The Manning Times

"A MONUMENT TO GOD AND TO MAN'S BEST SELF"

120-year-old time capsule opened at Presbyterian Church



MARCH. Members of The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina walk down Brooks Street to The Presbyterian Church before the time capsule opening ceremony. (Photo C/O Melissa Foust-McCoy)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

"It is an enduring monument, not only to God, but to man's best self."

That line from a 1905 Manning Times article described the cornerstone of the newly constructed Presbyterian Church at Manning. 120 years later, on Saturday, April 5, dozens gathered to witness the removal and

opening of that very cornerstone and the time capsule sealed

The ceremony, led by members of The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, followed Masonic tradition with solemn rites, prayers and symbolic offerings of corn, oil, and wine. Bagpipes played as the stone was removed and the capsule carried in a processional around the church and down the sanctuary aisle to be opened at the communion table.

Inside the rusted copper box were a few coins, small paper scrolls tied with ribbon, and a 1905 edition of The Manning Times. The ribbon clasp had deteriorated almost completely, and while the paper items were wet, they were still legible.

"I've been wondering about what's inside that box for 20 years," said church member and local historian Ferrell Cothran. "But the truth really is, the treasure is this sanctuary—what our forefathers built, the vision they had. It's a beautiful place. And it's the relationships we have here that matter most."

Cothran discovered the existence of the time capsule after reading an archived article from The Manning Times at the Library of Congress. The capsule had been intended to be opened in 2005 for the church's centennial, but the timing never worked out. Cothran eventually passed the project on to the Young Adult Sunday School class, who coordinated the event under the leadership of Sudan Hayne Furse, who served as chair.

Event organizers included Caroline Buyck, Emily Epperson Way, Jack Furse, Don Bryce, Beverly Parent, and Leslie Paul. Church member and Mason

See CAPSULE, Page 4

CRASH

Summerton man killed in overnight ATV crash, SCHP investigating

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

A 54-year-old Summerton man is dead following an early morning ATV crash in Clarendon County, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

The wreck occurred around 12:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 6, on Bill Davis Road near Bald Eagle

Road, southeast of Summerton, Master Trooper Mitchell Ridgeway said.

Ridgeway said the 2007 Can-Am ATV was traveling west when the rider lost control and

fell into the roadway. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Clarendon County Coroner Jacqueline Blackwell later identified the victim as Jimmy Lee Dow, 54, of Summerton.

An autopsy is scheduled to be performed this week.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is continuing to investigate the crash.

PREVENTION

Free training during Child | The Manning Times **Abuse Prevention Month**



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month this April, the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program is offering free virtual training to those interested in advocating for abused and

neglected children in Clarendon County.

The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program, part of the South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, will begin training sessions on April 29, with both morning and evening options available. Volunteers must apply by April 15 to participate.

AWARDS

brings home eight awards



CLUB. Left to right: Alex Feagin, Katherine Hutchinson, Joey Busby, Leigh Ann Maynard, Melissa Foust-McCoy. (Photo C/O Ken Sherod)

BY ALEX FEAGIN

mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning Times staff was honored

with eight awards at the 2025 South Carolina Press Association Annual Meeting & Awards, celebrating the achievements of its dedicated newsroom and reinforcing the impact of local journalism in Claren-

See SCPA, Page 4



See GAL, Page 4



FORECAST







Gloria EANES

Gloria Lloyd Eanes, 88, died Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey.

Born February 20, 1937, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Robert Clayton Lloyd and the late Miriam Harris Lloyd. She was a member of Manning First Baptist Church and attended Paxville Baptist Church.

She is survived by four children, Mark Eanes (Mary) of Wisconsin, Mike Eanes of Travelers Rest, Mitch Eanes of Pawleys Island and Missy Eanes of Charlotte; three grandchildren; two sisters; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Jim Johnson officiating.

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, 644 Woodside Drive, Manning.

Memorials may be made to Paxville Baptist Church Building Fund, 10278 Lewis Road, Manning, SC 29102, or to A Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 607, Manning, SC 29102.

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



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.

