert officiating.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 1 to 2 p.m. at Stephens Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org



**Russell  
BLACKWELL**

Russell Blackwell, 66, died March 18, 2025 at MUSC Columbia, SC. He was born in Manning, SC a son of Frank Lee Samuel and Rosa Lee Blackwell.

Public viewing will be held 2:00 PM til 6:00 PM, Thursday, March 27, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Friday, March 28, 2025 at Harmony Presbyterian Church, Alcolu, SC. Burial will follow in the Church Cemetery.



**Darius  
AIKEN**

Darius Zay'Quan Aiken, 19, adopted son of Matt and Alison Fry, died Friday, March 14, 2025.

Darius became a part of the Clarendon Hall family when he started school there as a 6th grader. He quickly captured the attention of faculty and staff with his contagious smile and charismatic personality. Darius was a vital member of the Saints football and basketball teams for over six years. If you didn't see Darius joking around or singing, you saw him on the football field or the basketball court. It is often said those who leave too soon could light up any room, but that does not do him justice. "D", as many affectionately called him, lit up rooms, fields, courts and friends and his absence will be felt for a lifetime to come.

Greater than anything, Darius would want to leave these words for his friends and family which he always depended on for comfort. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Darius leaves behind many close friends, family, teammates and community.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Clarendon Hall Gymnasium with the Rev. Rick Atkinson officiating.

The family will receive friends immediately following the memorial service.

Honorary pallbearers will be the Clarendon Hall Class of 2024 and Darius's Football and Basketball Teammates from Clarendon Hall.

Memorials may be made to Clarendon Hall School, PO Box 609, Summerton, SC 29148.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org



**Channie  
COKER**

Channie Gibson Coker, 89 died Monday, March 17, 2025. At Prisma Health Tuomey, Sumter, SC. She was born November 5, 1935. A daughter of the late James and Catherine Kennedy Gibson.

Public viewing 2:00PM til 6:00PM Friday, March 21, 2025, at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St., Manning, SC.

Celebration of life will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Greater St. Phillips RMUE Church, 4574 Old River Rd., Pinewood, SC. Burial will follow in the church yard cemetery.

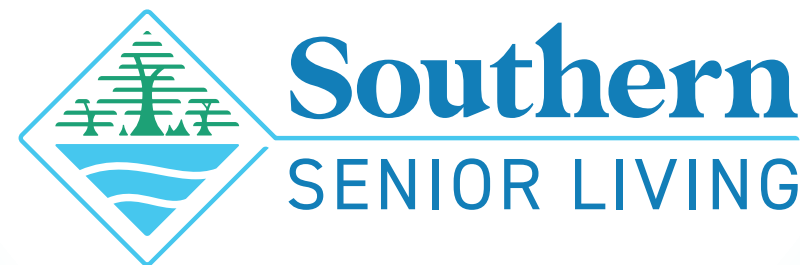
The family is receiving friend at her residence, 233 Keels Rd., Sumter, SC. Beginning Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 2PM til 4PM Daily.

**Gracie CONYERS**

Gracie James Conyers, 82, widow of the late Lavern Conyers died, Saturday March 22, 2025 at McLeod Regional Medical Center of The Pee Dee, Florence, SC. She was born October 18, 1942 in the Silver community of Manning, SC. The daughter of the late Ransom and Josephine James.

**Physical Therapy**

Physical therapy is designed to help our residents recover from injuries or illnesses, reduce pain and improve mobility. Our skilled therapists will work closely with each resident to create a personalized plan addressing their needs and goals. Our goal is to help our residents regain their physical function and enhance their overall well-being.



Southern Senior Living is the parent company of 3 Health and Rehab Centers located in Clarendon and Berkeley counties in South Carolina. All 3 centers provide Skilled Nursing and Rehab (Short-Term and Long-Term)

Lake Moultrie Health and Rehab  
1038 McGill Ln., St. Stephen, SC 29479  
Phone: 843-567-2307  
Fax: 843-567-2305

Lake Marion Health and Rehab  
1527 Urbana Rd., Summerton, SC 29148  
Phone: 803-485-2317  
Fax: 803-485-2708

Pocotaligo River Health and Rehab  
3147 Sumter Hwy., Manning, SC 29102  
Phone: 803-478-2343  
Fax: 803-478-2357

• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

# Totality at night

Hey, did you see the eclipse last week? The wolf moon, the shadow of the earth, and the moon turning red was the highlight of last week. Maybe you missed it. It was at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. Last is the trouble with lunar eclipses. They happen at night. A total eclipse of the sun is a much bigger deal and it happens during the daytime.

Bobby JONTE

I'm not a big moon tracker or astronomer by any means. I don't keep up with the cycles of the moon. It is pretty to look at a nice full moon on a clear night though. When there is an event like this, I try to at least make an effort to see these spectacular events.

I went to bed early and got up about two o'clock. My wife stayed up all the way to the event. I dressed and my wife was downstairs telling me that the eclipse had begun. The moon was high in the sky and you could see the shadow beginning to hide the moon. You could tell that there was a tint of red and all that stuff.



If I fall could I get back up or just lie there until morning?

I went into the yard to gaze at this marvel. Sleepy, I was sleepy. It is two o'clock. With the moon high in the sky, it was necessary to look straight. I felt like I was off balance and could just fall over. My head was tilted back, I'm standing in the dark and it is two o'clock and if I close my eyes I'm likely to fall asleep and fall to the ground. If I fall could I get back up or would I just lie there until morning? I managed not to fall but my mind wanted me to lie down and get a better look at this strange event.

Wonder what people were thinking when something like this occurred thousands of years ago. Imagine what a show this would be. There would be no electric lights polluting the sky. There would be more stars, planets and the glorious moon gradually disappearing. Would this strange thing that gave off light during the night be going away? What was the matter? Some nights this thing was just a sliver and other nights it was bigger and some nights it was big and bright. Imagine the puzzlement of trying to figure out what this thing was.

We do have the advantage of modern science and all the things we know about the cycles of the moon and the movement of the planets, stars and the solar systems. That is good for us up to a point.

When you stand alone gazing at the sky in the quiet while trying to visualize the enormity of space, this can be rather intimidating. What is really going on? How does all this work and the sad part is I'm just a little tiny person standing here watching the earth's shadow block out the light reflected from the moon. If this freaks me out, what might early humans think of this? It does blow your mind. I did manage to stay standing and watched about thirty minutes of the changing of the moon's appearance. Thought about how small I am compared to the enormity of the universe and all those things.

It was a good experience though. Standing in the cool night air and not hearing cars or a bunch of noise was rather refreshing. Quiet and seeing this great event does have a calming effect on you. I was contemplating all of this and enjoying the moment when suddenly a dog barked.



• LIFE IN THE PALMETTO STATE

# Showers of blessings

Showers of blessings were on full display at New Harmony Presbyterian Church of Alcolu on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

Not only from Mother Nature and her downpours, but from the benevolence of supporters that gave toward our vision of spreading the Gospel in the form of a new fellowship hall.

While it was our intent to have a joyous groundbreaking, the clouds had other ideas.

However, even the torrents of rain couldn't dampen our spirits for we just moved the festivities inside and celebrated this momentous occasion in our lovely Sanctuary.

A little history for perspective. New Harmony Presbyterian church was established in 1879 in the Alcolu area by a group of worshippers that loved our Good Lord. They had an overwhelming desire to gather closer to where our families lived. Now, You must realize that their only form of transportation then was primarily by mule and wagon, horse and buggy.

Legend has it that this particular group of congregants left a church to the North of our present day location and traveled across the Tearcoat and Brewington swamps south to worship. However, after several incidents where the crossings were interrupted because of high water, they decided it was time to build something closer to home and not affected by the natural environs and its swollen egress;

From that New Harmony was born. In our 146 years of existence, we have had several editions.

The original land was donated by John Calhoun DuRant in 1879.

They built a large wooden sanctuary out of heart pine that I assume came from local sawed timber. Our area is rich with long leaf pine; a favorite wood product to build with.

A longleaf pine tree stump located within the exact footprint on the very site that our original sanctuary was built was so large that it couldn't be removed. Therefore, it became one of the predominant pillars in which the church's foundation was placed. It was actually an old "fat stump"; (fat light wood for the non country folks). It is still a part of the sanctuary's undergirding to this day.

Our current fellowship hall, which has witnessed many delicious meals, Sunday School classes, wedding receptions, and even a few visits from Santa Claus was built in the early 60's.

In the late 90's New Harmony began to experience accelerated growth in our numbers and therefore plans for a new Sanctuary was initiated.

As plans progressed to expand to accommodate this growth, our dream for a new sanctuary became a reality in 2001.

Harry DuRant donated the land where this beautiful beacon of Grace sits today.

God has so richly blessed us; especially as of late. We felt it was time for another addition. By the leader-

ship of Thomas DuRant (Chair) and many other committed members on the building committee, it was determined that a new fellowship hall would best suit our needs heading into the future. So after a few years of deliberation and design, we celebrated our vision in that new fellowship hall.

Our Pastor David Hart Sanders comments "Unless the Lord builds the house, it's builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1.

"It is God who has provided for us so that we can build this addition to our campus. All praise and glory belongs to him."

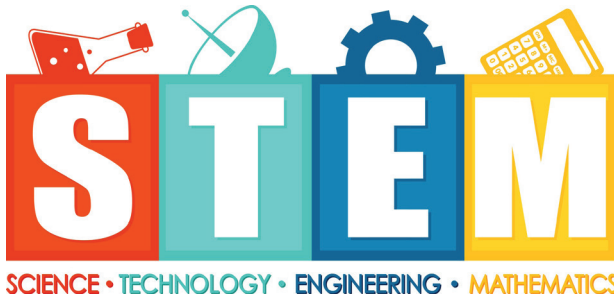
He goes on to say, "It is our prayer that this facility will be a place where true Christian fellowship takes place and where we can share time together in Christ. May we be faithful to his saving call."