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

Celebration of life will be held 12Noon Friday, March 28, 2025 at St. John Baptist Church, Silver, SC. Burial will follow in the church yard cemetery.



Albertha MILLER

Albertha Woods Miller, 92, widow of Eddie Woods, Sr. and Sellers Miller died Friday, March 28, 2025 at her residence, 1797 Eddie Woods Road, Greeleyville, SC. She was born June 3, 1932 in Greeleyville, SC. A daughter of the late Lula Burgess.

Public viewing will be held 3PM til 7PM Friday, April 4, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning, SC. Eastern Star rites will be held

6:00 PM. Funeral services will be held 3:00 PM Saturday, April 5, 2025 at St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Greeleyville, SC. Burial will follow in the Churchyard Ceme-

The family is receiving friends at her residence from

Chank You

Thank You The Family of Late Charles Lemon The Lord bless you, because you have shown such kindness.

We deeply appreciate the kindness, support and love you expressed during this most difficult time in our lives. It will always be remembered. Your kind words, phone calls, texts, visitations, food, flowers, memorials and all other acts of kindness have sustained us during Charles' passing.

Thank you for your love, support, friendship and prayers.

Forever in our "Hearts" **Evangelist Lorraine K. Lemon and Family**

• LIVING ON PURPOSE

ur eternal existence

We spoke last week about the holy city of God coming down to



William **HOLLAND**

sit on the earth often referred to as Zion or Mount Zion, Bride of Christ, Tabernacle of God, City of God, City of the Great King, Celestial City, City

Foursquare, and Heavenly Jerusalem. After the millennium, many believe this will be the eternal home of believers called heaven. A realm beyond the imagination where God as The eternal Lord and King literally dwells and rules from His throne with His followers forever. Isaiah chapter 65 and second Peter chapter 3 talk about the new heavens and the new earth along with other passages concerning heaven like John chapter 14, Philippians 3, and Hebrews 11.

I realize that many people have their own thoughts about where heaven will be and what will be there, and I admit I've had my share of ideas. When I was a kid, I daydreamed of heaven as a place that is trillions of light years beyond the galaxies where we could fly anywhere in the cosmos with unimaginable supernatural abilities. I envisioned communication with telepathy and indescribable ideas related to the mysteries of another dimension. However, when we take a closer look, we notice that we are not traveling a long way to get to heaven, but according to many Bible scholars,

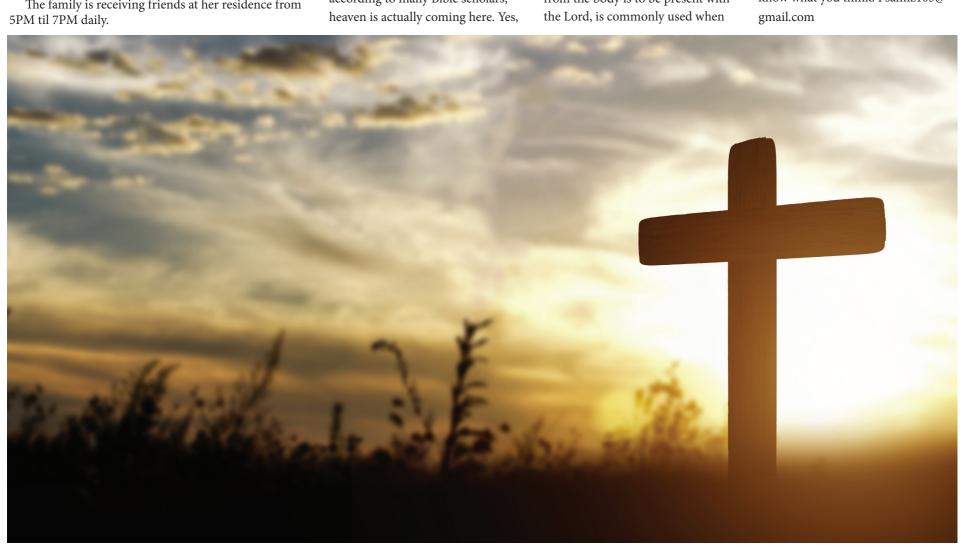
it will be mesmerizing, but we also notice it will contain familiar things that are similar to what we have now.

We've seen pictures of people floating on clouds playing harps, and this eternal lounging sounds nice, but according to the Bible, worship, and singing are not all we will do. I might add that many do not really like to sing or worship now. Many scholars say the scriptures reveal we will have a chance to exercise our gifts and talents in a far greater way than we ever imagined. There will be much to do, and yes, work and responsibility will be a part of it. On earth, our labors are tiresome and frustrating, but in a sinless environment that is free from the curse, not only will we live with a joyful, loving, and patient attitude, but we will have endless strength and excitement. Our lives will be victorious since He is the glorious conquering Lamb of God, and because of His love, we will be anointed and blessed in everything we think and do. The light of His majesty will illuminate heaven as we will never be sick, depressed, disappointed, discouraged or even need to sleep.

A question I receive often is when we die (including all the people that have passed since Adam and Eve), do we go straight to heaven when we die or do we go somewhere to wait for the judgment? This is an excellent study for those who are interested in the subject. The verse in Second Corinthians 5:8 that says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, is commonly used when

talking about the moment of our departure. I've heard this all my life in context to all saints being instantly with Jesus and it's technically true. (Actually, I've never attended a funeral where the person who passed was not declared to be in the arms of Christ no matter if they were a Christian or not). However, some teachers are convinced that instead of entering God's abode to see Him face to face, there is a temporary realm called Sheol, or the grave where all spirits wait until after the final resurrection and judgement.

Some say that all believers enjoy a peaceful awareness of God's presence in what is called Paradise or Abraham's bosom, and after the resurrection when we are given our new glorified bodies, we will spend eternity in the heaven Jesus promised to prepare. The other compartment of Sheol called Hades is for non-believers who are experiencing this dark and dreadful realm. The lost are awaiting the final judgment where they will be sentenced to spend an eternity in Gehenna or hell without the light, love, and presence of God. We notice when Jesus was on the cross, one man begged that He remember him, and Christ replied, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Do you believe Jesus went to Sheol and preached the good news of His love and forgiveness to those in Paradise and Hades? I would like to know what you think. Psalmz103@



• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

Sun 'n' Fun #51

I just came back from Sun N Fun #51. This is the fifty first year of this Florida based fly in, airshow,



JONTE

and trade show. The show started in 1974. I made my first trip down there in 1975.

My friend David Rodgers and I got in an old Piper Apache and headed down to Lakeland Florida to see this big airshow. Of course in 1975 things were a bit difference than they are now in the aviation world. Airspace and navigation was a lot different. Most of my friends would follow Interstate

I-95 or follow the Atlantic coast for a trip to Florida. You could do this with out any trouble. There were very few places you couldn't fly and you didn't have to report to many control towers or air traffic control centers. It was great. Keep the ocean on your left or right depending on where you wanted to go and Florida was a friendly place to navigate.

David and I went down the coast. The Piper Apache was a twin-engine plane that would go about

If there was a big pier in the way, we just up to 100 feet and jumped over it.

150 miles per hour. We took off from Manning and picked up the Atlantic coast somewhere south of Charleston. We leveled off about fifty feet off the ground and just skimmed along the beach. If there was a big pier in the way we just climbed up to 100 feet and jumped over it. We took turns flying and in about three hours we were at

the big airshow. After a big day of watching flying, talking with aviator friends and seeing new and exciting stuff we loaded up and flew back home that night. That was a fun trip and David and I still talk about it.

That was fifty years

That started a long string of going down to Lakeland for the airshow. Over the years the show grew bigger and more popular. It was usually the first airshow of the year and it was like the airshow start

I didn't make every year but for many years I would somehow get a ride down to the airshow. Over the years, we went in a variety of airplanes from tiny two seaters to big twin-engine planes. Some years we would stay a couple of days but mostly we would go for one day and fly back that night. One year I stayed in a camper with some friends.

All this was a big adventure. Not only did we get to fly a long and exciting trip, we saw lots of our friends, fellow aviators and our heroes in the flying world. All that in just one day.