New Harmony's mission statement "is to glorify God by winning the lost to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to build up and equip believers to live holy lives in worship and service to our Lord." We feel that by building this new addition and its potential gatherings will do just that and bring the mission statement to life.

Last word; If you are searching for a new church home, or you feel lost, or just want to gather with like minded believers, we here at New Harmony Presbyterian Church believe that you can find that here and you will certainly be a blessing to us. May God bless you.

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**MARCH 27**  
ROSE WILDER ELEM. & SUMMERTON ROTARY MATH STEM NIGHT AT SBHS GYM



**MARCH 28-30**  
2025 PALMETTO SPORTSMEN'S CLASSIC OUTDOOR SHOW, STATE FAIRGROUNDS, COLUMBIA: PALMETTO STATE'S WILDEST WEEKEND!

**MARCH 29**  
A SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SHELTER 1ST ANNUAL SHERRI ARMENT MEMORIAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC AT PLAYER'S COURSE



**MARCH 31**  
THE SWAMP FOX REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB WILL MEET ON MARCH 31ST, 2025, 6:30 PM AT CCGOP HEADQUARTERS LOCATED AT 1 N. BROOKS STREET, MANNING, SC. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:00 PM, MEETING IS FROM 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE LT. GOVERNOR PAMELA EVETTE. IF YOU HAVE NEVER MET HER, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. SHE IS A PROBABLE CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR IN 2026.

**APRIL 1**  
HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY



**Special Occasion?**  
Make it even more special with an announcement in **The Manning Times!**

**graduations | births | engagements | weddings | & more!**

# The Manning Times

Serving Clarendon County's Residents Since 1882

Post Office Box 190 Manning, South Carolina 29102  
(803) 435-8422 • FAX (803) 435-4189  
manningsctimes@gmail.com

Hours of Operation  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Deadlines  
Classified, Classified Display and Legal Advertising:  
Noon on Fridays

Display Advertising, Stories and Public Service Announcements:  
5 p.m. on Fridays

The Manning Times is published by Times Publishing Company Inc., weekly at 230 E. Boyce St., Manning, SC 29102.  
PUBLISHER: Leigh Ann Maynard  
OFFICE MANAGER: Alex Feagin  
MARKETING EXECUTIVE: Leighann McManus  
GRAPHIC DESIGN & EDITING: Katherine Hutchinson  
MANAGING EDITOR: Melissa Foust-McCoy

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.

FAX: (803) 435-4189  
E-mail: mtsceditor@gmail.com  
U.S. mail: Letters to the Editor » The Manning Times P.O. Box 190, Manning, SC 29102

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.

**CASINO**

FROM PAGE 1

“I-95 Economic and Education Stimulus Act,” was introduced on the House floor March 6. It’s cosponsored by Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, and Rep. Gilda Cobb Hunter, D-Orangeburg.

It’s in the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill would establish the South Carolina Gaming Commission that could award casino licenses in counties that contain a section of I-95 within their borders, including Orangeburg County.

The commission would oversee casino gambling in the state.

Bamberg said he has “long been in favor of eliminating government overreach in the gaming arena.”

“We should allow the citizens of each individual county to make their own decisions regarding whether they would like to allow gaming where they live,” Bamberg said. “It’s not that there is a problem with gaming or gambling, it’s that too many elected officials want the State of South Carolina to continue to enjoy its complete monopoly over gaming via the S.C. Education ‘Lottery.’”

“Gaming or gambling, as with anything, follows the mantra that too much of anything can

be bad for you,” he said. “However, it’s not the government’s place to restrict the liberties and freedoms of people just because some folks don’t like something. That’s the very definition of big government.”

Cobb-Hunter said, “I like the idea of this venture being 100 percent private funding and zero state or local dollars being invested. The potential economic impact would be tremendous for the area.”

Cobb-Hunter hopes the project will be seen favorably by the General Assembly and the governor.

“We already have state-sanctioned gambling in the form of the state lottery and that this venture is 100 percent private funding with no tax dollars involved,” Cobb-Hunter said.

Sen. Jeffrey Zell, R-Sumter, said he wants to know more about the proposal before making a decision on it.

“I’m not willing to make any commitments to support this unless the people of the 36th Senate District show strong support for it,” Zell said. “Once we take on something of this magnitude, it is irreversible. I’ll be doing a lot of outreach to see where folks are at on this.”

Zell said he does recognize the potential economic benefits the project could bring to an impoverished area but said, “it must be done properly, with appropriate safeguards, addiction mitigation strategies, and community and educational

reinvestment initiatives.”

Sen. Russell Ott, D-St. Matthews, said the proposed casino and resort is “a once in a lifetime opportunity” for the local community and the state.

“Tourism is a huge part of our economy and we need to capitalize on that in ways that will allow us to lower taxes on residents while still being able to pay for things like new roads and better schools,” Ott said. “I’m excited about the potential it has to create jobs and economic growth in an area that has largely been paid lip service with no real follow through.”

“People who live in rural areas are often overlooked,” Ott continued. “This is the kind of investment that has the potential to change that for everyone. I intend to do everything I can to make this a reality.”

**COUNTY COUNCILS REACT**

Orangeburg County Council Vice Chair Johnny Ravenell, who represents the Santee area, says has a guarded support of the proposal.

“I am not against it,” he said.

There will need to be appropriate restrictions in place, he said. “I would hate to see people get addicted to the gambling process if it will be legalized.”

Ravenell said infrastructure will need to be improved to handle such a venue.

“There will need to be more police protection, more fire protection, more EMS service that would need to be funded,”

Ravenell said. “I am hoping they will consider all that in the process.”

Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. said he believes the casino and resort could be of an economic benefit to the county and state if it is crafted right and will not cost residents.

Wright said there is already water and sewer in the area that could handle such a project. The biggest improvement needed will be the road infrastructure to handle the increase in traffic, he said.

Wright said the close proximity to Interstate 95 would help to ease traffic concerns as many will be able to quickly get on the interstate.

“It is right there in the middle of 95,” Wright said. “I think 80 percent of the money will come from outside of the county.”

As far as the morality of gambling, Wright said there will be “mixed feelings in the faith-based community.”

“I feel like people will do what they want to do,” he said. “A number of people play numbers now and they drive other places to gamble. It will continue whether it is here or not.”

Calhoun County Council Chairman James Haigler thinks the resort and casino would be a good thing for the county and the area.

“I don’t have any problems with it,” he said. “I think Santee is a growing area that brings in a lot of tourism.”

Haigler said growth is inevitable.

“We just can’t freeze up and think it is not going to come,” he said. “They are growing down there.”

A lot of people take their money out of state to go to casinos and it would be nice to keep the money closer to home, Haigler said.

**SC BAPTIST CONVENTION**

Dr. Tony Beam, policy director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said South Carolina Baptists will oppose the bill.

While “the promise of wealth” is attached to the bill, there is also harm, he said. “Casinos and gambling bring addiction to individuals. It brings pain and hurt to people’s lives.”

Beam said gambling “undermines the idea of working hard” and using talents and skills that provide meaning to life.

Beam said, as a pastor, he has spoken to people who have struggled with gambling and has watched it “ruin families and the people they love.”

“We want to see people prosper, we want economic opportunity for everyone and we want to see poor people are properly taken care of,” he said. “I don’t see virtue rising out of vice.”

The Orangeburg-Calhoun Baptist Association declined making an immediate statement, noting the proposal has not been adequately reviewed by the group at this point.

**VIEWPOINT**

FROM PAGE 1

“Our intention was to highlight the partnerships between our education system and our local industry, with a closer look at how those partnerships interact with community,” said Anderson. “It turned out to be a phenomenal opportunity to expose the great things we are doing to prepare our students for the workforce, and seeing the workforce in action.”

The segment features the F.E. DuBose Career Center, Bicycle Corporation of America, and the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce—organizations that have worked closely to align student training with local job opportunities.

“We want viewers to understand that not only do we have the infrastructure, but we have the community where people would like to live well, work, and grow smart,” Anderson said.

The project was funded jointly by the county, the Chamber of Commerce, and Clarendon County Economic Development.

For Anderson and her team, the investment is part of a larger vision for sustainable economic growth.

“Imagine all students who choose to work are hired by a Clarendon County industry upon graduation and have certifications as they enter the workforce,” she said. “Imagine all unemployed citizens are trained to work in an industry in Clarendon County and our unemployment rate goes below 2%. These are the goals and what we hope to achieve as reality.”

At the heart of the feature is the F.E. DuBose Career Center

(FEDCC), where students are earning industry-recognized certifications and exploring pathways in high-demand fields. Interim Director Dr. Keisa Carr said the recognition validated the daily work happening within the walls of the center and across the district.

“I was incredibly honored and proud,” said Carr. “It’s not every day that a national platform takes the time to recognize the great work happening in smaller communities like ours. It validated the dedication of our staff, the engagement of our students, and the strength of our partnerships.”

Carr explained that the footage captured for the segment was authentic—showing real instruction and candid moments in the learning environment. “That’s the beauty of it, it’s genuine,” she said.

The partnership with Bicycle Corporation of America (BCA) has played a critical role in connecting students to real-world experiences. The company has supported the district by offering tours, work-based learning opportunities, and giveaways—all of which deepen the connection between local industry and education.

See **VIEWPOINT**, Page 5

*New in Town!*

**Manning**

**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.

**QT**

Welcome to QuikTrip #7138, 2840 Paxville Hwy. At QuikTrip, our signature customer service starts with our employees. QuikTrippers are dedicated to providing top notch customer service with a smile, and always being the best they can be. QuikTrip is a convenience store and gas retailer, featuring QT Kitchens® inside each store. Whatever you need, there is sure to be a QuikTrip just around the corner, open 24 hours.

**CLARENDON COUNTY**  
Economic Development

**VIEWPOINT**

FROM PAGE 4

“Their support reflects a shared investment in our students’ futures,” Carr said. “They

consistently show up for our young people.”