Now fifty years have passed and the show is a lot different. The show didn't change so much as I have changed. The flight down there is still great. All the neat things that are for sale reveal my covetous nature as I walk around and say, "I want that and that and that. I'd love one of those." In the last five decades, I've bought, used or tried that, that, and that. It is as bad as taking grandpa to the toy store. He doesn't want so much stuff now.

Lots of the heroes have passed away and some of the old ones don't look so big to me anymore. This getting old stuff is rough. Well, after all this, I'm still thinking about going down to Florida for the show next year. I don't really need anything and I done lots of things on these trips from giving flying lessons, to landing on the beach, to landing on some islands. Probably need to go back and check on how many trips I did take to the airshow. That will be a year away now. The good is one more trip down there wouldn't hurt.



• LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Spring has officially settled into Clarendon County, and with it comes the familiar beauty of azaleas in full bloom. Their bursts of pink, white, and purple line our streets and yards like confetti, celebrating the season's arrival. It's one of my favorite times of year — when the weather warms, porches fill up again, and there's a sense of renewal in the air.

The latest issue of Farmer will be out soon, and we can't wait for you to dig into the stories that highlight the heart of agriculture in our region. From dedicated dog trainers to generational family farms, this edition

showcases the passion, grit, and legacy of rural life in South Carolina.

On a more personal note, my son Connor and I had the pleasure of attending a truly special event this past weekend — the time capsule ceremony at Clarendon Baptist Church. It was a meaningful reminder of how our stories, when preserved, have the power to connect generations. Watching the Masons perform their ceremonial work was a moment of quiet reverence and community pride. I'm grateful for the experience and the memories we were able to make together.

I'm also thrilled to share some

exciting news — The Manning Times recently received several South Carolina Press Association awards. To say I'm proud is an understatement. These honors reflect the hard work and dedication of our all-female newsroom, and we are more motivated than ever to keep raising the bar. Every week, we strive to serve our readers with journalism that informs, celebrates, and connects. Thank you for trusting us with your stories.

Here's to honoring the past, growing in the present, and building toward an even brighter future one headline at a time.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 5-11

ABA COUPLES CHAMPIONSHIP JOHN LAND LANDING SANTEE COOPER LAKES, SUMMERTON

APRIL 6-12

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: NO FINES ON OVERDUE ITEMS RETURNED DURING THIS WEEK: HARVIN CLARENDON COUNTY LIBRARY: 803-435-8633

APRIL 11-12

PUDDIN SWAMP FESTIVAL, PARADE, MAIN ST. TURBEVILLE: HTTPS://WWW.

FACEBOOK.COM/PSFESTIVAL



APRIL 14-20

50TH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



APRIL 14-19

ABA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, JOHN LAND LANDING

APRIL 15

INCOME TAX DAY

APRIL 15

PATRIOT'S DAY



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Special Occasion?

Make it even more special with an announcement in The Manning Times!



graduations | births | engagements | weddings | & more!

CAPSULE

FROM PAGE 1

Dee Evans, along with his wife Michelle Evans, helped plan and prepare a lunch for the visiting Masons and embroidered the white coverings that adorned the communion tables during the

The capsule's unveiling marked the first event in a weekend-long celebration of the

church's 120th anniversary and Homecoming. Reverend Dr. C. Jarred Hammett Jr., the church's pastor, described the moment as both a reflection on the past and a recommitment to the future.

"This is a transitional moment. It is a moment of reflection and renewal," Hammett said during the ceremony. "We look back. And we look forward. And above all, we give thanks for God's abiding presence every step of the way."

Hammett likened the removal of the cornerstone to the biblical story of Easter—when a heavy

stone was rolled away from Christ's tomb. "We, too, come like those who were bearing spices, to mark with honor what has been, what was hidden," he said. "And so we joyously pray to the one who reveals all secrets and all mysteries."

The capsule was first placed during the church's dedication service in 1905, when the cornerstone was laid by the Masons and the church was formally opened to the congregation. That 1905 edition of The Manning Times described the new brick sanctuary as "a monument of

labor and love" and "one of the prettiest and best-appointed churches in the State."

Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr., who spoke during Sunday's Homecoming worship, described the decision to construct the church at its present site as one of great foresight and sacrifice. According to the original article, local brick was used to build the church—fired just a few blocks away at Harvin's brickyard. The same brick was also used in the construction of the courthouse and public library.

Among the highlights of the

capsule ceremony was a prayer shared by Hammett:

"Lord, this cornerstone has seen much. Heard much. It has contained it all... And with each tolling, with each door opening, this stone has pointed us to the chief cornerstone—Christ, the risen and powerful one."

The artifacts uncovered offer a window into the past, a quiet yet powerful reminder of faith, craftsmanship, and community—a tribute, just as The Manning Times declared in 1905, "to God, and to man's best self."





GAL FROM PAGE 1

"Child Abuse Prevention Month serves as a powerful reminder of the critical role we all play in ensuring that children grow up in safe and nurturing environments," said Jennifer Burch, director of the South Carolina GAL Program. "By becoming a GAL, volunteers can truly make a difference in the lives of children, helping to ensure they find safe permanent homes as quickly as possible."

GAL volunteers serve as court-appointed advocates for children involved in Family Court proceedings due to abuse or neglect. They are tasked with representing the child's best interests and providing a consistent voice throughout the legal process

To qualify, volunteers must

be at least 21 years old, have no criminal record or Department of Social Services (DSS) history, and be willing to dedicate four to five hours per month advocating for a child.

"There's no better time to get involved and make a lasting impact on the lives of children in need of advocacy," the agency said in a release. "Join a dedicated group of volunteers who are making a difference every day."

To learn more or download an application, visit gal.sc.gov. For local information, contact Brandi Johnson, regional recruiter and trainer, at (843) 731-7622 or brandi.johnson@childadvocate.sc.gov.

SCPA

FROM PAGE 1

don County and beyond.

Among the awards were four individual recognitions for reporting, presented to Melissa Foust-McCoy for outstanding work across multiple categories, including Government Beat Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Election/Political Coverage, and Spot Sports Reporting.

"After a few tough months of questioning if I was cut out for this, it felt incredibly validating—for me and for my girls," Melissa said in a social media post about the awards. Presented in the weekly newspaper division, these awards are a testament to the hard work and heart poured into every issue by the small but mighty team.

In addition to writing acco-

lades, TMT also received second place in the Personality Photo or Portrait category for a photo featured in Luke's Lake City Adventure, a children's book project that continues to inspire local pride.

A standout moment of the weekend came when Katherine Hutchinson, our talented graphic designer, earned first place in the Short Story category for her Halloween feature Night of the Living Newspaper Racks. The

story, a creative and spooky spin on small-town journalism, delighted readers and showcased Hutchinson's storytelling flair. "Katherine wears so many hats on our team, and this award just shows another one of her incredible talents," said a fellow team member.

The most recent edition of our football magazine, The Huddle, also earned second place recognition, with special thanks to intern Joey Busby, who helped bring the publication to life. "Joey called our office out of the blue last January looking for an internship—and we've been lucky ever since," Melissa shared. "We tease his mama about how proud she is of him, but she's absolutely right to be."

The Manning Times extends its heartfelt thanks to its readers and supporters. "You're the reason we keep going. Local journalism matters—and we're just getting started."





• BUSINESS

USDA Announces Agricultural Trade Promotion Programs for 2025



SUBMITTED mtscreporter@gmail.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is launching agricultural trade promotion programs for 2025 and accepting applications for four export market development programs. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service has opened funding opportunities for the Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program (TASC), and Emerging Markets Program (EMP) that will help U.S. agricultural producers promote and sell their goods internationally. This action follows U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins' Friday announcement detailing six international trade trips in

the next six months to promote U.S. agricultural exports. The Secretary will visit Vietnam, Japan, India, Peru, Brazil, and the United Kingdom.