Enrollment at the career center has been on the rise, with more students now earning industry-recognized certifications that translate directly to job readiness. Carr said the growth is a clear reflection of the value the programs offer and the

strong leadership at F.E. DuBose, throughout the Clarendon County School District, and within county administration.

“This recognition affirms that we’re headed in the right direction,” Carr added. “We’re not only preparing students for jobs—we’re preparing them for careers, for life, and for mean-

ingful contributions to our local economy.”

Positive feedback has begun to roll in from residents and parents, and Anderson said the county is working with the Viewpoint team to analyze viewership data. The segment is expected to enhance Clarendon County’s image as a place where

innovation and collaboration thrive.

“When we work together,” Carr said, “we can truly transform student outcomes and strengthen Clarendon County as a whole.”

**PEDALINO**

FROM PAGE 1

as a focused and determined leader, but her story begins in the small town of Knightsville, just outside Summerville. Raised in a close-knit, hardworking household, Pedalino learned early the importance of commitment, community, and perseverance. Those values, instilled by her parents, continue to guide her path in public service.

“I was taught that success is earned through commitment, perseverance, and a willingness to contribute to something greater than oneself,” she said. That foundation would eventually lead her from emergency medical work to entrepreneurship and ultimately, to the State House.

Before launching her political career, Pedalino served as an emergency medical technician, responding to 911 calls and transporting critical patients to

trauma centers. The role, she says, gave her not only a servant’s heart but also the ability to stay calm under pressure and make decisions that put people first. Those qualities now shape her approach to policy making.

Her experiences as a small business owner also influence her priorities. Pedalino and her husband, Joe, run Southeastern Technology, an IT business based in Manning. “I’ve seen firsthand the dedication and risk it takes to operate a business,” she said. “Small businesses are the backbone of our communities.”

The decision to run for office was born out of frustration. Pedalino said she became increasingly concerned with how decisions were being made for her community. Rather than complain, she chose to act. “I realized that if I wanted to see real change, I needed to be willing to step up and be part of it.”

Elected in 2022, Pedalino unseated the incumbent and hit the ground running. She describes her first year as “like drinking from a firehose,” but says the

learning curve only strengthened her resolve. She quickly learned that while legislative work is important, the most rewarding moments often come in the quiet victories, such as helping families gain access to clean water or connecting constituents with vital healthcare services.

As a member of the Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee and the Rules Committee, Pedalino is focused on some of South Carolina’s most pressing challenges: workforce development, infrastructure, and responsible economic growth. “We have to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently while preparing our state to meet the demands of rapid growth,” she explained.

A member of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe, her Native American heritage adds another layer to her leadership. Pedalino says her background reminds her daily that the American Dream is still possible. “I’m living proof that with hard work, faith, and determination, anyone—regardless of background—can rise

above their circumstances and make a meaningful impact.”

As one of a growing number of women in the South Carolina General Assembly, Pedalino acknowledges the challenges women still face in leadership but is optimistic about progress. She credits the current Speaker of the House for empowering female legislators and appointing women to chair key committees, a move she sees as essential to broadening representation and strengthening policy decisions.

Still, Pedalino’s greatest motivation isn’t political, it’s personal. Her daughters, Selah and Rumer, are the reason she strives to lead by example. “Everything I do, I do with them in mind,” she said. “I want to show them that they, too, can be the change they want to see in the world.”

Balancing family and politics is no small feat, but Pedalino is intentional about making it work. She makes the hour-and-twenty-minute drive home from Columbia each evening during the legislative session to ensure she remains present for

her family. With the support of her husband, who helps manage both business and home life during session, she’s able to stay grounded in the role that matters most: mom.

Looking ahead, Pedalino is clear about her purpose. “I didn’t run for office to build a political career—I ran to make a difference,” she said. Whether it’s helping a neighbor, strengthening the economy, or protecting community values, she’s committed to keeping the needs of District 64 front and center.

During Women’s History Month, her story stands as a reminder that leadership isn’t about titles or popularity. It’s about showing up, doing the work, and never forgetting why you started. “I hope to be remembered as someone who put people first, stood up for what was right, and worked hard to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those I was elected to serve.”

All of the Women’s History Month Stories Have Been Sponsored By



HopeHealth now has **three pharmacy locations** to serve **Clarendon & Williamsburg Counties!** With features like the Rx Local App “Rx Ready” text messaging, mobile refill requests, medication listing, medication assistance for qualifying patients, and more, HopeHealth Pharmacy is here to serve you!

**HopeHealth Pharmacy Manning**

Monday - Friday, 8am - 6pm  
12 W. South Street, Manning, SC  
(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

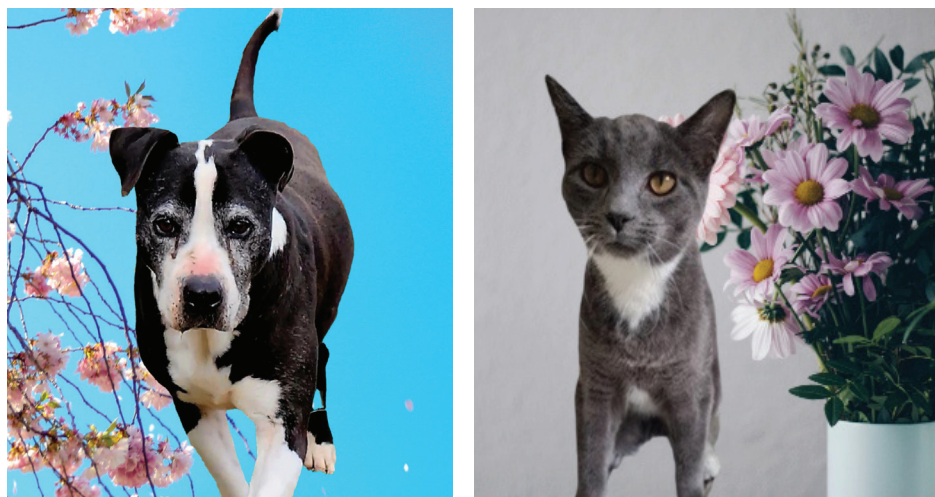


[hope-health.org/pharmacy](https://hope-health.org/pharmacy)





## A Second Chance ANIMAL SHELTER



«**JUNO** Hello, I'm Juno. I've seen many sunrises and sunsets over my 9 years ( three of which has been spent at the shelter), and I've become quite the mellow fellow. I'm a friendly bully mix, always happy to meet new people. I'm not one for running around like a puppy anymore, but I still have a spring in my step. I've got heartworm, but it doesn't slow me down too much. I'd love to spend my retirement years in a calm, loving home. If you're looking for a sweet, smart companion to share your peaceful days with, look no further.

«**ACE** Hi, I'm Ace, a 7-month-old male, grey w/white DSH. I'm a bit shy, but once I get to know you, I'm the cuddliest kitten you'll ever meet. I love to play, and my sweetness is sure to melt your heart. I'm friendly, too, so I get along well with other cats. My favorite activities are chasing after toys and curling up in a warm lap. I'm looking for a forever home where I can share my love and playfulness. Adopting me would mean endless cuddles, entertainment galore, and a sweet companion to brighten your days.

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](http://www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com). Adoption fees: Dogs: \$125 Cats: \$100

Can't Adopt But Want to Help?  
The shelter is always accepting donations of puppy, dog, kitten, and cat food as well as cat litter, beds, blankets, sheets, and towels.

(803) 473-7075  
5079 Alex Harvin Hwy. Manning, SC



**FTC Wireless**  
ftcwireless.com | 888.218.5050

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30, 2025

Receive a  
**\$200**  
bill credit\*

when you buy select iPhones and Samsung phones.

145 Local Towers

At FTC,  
We get you |  
Because we are you

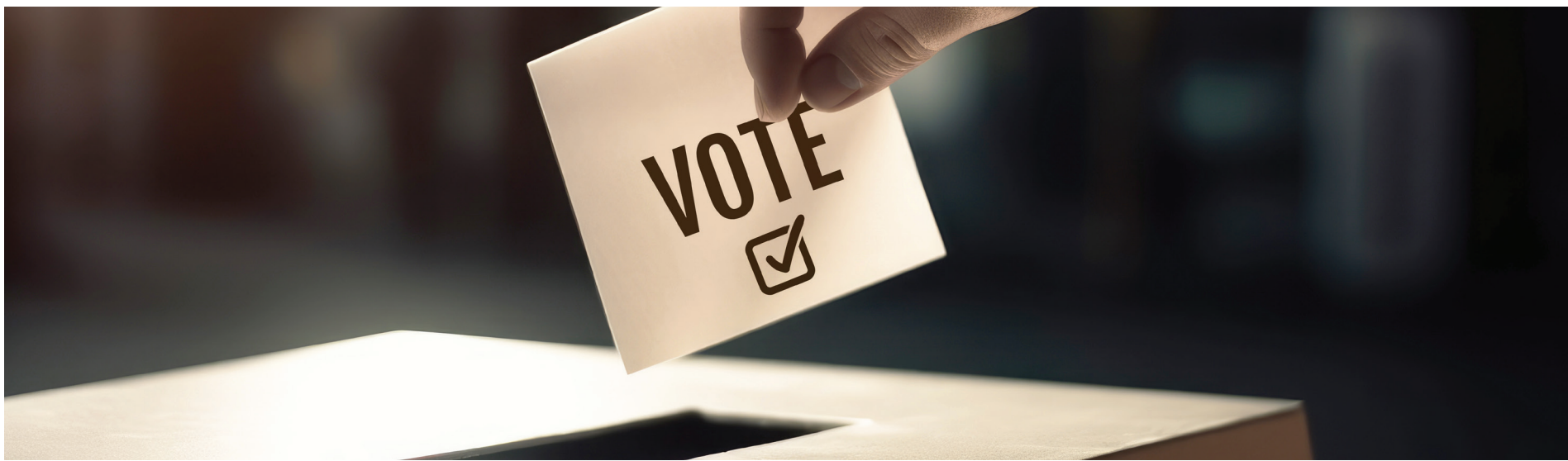
Better Deals

Unlimited Data

\*Buy an iPhone 15 Pro/Pro Max, iPhone 16 Pro/Pro Max, Samsung S24+ or S24 Ultra, or Samsung S25+ or S25 Ultra on the FTC Freedom Plan, 2-year contract or eligible upgrade and receive a \$200 bill credit. New line activation or eligible upgrade is required. Account must remain in good standing. First bill must be paid in full to receive a \$200 credit on the following bill. Early termination fees apply. Other restrictions may apply. While supplies last.

### • GOVERNMENT

# Last-minute appointments shake up Clarendon Elections Board



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY  
mfcscreporter@gmail.com

The March 24 meeting of the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections (CCVRE) Board saw the swearing-in of three new members appointed by Governor Henry McMaster earlier that day, triggering an unexpected shift in leadership and a flurry of procedural questions — including concerns over whether the agenda changes were made in compliance with South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Brian Magaw, Michael Streath, and Andrea Killman were officially appointed to the board with the recommendation of the Clarendon County Legislative Delegation, according to a press release issued just before the 5:30 p.m. meeting. The three were sworn in by The Honorable Percy Harvin shortly before the meeting began.

According to Director Christine Harvin, she received confirmation of the appointments around 4:00 p.m. Rep. Fawn Pedalino also said she had just been notified by the Governor's Office that afternoon. Pedalino

confirmed that outgoing board members had not been notified by the state and that the new appointees requested to be sworn in that day so they could attend the meeting. Pedalino said the new members initiated the process to do so.

The short notice came as a surprise to existing board members, including then-Chairman Russell Miller, who was among those replaced along with Gregory Holliday. Neither Miller nor Holliday attended the meeting. Vice Chair Maggie Robertson called the meeting to order and led proceedings in Miller's absence. Board member Rebecca Battle-Bryant was absent.

The new appointees were seated immediately, prompting a motion to amend the agenda to include the election of a new chair. However, the motion was ultimately tabled after concerns were raised by the new members about voting on leadership before becoming more familiar with board operations.

"I make a motion to table the election of chairman," Killman said during discussion. The motion was seconded by Magaw and passed by voice vote. This went against guidance from the

South Carolina State Election Commission (SCSEC), which had advised the election of a new chair should be the first order of business following new appointments.

The legality of the last-minute agenda changes — including both the swearing-in ceremony and the attempted addition of a chair election — has since been questioned. Under Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, agendas for regular public meetings must be posted at least 24 hours in advance. Once posted, no items may be added without providing an additional 24-hour public notice. An item may only be added after the meeting begins with a two-thirds vote and a finding of an emergency or exigent circumstance. Neither the swearing-in nor the chair election appeared on the agenda posted in accordance with that timeline, and no such vote was held to justify the additions.

Patricia Pringle, Chair of the Clarendon County Democratic Party, voiced concerns about the amended agenda after the meeting. She also felt the lack of notice to outgoing members was "disrespectful," particularly

as they had continued to serve in holdover status beyond their terms.

Director Harvin gave her final report before her departure on March 31. She noted that polling locations were being surveyed for ADA compliance, as required by the SEC, and introduced Tiffany Smith as the new Area Representative for Clarendon County. Harvin also reminded board members of the March 30 deadline to submit their Statement of Economic Interest to the South Carolina Ethics Commission to avoid penalties.

She reported that 21 local students recently visited the office to participate in a mock election and emphasized the importance of ongoing voter education efforts.

The board entered executive session to review two applications for the Executive Director role. Upon return, members voted to extend the application period by five more weeks and stated their intention to repost the position on the county website, the SEC site, Facebook, and in print.

Harvin urged the board to appoint an interim director as soon as possible, citing the im-

portance of having a direct point of contact with the SEC.

"We need someone the commission can send updates to immediately. Missing information could mean missed deadlines," Harvin said.

Although the board acknowledged the need for an interim appointment, they stated the individual under consideration was not present and no action was taken.

Public comment during the meeting also touched on the ongoing legislative session, including House Bill 3459, which would require third-party voter registration groups to register with the state or face penalties. Several board members and community attendees voiced concern that the measure could suppress voter outreach.

The meeting concluded with Robertson apologizing for the last-minute changes and confusion.

"This is all new to me. I wasn't informed until shortly before the meeting that Mr. Miller was no longer chair," Robertson said. "It's trial and error right now. Just bear with us."

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April.

# CLASSIFIEDS ● 1 week - \$15 » 2 weeks - \$20 » 3 weeks - \$30 4 weeks - \$40 » Web - \$10 extra

**NEW**  
I BUY OLD CONCERT POSTERS, MOVIE POSTERS, LOBBY CARDS, PRE-1970 COMIC BOOKS, 1930'S BLUES 78'S, (213) 944-9601 OR STREETSOF2024@GMAIL.COM

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. YOUR DONATION HELPS FUND THE SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. ACCEPTING TRUCKS, MOTORCYCLES & RV'S, TOO! FAST FREE PICKUP - RUNNING OR NOT - 24 HOUR RESPONSE - MAXIMUM TAX DONATION - CALL (888) 515-3810

REPLACE YOUR ROOF WITH THE BEST LOOKING AND LONGEST LASTING MATERIAL - STEEL FROM ERIE METAL ROOFS! THREE STYLES AND MULTIPLE COLORS AVAILABLE. GUARANTEED TO LAST A LIFETIME! LIMITED TIME OFFER UP TO 50% OFF INSTALLATION + ADDITIONAL 10% OFF INSTALL (FOR MILITARY, HEALTH WORKERS & 1ST RESPONDERS.) CALL ERIE METAL ROOFS: 1-855-900-1261

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR MAY BE COVERED BY MEDICARE! RECLAIM INDEPENDENCE AND MOBILITY WITH THE COMPACT DESIGN AND LONG-LASTING BATTERY OF INOGEN ONE. FREE INFORMATION KIT! CALL 833-230-8692

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! NO REPAIRS. NO FUSS. ANY CONDITION. EASY THREE STEP PROCESS: CALL, GET CASH OFFER AND GET PAID. GET YOUR FAIR CASH OFFER TODAY BY CALLING LIZ BUYS HOUSES: 1-855-704-3381  
DENTAL INSURANCE FROM PHYSICIANS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY. COVERAGE FOR 400 PLUS PROCEDURES. REAL DENTAL INSURANCE - NOT JUST A DISCOUNT PLAN. DO NOT WAIT! CALL NOW! GET YOUR FREE DENTAL INFORMATION KIT WITH ALL THE DETAILS! 1-855-397-7030 WWW.DENTAL50PLUS.COM/60 #6258

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICA'S #1 WALK-IN TUB. COMPREHENSIVE LIFETIME WARRANTY. TOP-OF-THE-LINE INSTALLATION AND SERVICE. NOW FEATURING OUR FREE SHOWER PACKAGE AND \$1600 OFF FOR A LIMITED TIME! CALL TODAY! FINANCING AVAILABLE. CALL SAFE STEP 1-877-852-0368

**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.

**HELP WANTED - DRIVERS**  
ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS 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.

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**  
PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES WITH BRIGGS & STRATTON POWERPROTECT(TM) STANDBY GENERATORS - THE MOST POWERFUL HOME STANDBY GENERATORS AVAILABLE.

INDUSTRY-LEADING COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY OF 7 YEARS (\$849 VALUE.) PROUDLY MADE IN THE U.S.A. CALL BRIGGS & STRATTON 1-855-212-3281.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY WITH A GENERAC HOME STANDBY GENERATOR. ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A FREE 5-YEAR WARRANTY WITH QUALIFYING PURCHASE. CALL 1-844-775-0366 TODAY TO SCHEDULE A FREE QUOTE. IT'S NOT JUST A GENERATOR. IT'S A POWER MOVE.

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LEAFFILTER, THE MOST ADVANCED DEBRIS-BLOCKING GUTTER PROTECTION. SCHEDULE A FREE LEAFFILTER ESTIMATE TODAY. 20% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE. PLUS 10% SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS. CALL 1-855-875-2449.

**TELEVISION & INTERNET SERVICES**  
DIRECTV OVER INTERNET - GET YOUR FAVORITE LIVE TV, SPORTS AND LOCAL CHANNELS. 99% SIGNAL RELIABILITY! CHOICE PACKAGE, \$84.99/MO FOR 12 MONTHS. HBO MAX AND PREMIUM CHANNELS INCLUDED FOR 3 MOS (W/CHOICE PACKAGE OR HIGHER.) NO ANNUAL CONTRACT, NO HIDDEN FEES! SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. CALL IVS 1-855-237-9741

DIRECTV- ALL YOUR ENTERTAINMENT. NOTHING ON YOUR ROOF! SIGN UP FOR DIRECTV AND GET YOUR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF MAX, PARAMOUNT+, SHOWTIME, STARZ, MGM+ AND CINEMAX INCLUDED. CHOICE PACKAGE \$84.99/MO. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. CALL DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! FREE INSTALL, FREE HD-DVR UPGRADE, 80,000 ON-DEMAND MOVIES, PLUS LIMITED TIME UP TO \$600 IN GIFT CARDS. CALL TODAY! 1-877-542-

0759  
**VACATION RENTALS**  
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.