"Our job at USDA is to open new markets for our farmers, ranchers, and producers. The previous administration left agriculture with a \$50 billion trade deficit. President Trump and I will not sit idly by - we are actively working to open new markets and remove existing barriers," said Secretary Rollins. "We are putting farmers first. These programs are a crucial step in sustaining long lasting economic growth in rural America."

Background: The application deadline for the four programs is June 6,

The Market Access Program

(MAP), at \$200 million annually, allocates funds to ag industry organizations across the United States to promote U.S. fruits, vegetables, nuts, processed products, and bulk and intermediate commodities to global consumers. The average MAP participant provides more than \$2.50 in contributions for every \$1 in federal funding it receives through the program. More information about the program and the FY 2026 funding opportunity.

The Foreign Market Development (FMD) program awards \$34.5 million annually to benefit U.S. farmers, processors, and exporters by addressing longterm foreign market import constraints and by identifying new markets or new uses for U.S. agricultural commodities. FMD recipients, which contribute

on average more than \$2.50 for every \$1 in federal funding they receive through the program, will conduct activities that help maintain or increase demand for U.S. agricultural commodities overseas. More information about the program and the FY 2026 funding opportunity.

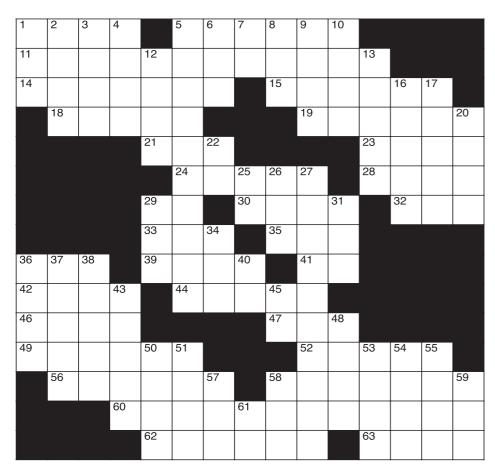
The Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program (TASC) makes available \$9 million annually to fund projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. More information about the program and the FY 2026 funding opportunity.

The Emerging Markets Program (EMP) uses \$8 million annually to support assessment and technical assistance activities intended to develop, maintain, or expand opportunities for U.S. agricultural exports in emerging markets. More information about the program and the FY 2026 funding opportunity.

Through MAP, FMD, TASC, and EMP, FAS establishes public-private partnerships with non-profit U.S. agricultural trade associations, farmer cooperatives, non-profit state-regional trade groups, state agencies, and small businesses to open markets and conduct overseas marketing and promotional activities on behalf of U.S. agricultural producers and processors.

These programs are funded by mandatory statutory funding per the direction of Congress. USDA takes seriously the disbursement of taxpayer dollars and will closely follow the program to ensure good return on investment.





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CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE DOWN ACROSS

1. Garden tool 36. Young women's 5. A way to preserve association 11. Gratitude 39. Not shallow 14. Domestic sheep 41. Doctor 15. Simpler 42. Furniture 18. Cavities containing 44. Hindu male liquid religious teacher 19. Large fish-eating 46. Highly spiced stew bird 47. A way to commu-21. Ocular protection nicate 49. Almost last index 23. Phil ___, former CIA 52. Astronomer Carl 24. Icelandic poems 56. Small horses 28. Pop 58. A slender tower 29. Device with balconies 30. Actor Rudd 60. A disrespectful 32. A pituitary horquality mone 62. Fully shaded inner 33. Focus on an object regions 35. Corpuscle count 63. Short convulsive (abbr.) intake of breath

1. Popular Sunday lives dinner option 31. Portable computer 2. Oil cartel screen material 3. Agile 34. A crying noise of 4. Greek goddess of a bird discord 36. Sticky, amorphous 5. Genetically distinct substance 37. Starchy dish of dried variety 6. Indicates badly tubers 7. Popular Mr. T char-38. Type of acid 40. Partner to "Ma" acter 8. Consumed 43.16 ounces 45. The Bay State 9. Chinese dynasty 10. NFL great Randy 48. A well-defined track 12. Within or path 13. Palm trees 50. Substitution 16. Fungal disease 51. Defined period 17. Tall, slender-leaved 53. Group of toughs plants 54. Region 20. Affirmative! (slang) 55. Famed Scottish 22. A passport is one Loch 25. Two outs in baseball 57. Blood relation (abbr.) 58. Not around 26. Swiss river 59. Recipe measure-27. Deferential ment