**FOR SALE**  
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

2022 PALOMINO COLUMBUS MODEL CMF329DVC FIFTH WHEEL CAMPING TRAILER AND 2022 GMC SIERRA DENALI HEAVY DUTY 2500 WITH DURAMAX 6.6 LITER V-8 DIESEL AND ALLISON TRANSMISSION. THE TRUCK HAS APPROXIMATELY 52,000 MILES AND IS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. THE CAMPER IS IN GOOD CONDITION WITH SOME PATCHES FOR SCRAPES WITH TREES, ETC. - ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PROFESSIONALLY REPAIRED. ASKING \$55,000 FOR EACH OR SOLD TOGETHER FOR A DEEP DISCOUNT. CONTACT GEORGE AT (803) 460-1989 OR BNGFIX@GMAIL.COM BOTH LOCATED IN MANNING, SC



**J&T's Local Moving and More, LLC**  
Jamie Singleton Owner  
"Saving time and money with no worries"  
Over 20 years of experience

\* Free Estimates  
\* Moving (Home & Office)  
\* Lawn Care  
\* Pressure Washing  
\* Fence Staining

64 Wilder St. Sumter, SC 29150 (803) 236-4008 (803) 773-3934

insurance the right way. the human way.  
simple human sense

**CRW INSURANCE**  
CREECH • RODDEY • WATSON  
803-775-1168  
crwins.com  
**Auto-Owners INSURANCE**

**Patriot Liquors**

803-433-FLAG (3524)  
543 Mill Street • Manning, SC 29102

Henry P. "Bo" Bozard, Jr.  
bo@clarendoninsurance.com

**The Clarendon Insurance Agency, Inc**  
12 South Brooks Street  
Manning, SC 29102

Office: 803-435-8891  
Cell: 803-473-6604

Windows, Siding, Porch Enclosures

**Window World** FREE ESTIMATES!

4655-A Hwy.17 By-Pass South, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577  
www.windowworldofmyrtlebeach.com  
843-445-9921 • 800-NEXT-WINDOW

PLACE YOUR AD IN MORE THAN 80 SC NEWSPAPERS

Reach up to 1.5 million readers using our small space ad network!

**SONNI** SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPER NETWORK  
Contact Randall Savely 803.750.9561 | scnnonline.com  
Statewide and regional options available

# 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 PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE TO CREDITORS OR WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM DATE OF DEATH, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER (SCPC 62-3-801, ET SEQ.) OR SUCH PERSONS SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED AS TO THEIR CLAIMS. ALL CLAIMS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITTEN STATEMENTS ON THE PRESCRIBED FORM (FORM #371 ES) INDICATING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLAIMANT, THE BASIS OF THE CLAIM, THE AMOUNT CLAIMED, THE DATE WHEN THE CLAIM WILL BECOME DUE, THE NATURE OF ANY UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE CLAIM, AND A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SECURITY AS TO THE CLAIM 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)

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 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.dhec.sc.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search) by navigating to the project and using the "add comment" tab at the top of the page. Comments may also be sent to: SCDES/Bureau of Water, Attention: Ashley Carothers, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Interested parties wishing to be notified of the final permit decision must make comment on the application and/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 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. Defendants. SUMMONS 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 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 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 Robert D. Blanchard, Sr. (Bar No. 102004) Dial Grimm & Rupert, 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 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 3/7/25  
Mail protests to SCDOR, ABL Section, PO Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907 or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov. (02/20/25)

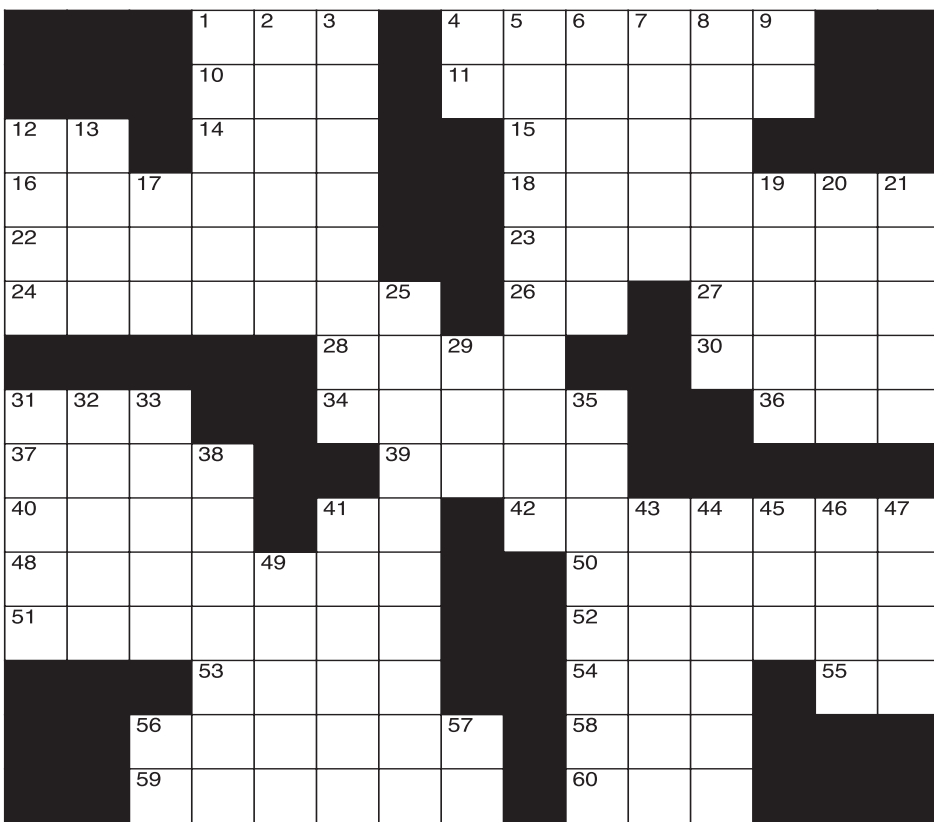
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CLARENDON COUNTY FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS PARTNERSHIP, A SOUTH CAROLINA NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
Please take notice that Dr. Myra Pearson, Chairperson of Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership, a South Carolina Nonprofit 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) 433-2848. Dr. Myra Pearson Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership

Check Out Our E-Editions FREE on MANNING LIVE .COM



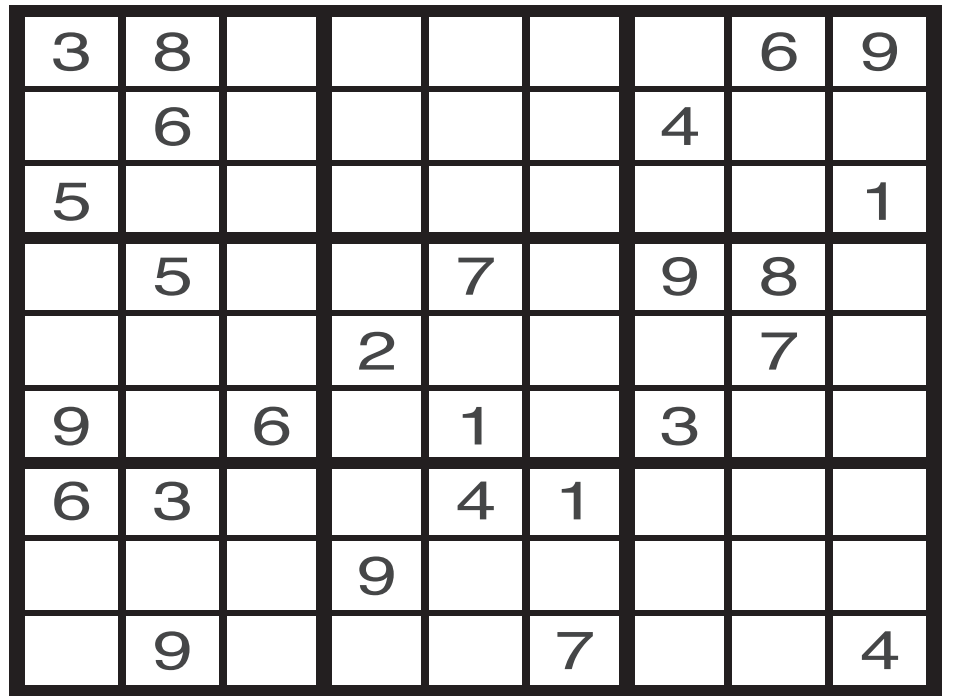


# GAMEZONE

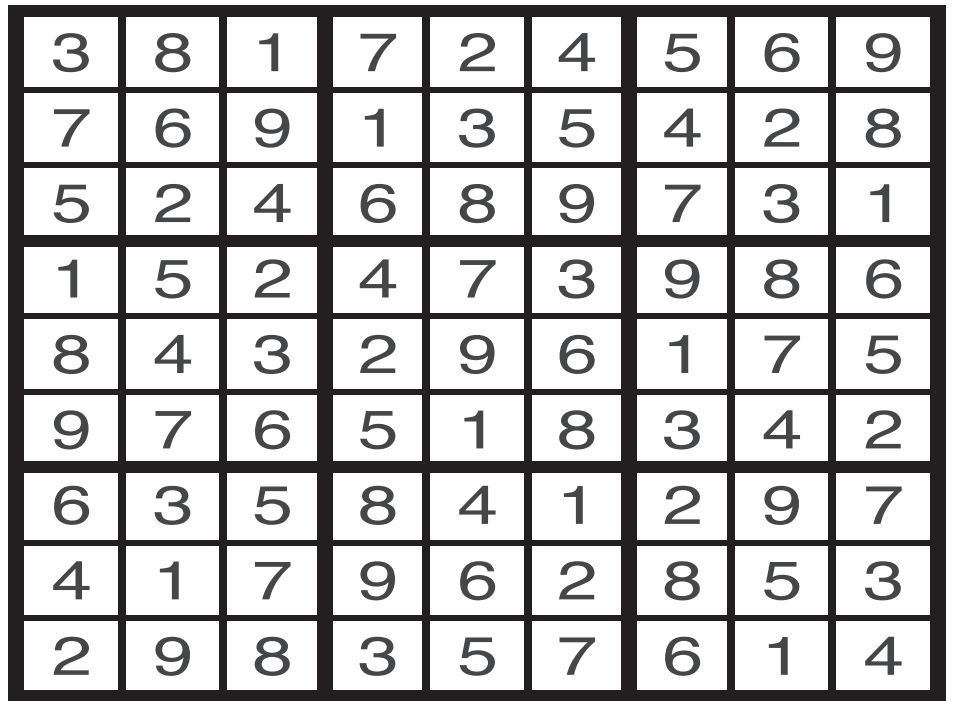
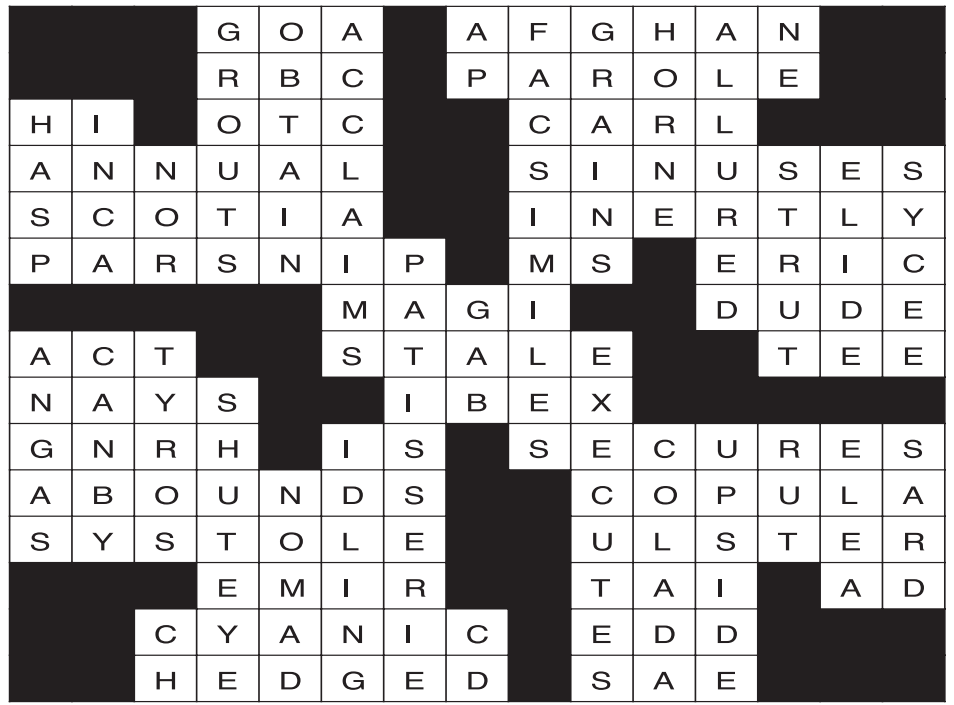


**CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE**

- |                                  |  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>DOWN</b>                      |  | <b>ACROSS</b>                         |
| 1. Pastes for filling crevices   | currency                                   | 1. State in southwestern India        |
| 2. Acquire                       | 25. A bakery specializing in French pastry | 34. Not fresh                         |
| 3. Heralds                       | 29. Talk incessantly                       | 36. Where golfers begin               |
| 4. News group                    | 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria                | 37. Negatives                         |
| 5. Exact copies                  | 32. Longtime NY Times film critic          | 39. Wild goat                         |
| 6. Particles                     | 33. Beginners                              | 40. Releasing hormone                 |
| 7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena  | 35. Makes a trade                          | 41. Makes up                          |
| 8. Tempted                       | 38. Sleep                                  | 42. Fastens                           |
| 9. Midway between north and east | 41. Not moving                             | 48. Exists in large numbers           |
| 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate  | 43. Popular drink: Pina __                 | 50. A connecting word                 |
| 13. South American hummingbird   | 44. Potential benefits                     | 51. A phase of the heartbeat          |
| 17. Neither                      | 45. A place you can get stuck in           | 52. Northern Ireland county           |
| 19. Walk with confidence         | 46. Ancient Greek City                     | 53. An independent ruler or chieftain |
| 20. Omit when speaking           | 47. Chalcedony                             | 54. Pacific sea bream                 |
| 21. Imperial Chinese             | 49. Rover                                  | 55. Commercial                        |
|                                  | 56. Digraph                                | 56. Azure                             |
|                                  | 57. Investment vehicle                     | 58. Doctor of Education               |
|                                  |  | 59. Protected oneself against loss    |
|                                  |  | 60. Car mechanics group               |



**« « « DON'T PEEK! » » »**  
GAME ANSWERS BELOW



## Palmetto College iCarolina Lab

at University of South Carolina Sumter

### CONNECT. CREATE. LEARN.

**Free Resources at Palmetto College  
iCarolina Lab - University of South Carolina Sumter**

- ✓ Free internet access
- ✓ Free use of Apple products
- ✓ Free training and education to community members

**Register for Free Courses Today**

Scan the QR code to visit our website or call 803.775.8727 for more information.

**SEC**  
Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 15, 2025

SEC's Corporate Headquarters  
424 Sumter Highway, Kingstree, SC

Drive-Thru Only Registration  
**10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

The Business Meeting will stream live on our Facebook page at **6:30 p.m.** (livestream participation only).

Prize drawings will follow the Business Meeting.

### REGISTRATION GIFTS

Each member who registers in the drive-thru registration will receive a **\$15 Electric Bill Credit** and a **Travel Tumbler Set**.

Limit one \$15 Electric Bill Credit and Travel Tumbler Set per membership.

All members will be required to present a proper ID at registration.

**PRIZE DRAWINGS**  
All members who register are eligible to win.

**Craftsman 42-inch  
17.5 HP Riding Lawn  
Mower**

**Apple® iPad,  
10.2 inch**

**Other Prizes**

- Apple® AirPods
- Yeti® Hopper Flip 12 Cooler
- Gift Cards
- Ecobee Smart Thermostat

**\$500**  
ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

**Electric Bill Credits  
Ranging from  
\$100-\$500**

For prize drawing rules, please visit [www.santee.org/annual-meeting](http://www.santee.org/annual-meeting).

843-355-6187
[www.santee.org](http://www.santee.org)

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Manning United Methodist Church - 17 E. Rigby Street.
Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church - Horse Branch Road, Turbeville.
Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist Church - 314 W. Huggins St., Manning.
The Master's Place - 7 S. Church Street, Manning.
McKenzie Tabernacle Church - New Zion.
Melina Presbyterian Church - Sardinia.
Mt. Calvary FBH Church - Boyce Street, Manning.
Mt. Carmel United Freewill Baptist Church - 207 Reardon St., Manning.
Mt. Chapel Baptist Church - Hwy. 260, Manning.
Mt. Hope FBH Church - Pinewood.
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church - Plowden Road.
Mt. Pleasant Union Methodist Episcopal Church.
Mt. Zero Baptist Church - S.C. 261, Paxville.
Historic Mt. Zion AME Church - Potato Creek Road.
New Bethel Holiness Church - Davis Crossroad, 1287 Starks Drive, Summerton.
New Covenant Holiness Church - 3699 Alex Harvin Highway, Manning.
New Covenant Presbyterian Church - U.S. 301 South, Manning.
New Harmony Presbyterian Church - New Harmony Church Road, Alcolu.
New Hope AME Church - Pinewood.
New Light Baptist Church - Davis Station.
New Start Community Church of the Nazarene - 4686 J.W. Rames Rd, Manning.
New Town Freewill Baptist Church - West Turbeville Highway, Lake City.
New Zion Church - Salem Road, New Zion.
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church - 2529 Raccoon Road, Manning -
Paxville Baptist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville.
Paxville United Methodist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville.
Pine Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church - Turbeville.
Pine Grove AME Church - 7779 Kenwood Rd.
Pine Grove Church - Turbeville, SC
Prayer House Mission Church - Davis Crossroads, Summerton.
The Presbyterian Church - North Brooks Street, Manning, Dr.
Providence AME Church - Mallet Road, Manning.
Providence Christian Church - Dozier Mallet Road, Manning.
Restoration Ministries Church of God - Manning.
Rock Hill Baptist Church - Old Georgetown Road, Manning.
Santee AME Church - Dingle Pond Road, Summerton.
Santee Baptist Church - Hwy. 260, Manning.
Sardinia Presbyterian Church - Sardinia.
Seacoast Manning - Weldon Auditorium.
Second Baptist Church - Alfred Henry Drive, Manning.
Shiloh AME Church - Foreston.
Society Hill AME Church - 1030 Morella Road, Manning.
Spring Hill AME Church -
St. James AME Church -
St. Luke Baptist Church - Foreston.
St. Mark AME Church - First Street, Summerton.
St. Mary's Catholic Church - N. Cantey St., Summerton.
St. Matthias Anglican Church - North Duke at Cnty, Summerton.
St. Paul Holiness Church - St. Paul.
St. Peter AME - Rimini.
St. Phillip RMUE - Old River Road, Pinewood.
Summerton Baptist Church - East Main Street.
Summerton Presbyterian Church - 16 South Cnty Street.
Summerton Southern Methodist Church
Summerton United Methodist Church - Corner of S. Church St. and Briggs St.
Taw Cav Baptist Church - Summerton.
Trinity AME Church - 39 W. Rigby Street, Manning.
Trinity Church - U.S. 301, Alcolu.
Triumph The Church Kingdom of God in Christ - Davis Station.
Truckers' Christian Chapel - TA Travel Center, I-95, Exit 119.
True Way Holiness Church, Highway 521 in Alcolu
Turbeville First Baptist Church - 1020 Morris Street, Turbeville.
Turbeville Southern Methodist Church - Turbeville.
Union Community Christian Church - Nesbitt Rd.
Wyboo Community Church - 12135 Highway 260, Manning.