61. Father to Junior

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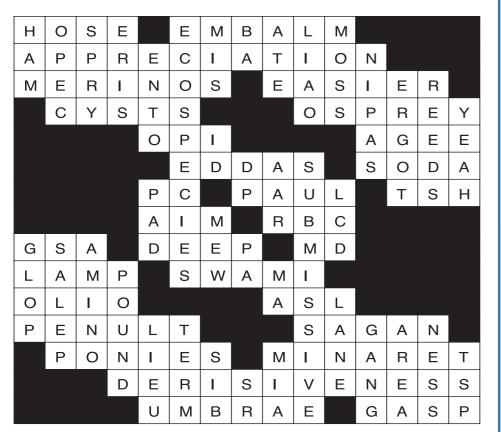
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CON'T PEEK! >>GAME ANSWERS BELOW

29. Where a bachelor



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AUCTIONS NEW LOWCOUNTRY & MIDLANDS ONLY

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

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

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ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE TO MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION S.C. NEWSPAPER READERS, YOUR 25-WORD CLASSIFIED AD WILL APPEAR IN 80 S.C. **NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY** \$375. CALL RANDALL SAVELY AT THE SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPER NETWORK, 803-750-9561.

VACATION RENTALS

THE CLARENDON HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS AT 6:15 P.M. ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT FOR JULY AND

MEETING

DECEMBER).

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

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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 FROM (FORM #371 ES) INDICATING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CLAIMANT, THE BASS OF THE CLAIM, THE AMOUNT CLAIMED, THE DATE WHEN THE CLAIM 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

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

Please take notice that Dr. Myra Pearson, Chairperson of Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership, a South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation (the "Corporation") hereby calls a special meeting of the Board of

Directors of the Corporation at 9 o'clock a.m on March 20, 2025, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the amendments to the Bylaws of the Corporation, and conducting such other business as may come before the Board. For more information, contact Claren don County First Steps at clarendonfirststeps@ gmail.com or (803) 433-2848. Dr. Myra Pearson

Clarendon County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership

FOOD

SCDES promotes food waste prevention

SUBMITTED

mtscreporter@gmail.com

During national Food Waste Prevention Week, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) reminds residents of the everyday steps they can take to limit the amount of food that gets thrown away. When food is wasted, all of the resources that went into producing the food also are wasted, and money is spent needlessly to purchase the unused food.

Food Waste Prevention Week is recognized across the country from April 7-13 this year with the purpose of educating the public about the human and environmental impacts of household food waste. Each year up to 40% of the nation's food supply is never consumed – an annual loss of \$218 billion.

Food is the number one item thrown away by Americans — and South Carolinians — each year. Don't Waste Food SC is a statewide to initiative to help reduce food waste at home.

'Wasted food squanders the land, water, energy, labor and other resources that were used to produce, package and move the food from farms and factories to people's kitchens," said Savannah Murray, program coordinator for Don't Waste Food SC. "We encourage South Carolinians to begin taking small steps to prevent food waste and help put unneeded, nonperishable food items into the hands of nearby families who may be experiencing food insecurity."

STEPS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE INCLUDE:

-Plan your meals and shop smart. Use what you have at home first. Make a list of what you need and stick to it.

-Prep smart and store smart. Prepare perishable food soon after shopping so it doesn't have time to spoil. Consider meal prepping. Freeze items. Remember FIFO: first in, first out. Be mindful of storage specifics, especially for

-Learn about date labels. Food doesn't magically spoil on label dates.

-Love your leftovers. If dining out, take your leftovers home. Be creative to make new meals from extras.

-Donate non-perishable items. One in 8 South Carolinians faces hunger, according to Feeding America. Find a food bank location near you.