## LifeSong Christian Church

**A small non-denominational church with a BIG Heart. Where you don't go to church, you are the church. We accept the Bible as the inspired word of God.**

**Communion served every Sunday  
Worship Service- 10:00 AM**

**Come be a member of our family  
Preachers: Gregg Wilgus and Tim Brown  
803-305-8966  
1326 Morello Road, Manning SC 29102  
lifesongcc.org**



**we provide tanks for commercial, agricultural, and residential. with delivery.**



**803.473.7547  
3703 J W Rhames Rd, Manning, SC 29102**



**3478 Alex Harvin Hwy  
Manning, SC 29102  
(803) 681-3209**

## Santee Automotive



**2601 Paxville Hwy, Manning • 803.433.5400 • www.santeeautomotive.com**

### CHRIST ALONE REVIVAL

**EVANGELIST CHRIS WELLS**

**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**

**323 ALFRED HENRY DRIVE, MANNING**

**APRIL 27-30**

**SUNDAY MORNING 11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:00 PM**

**THE BELIEVERS QUARTET, WORSHIP LEADERS**

**PASTOR - REVEREND DR. DAVID H. DINKINS, SR.**

### THE PASTOR'S AIDE BOARD OF PINE GROVE

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL**

**"SEVEN LAST WORDS," SPEAKING PROGRAM**

**WITH SEVEN ANOINTED AND GOD- FEARING**

**SPEAKERS. THE PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON**

**APRIL 18, 2025, AT 7:00 PM.**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN US IN THIS SOLEMN**

**AND SACRED OCCASION DEPICTING WHAT OUR**

**LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST HAD ENDURED**

**FOR US ON CALVARY'S OLD RUGGED CROSS. YOU**

**JUST DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EXPERIENCE.**

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

**SINCERELY,**

**PASTOR'S AIDE BOARD**

### • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# NCNW Clarendon Section honors local women during Women's History Month program



**CLUB.** Fourteen honorees pose with their certificates of recognition during the Clarendon Section of National Council of Negro Women Women's History Month celebration, held at Trinity Full Gospel Church in Manning (Photo C/O Mayor Julia Nelson)

**BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY**  
mstcreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) recognized 19 local women for their contributions to the community during a Women's History Month celebration held at Trinity Full Gospel Church in Manning.

The event, held under the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations," was part of the NCNW's ongoing mission to lead, empower, and advocate for women of African descent, their families, and their communities.

The National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 by educator and activist Dr. Mary Mc-

Leod Bethune and has grown into an organization of organizations with more than 2 million members across 330 community-based sections and 33 national women's groups. Its programs focus on education, entrepreneurship, health awareness, civic engagement, and public policy.

The Clarendon celebration featured prayers, music, poetry, and presentations of honorees, all aimed at acknowledging women who have made significant contributions to the local community through service, leadership, and advocacy.

The following women were honored: Diane Jones, Patricia Pringle, Jackie Blackwell, Julia Nelson, Beulah Roberts, Paulette King, Linda Lemon, Sharmane Anderson, Christine Harvin, Marie Land, Phyllis Lawson, Kimberly Johnson, Kathleen Gibson,

Virbria Conyers, Sheryl Davis, Sharon Haley, Jennifer Powell, Margaret Walker, and Katherine Schietinger.

The program included musical selections and a sing-along by Karen Hilton-Saunders, a poem by Martha Wilson-Gilyard, and opening and closing prayers by Minister Delaney Kay Frierson of Lovely Hill Baptist Church and Rev. Emma Mellerson of Reeseville AME Church.

Special thanks were extended to Jen's Creative Designs, Sista's Catering, and Keisha's Custom Charcuterie for their contributions to the celebration.

Women's History Month has been observed annually in the United States since 1987 to highlight the contributions of women to history, culture, and society.



# SPORTS/SHORTS

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY  
&MAXPREPS  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

## LACROSSE SWAMPCATS POWER PAST FOX CREEK

Laurence Manning improved to 7-2 on the season with a 14-7 win over Fox Creek on Mar. 22. After a slow start and a 5-3 lead at halftime, the Swampcats erupted with seven goals in the third quarter to take control of the game. Jordan Ives led the charge with four goals and two assists, while Coleman Elmore added three goals and two assists. Camdyn Strickler contributed two goals and three assists, and Mason Hodge, Brock Tamburello, and Aaron Nives each scored once. Defensively, Cade Hodge, Gavin Brown, and Noah Tucker helped shut down the Predators, and Phoenix Tisdale tallied 10 saves in goal. LMA returns to action Monday, March 24, at home against Camden Military.

## BASEBALL EAST CLARENDON WALLOPS MANNING

The East Clarendon Wolverines (Turbeville, SC) baseball

trounced the visiting Manning Monarchs (Manning, SC), 10-0 in the league challenge on Mar. 21.

The Wolverines now own a 3-3 record. They take the field next when they travel to Hannah-Pamplico for a non-league challenge on Tuesday, March 25. East Clarendon will clash with a Raiders team coming off a 5-4 league loss to Latta (Latta, SC). The Raiders record now stands at 2-3.

With the defeat, Manning drops to 1-6 on the year. The Monarchs host Timberland (St. Stephen, SC) to clash with the Wolves in a non-league challenge on Monday, March 24. The Wolves go into the challenge with a record of 0-8. Timberland lost 18-0 in their recent league challenge against Andrews (Andrews, SC)

## CLARENDON HALL COMES UP SHORT

Clarendon Hall was not able to break out of their rough patch on Mar. 21 as the team picked up their ninth straight loss dating back to last season. They lost 11-1 to the Orangeburg Prep Indians. That's two games in a row now that the Saints have lost

by exactly ten runs.

Clarendon Hall's defeat dropped their record down to 0-3. As for Orangeburg Prep, they pushed their record up to 10-1 with the victory, which was their third straight on the road.

Looking ahead, Clarendon Hall will take on Calhoun Academy at 6:00 p.m. on the 31st. As for Orangeburg Prep, they will host Holly Hill Academy at 7:00 p.m. on Monday.

Article generated by infoSensience based on data entered on MaxPreps

## SOFTBALL EAST CLARENDON KNOCKED OFF BY LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY

In a non-league test on Mar. 20, the Laurence Manning Academy Swampcats (Manning, SC) softball squad overwhelmed the visiting East Clarendon Wolverines (Turbeville, SC), by a count of 13-4.

Next, the Swampcats meet the East Clarendon Wolverines (Turbeville, SC) in a non-league battle, on Thursday, March 27. Laurence Manning Academy will attempt to better on its 10-1 season record.

With the loss, East Claren-

don moves to 2-2 on the season. The Wolverines host Manning (Manning, SC) to confront the Monarchs in a non-league battle on Friday, March 21. The Monarchs come into the battle with a record of 0-1.

## SOCCER MANNING COMES UP SHORT

Manning was not able to break out of their rough patch on Mar. 21 as the team picked up their third straight defeat. They lost 5-2 to the East Clarendon Wolverines. Unfortunately, that's the second time they've come up short against East Clarendon this season, as they also lost their prior matchup 4-0 last Tuesday.

James Hunter wasn't going to let East Clarendon walk away unscathed as he scored both of Manning's goals, bringing his season total up to six goals.

Manning's loss dropped their record down to 2-7. As for East Clarendon, the win made it two in a row for them and bumps their season record up to 2-5.

Both squads are looking forward to the support of their home crowds in their upcoming games. Manning will square off against Crestwood at 6:00 p.m.

on Monday. As for East Clarendon, they will challenge Lakewood at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. East Clarendon's defense better be ready for this one: Lakewood has averaged an impressive 2.7 goals per game this season.

Article generated by infoSensience based on data entered on MaxPreps

## LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY TAKES A LOSS

Laurence Manning Academy played against Camden Military on Mar. 20 and lost via forfeit.

Camden Military's victory ended a four-game drought on the road and puts them at 1-4.

Laurence Manning Academy will have a little extra prep time after the loss as they won't be playing again for a while.

They'll take on Camden Military at 5:00 p.m. on April 10th. As for Camden Military, they will look to defend their home pitch on Friday against Northwood Academy at 6:15 p.m. Camden Military's last three matchups have been decided by no more than a goal, so don't be surprised if it's a close one.

Article generated by infoSensience based on data entered on MaxPreps

## SPORTS

# Tagged fish, big prizes: Bonus Bass tournament kicks off at Santee Cooper



**WINNER.** Wyatt Sims posing with his award-winning bass at Santee Cooper Outdoors. (Photo C/O Bonus Bass)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

A new kind of fishing tournament is making waves across Santee Cooper, where one lucky angler has already turned a modest catch into a major payday.

The Bonus Bass tournament, created and organized by Kyle Jenkins, launched March 5 and runs through June 1. Unlike traditional tournaments that rely on weigh-ins and one-day contests, this competition spreads 200 tagged largemouth bass throughout Lakes Marion and Moultrie. Registered anglers who catch a tagged fish are eligible to win daily cash prizes and possibly land the \$25,000 Grand Bonus.

For Wyatt Sims of Timmonsville, it only took two days.

"He registered on Saturday, thought it was kind of a joke, and went fishing on Monday," Jenkins said. "When he called and said he caught a tagged fish, he was pumped."

Sims was fishing at Santee Cooper Outdoors using a 3/8-ounce Z-Man Jackhammer Chatterbait in Golden Shiner with an XPS Speed Minnow trailer when he hooked a two-pound bass—one of the tagged Bonus Bass. His prize: \$1,300 and a fishing-for-two day pass to the private ponds at Santee Cooper Outdoors, formerly Clarendon Club.

"He said it looked like a decent fish until he noticed the tag," Jenkins said. "That bass had traveled six miles in just eight days."

The tournament's progressive bonus starts at \$100 and increases daily until a tagged fish is turned in. Sims caught his

on the 13th day, cashing in on the full \$1,300. Every tagged fish turned in also enters anglers into additional drawings, including prize packs from sponsors Z-Man Fishing Products and access to private stocked ponds.

In total, one of the 200 tagged bass carries a potential \$25,000 prize. At the end of the tournament, the angler who catches and turns in the most tags gets to select one of their tags for a chance to win the grand bonus.

Registration is \$99 and open to all types of anglers—whether fishing from the bank, a kayak, or a bass boat.

"What's special about Bonus Bass is it gives everybody a chance," Jenkins said. "It's not just for guys with expensive boats. Kids, retirees, weekend anglers—anyone can win."

Seven unregistered anglers have already caught tagged fish, but without registering at [www.bonusbass.com](http://www.bonusbass.com), they were ineligible for prizes. Jenkins confirmed that all those fish were released back into the lake, tag intact or replaced.

Bonus Bass will also be featured at the Santee Cooper Open Team Tournament (S.C.O.T.T.) on April 12, hosted by Clarendon County. In addition to regular tournament prizes, Bonus Bass will offer a two-night stay giveaway at Relaxed Retreat and the chance for more anglers to hook into a cash reward.

Jenkins emphasized the accessibility and excitement of the contest: "Even if you're just going fishing for fun, every trip becomes a shot at a big win."

For rules and registration, visit [www.BonusBass.com](http://www.BonusBass.com).

## EDUCATION

# Sumter students visit Provalus

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Students from Sumter Career and Technology Center spent the day at Provalus' Manning facility on March 20, gaining valuable insight into careers in technology and customer support. The visit was part of the IT services company's ongoing commitment to mentoring and developing the next generation of tech professionals.

Provalus, a 100% U.S.-based outsourcing firm, was established in 2017 with a mission to bring high-quality technology jobs to rural communities. The Manning location has become a hub for career development, offering training in IT service desk support, cybersecurity, data analytics and more—all while prioritizing the hiring and upskilling of veterans and underemployed individuals.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to tour the live production floor, interact with team members, and explore hands-on demonstrations in areas such as hardware, software, and customer experience services.

"As an IT services company, we have a

responsibility to mentor tomorrow's tech leaders," said Gabe Perez, Lead Recruiter for the Manning/Sumter area. "We take pride in these outreach events, knowing that the young people we engage with today could be our future interns, colleagues—and even our future President."

The event aimed to inspire students by offering a close-up look at how Provalus operates and what opportunities exist within the tech sector—even for those without traditional IT backgrounds. The company offers a robust training program for new hires, many of whom enter the field without prior experience, and supports ongoing development through certification opportunities and career advancement pathways.

Perez emphasized Provalus' ongoing commitment to community engagement, saying the team will "persist in exploring new opportunities and events such as this" to help guide and shape the region's future workforce.

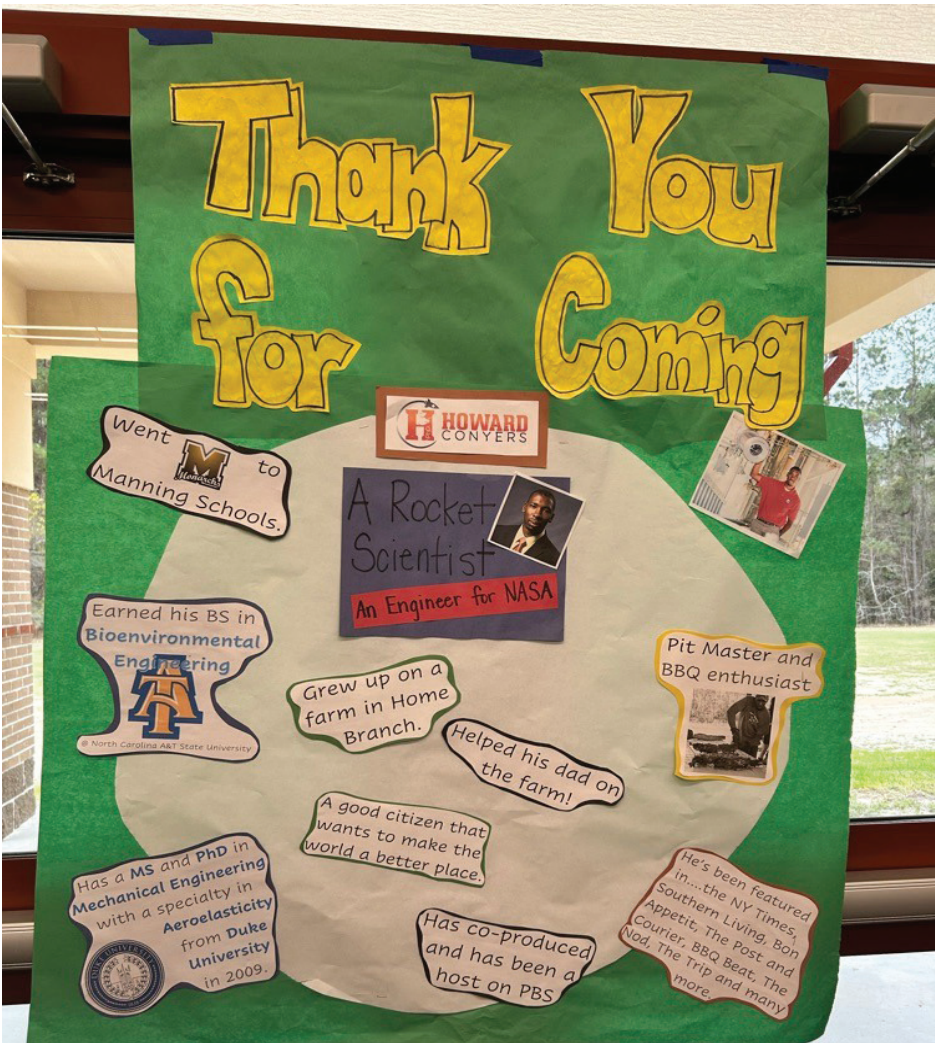
The visit marked another step in building strong connections between education and industry—something Provalus views as vital to both individual and community success.



**LEARNING.** Students and Provalus employees pose together in front of the Provalus office building. (Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy)

• BUSINESS

# MECC celebrates Moon Tree with NASA engineer



**TREE.** Students, teachers, and staff of Manning Early Childhood Center, joined by special guests like Marie Land and NASA engineer Dr. Howard Conyers, excitedly gathered to celebrate the planting of the moon tree. (Photo C/O Manning Early Childhood Center)

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

Students and staff at Manning Early Childhood Center gathered on March 20 to celebrate the planting of a NASA Moon Tree—a symbol of exploration, STEM education, and endless possibility.

The tree, one of only a handful planted across the United States, was grown from seeds that traveled to space aboard the Artemis I mission. The ceremonial event marked the culmination of MECC's Moon Tree project, which has been part of an ongoing effort to spark curiosity about science, space, and the natural world in young learners.

Special guest Dr. Howard Conyers, a Manning High School graduate and NASA rocket scientist, returned home to speak to students about his journey from local classrooms to working on rocket

engine testing for the Artemis program. "I started out right here loving math and science," Conyers told the students. "With great teachers, mentors like Dr. Rose Wilder, and a lot of hard work, I found my path. You can too."

During the event, Conyers presented a keepsake from one of his NASA projects to a young student named Andrew—an aspiring astronaut—sharing a heartfelt moment that underscored the day's theme of dreaming big.

The celebration also honored the work of MECC garden coordinator Marie Land and her team of volunteers, who have supported STEM learning through gardening activities and nutrition education.

The school will continue to care for the Moon Tree as both a living legacy of the Artemis mission and a daily reminder to students that their futures can reach beyond the stars.

• FOUNDATION

# John Landon Black Foundation to raffle pink bike



Visit Our Website  
<https://www.jlblackfoundation.org/>

**SUBMITTED**  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The John Landon Black Foundation is hosting a raffle contest for a pink cruiser bicycle, with tickets available for \$5 at John's Place and the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce. The winning

ticket will be drawn on April 26 during the Striped Bass Festival Parade in front of John's Place. Attendees are invited to stop by for popcorn and lemonade. Raffle entries can also be purchased via Venmo at Terri Gregory@Terri-Gregory-18. For more information, visit [jlblackfoundation.org](http://jlblackfoundation.org).

• CLUB NEWS

# Rotary Roundup: Heart Association promotes CPR and prevention education



**WELLNESS.** Manning Rotary President Johnson James (left) with development director of the American Heart Association in Sumter Christina Darby (right)(Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy)

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

The Manning Rotary Club welcomed Christina Darby, Development Director for the American Heart Association in Sumter, as the guest speaker at its March 12 meeting. Darby shared a passionate presentation about heart health, CPR education, and the impact local efforts are making in Clarendon County.

She kicked off her talk by inviting Rotarians to the upcoming Clarendon County Kickoff Heart Walk on Wednesday, April 23, from 3–5 p.m. at Pocatoligo River Health and Rehab & Southern Senior Living on Sumter Highway. The free event will feature speakers, blood pressure checks, and a celebration of heart and stroke survivors. "It's a time to come together, support our community, and have fun," Darby said, encouraging members to invite their friends, church groups, and families.

Darby also educated the group on the Hands-Only CPR program and emphasized the importance of knowing two simple steps: Call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Using songs like Stayin' Alive, Baby Shark, and Crazy in Love, Darby demonstrated how to perform compressions at the right tempo. "Our goal is to ensure at least one person in every home knows Hands-Only CPR. Just compressions alone can double or triple a person's chance of survival," she explained.

The club was also thrilled to learn that Manning United Methodist Church

sponsored a CPR training kit for Manning High School, making it the first Clarendon County school to receive a training kit complete with AED trainers and demonstration materials. "We'd love to see every school in Clarendon County equipped," said Darby, who is actively seeking sponsors for the nine remaining schools in the district.

Darby shared several touching stories, including that of a Sumter industrial worker whose undetected high blood pressure was discovered during an on-site screening, and Luke Barrett, a local elementary school student who survived cardiac arrest thanks to CPR and an AED. "We're trying to equip schools and public places with AEDs and teach everyone—from kids to adults—how to use them," she said.

She also highlighted partnerships with HopeHealth and local libraries to provide free blood pressure monitoring kits, offering access to those who can't afford them. "We just want to get the word out and help people take care of their hearts."

The main Heart Walk will take place in Sumter on November 1 at the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. The walk offers both a one-mile and a three-mile option through historic downtown Sumter.

To close the meeting, Manning Rotary Club President Johnson James presented Darby with a donation on behalf of the club to support her ongoing efforts.

For more information on how to sponsor a CPR kit or participate in the Heart Walk, contact Christina Darby at 803-410-1067 or [christina.darby@heart.org](mailto:christina.darby@heart.org).