Don't Waste Food SC launched in 2016 as an outreach campaign that brings together ambassadors from the public and private sectors to work together to reduce food waste in South Carolina. The outreach campaign

Increase the awareness of the economic, environmental, and social impacts of wasted food. Encourage South Carolinians to recover unwanted

food through composting and other practices. Cut South Carolina's wasted food in half by 2030.

To learn more about Food Waste Prevention Week, visit foodwastepreventionweek.com. To learn more about Don't Waste Food SC, visit des.sc.gov/dwfsc. Follow Don't Waste Food SC's handle "@dontwastefoodsc" on Instagram and Facebook for additional information and resources.



SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPER NETWORK

Contact Randall Savely 803.750.9561 | scnnonline.com

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CRIME

SLED CRACKS DOWN ON DOGFIGHTING OPERATIONS

SUBMITTED

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) has launched a new dogfighting unit as part of a statewide crackdown on organized dogfighting rings, officials announced Monday.

SLED Chief Mark Keel said the illegal blood sport is not only animal cruelty, but often tied to other violent criminal activity. "We're investigating dogfighting in every corner of South Carolina right now," Keel said during a press conference held at the agency's \$64 million crime lab on Broad River Road in Columbia.

"This is not just about dogs," Keel added. "Our agents are finding drugs, guns and large sums of cash at these scenes. This is organized crime that thrives in the shadows."

In a recent operation, SLED and local law enforcement arrested 11 people in Dillon and Marion counties. Authorities seized approximately 160 dogs, \$69,700 in cash, 55 firearms, 17 pounds of marijuana, a kilogram of cocaine, 990 fentanyl pills and more than 2,200 ecstasy pills.

Most of the suspects face multiple charges, including animal fighting, ill treatment of animals, and criminal conspiracy.

Gov. Henry McMaster also attended the press conference, holding a heavy chain commonly used to strengthen dogs for fighting. He described the cruelty involved, citing a court case where a dogfighting video shown during trial caused a court official to leave the room in tears.

"Dogfighters use bait dogs with their mouths taped shut—unable to defend themselves—so stronger dogs can practice killing," McMaster said. As state at-

E LINE DO NOT CROSS

torney general from 2002 to 2010, McMaster prosecuted several dogfighting cases.

SLED's ongoing investigations have resulted in the recovery of fighting dogs in 16 of the state's 46 counties since 2024. Arrests are also on the rise: two people were arrested in 2023, compared to 60 in 2024. So far in 2025, 54 arrests have been made and 237 dogs recovered.

Veterinary forensics expert Dr. Jennifer Bonovich, who investigates crime scenes involving dogfighting, emphasized the lifelong suffering these animals endure. "These dogs are bred from puppyhood to fight to the death," she said. "They cannot testify—but I can."

Matt Bershadker, president and CEO of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, praised South Carolina's efforts. "The type of leadership shown by Gov. McMaster and Chief Keel is unprecedented," he said.

SLED's dogfighting unit is active in every region of the state and collaborates with local law enforcement, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the ASPCA. Officials said dogfighters often travel between counties and states to participate in illegal fights.

The penalty for dogfighting in South Carolina is up to five years in prison or a \$5,000 fine, or both.

"If you're involved in dogfighting in South Carolina, we will find you, and we will arrest you," Keel said.

Marion County Sheriff Brian Wallace and Dillon County Sheriff Jamie Hamilton were also present at Monday's press event.

Anyone with information about suspected dogfighting is encouraged to contact the SLED Dogfighting Unit at tips@sled.sc.gov.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

COUNTY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOTER REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS

WHO WE ARE

Clarendon County Voter Registration & Elections is an integral part of Clarendon County government. We work closely with the SC State Election Commission and Clarendon County to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote and participate in fair and impartial elections with the assurance that every vote will count! Come work with us where... Every vote matters. Every vote counts.

THE MISSION

The Executive Director is expected to:

- Manage, plan, and direct the activities of the Department of Voter Registration and Elections Department.
- Administer and provide secure, efficient, and effective voter and election services.
- Coordinate election activities with the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, the State Election Commission, and local entities.
- Schedule and direct all elections held in Clarendon County.

A SNAPSHOT OF EXCITING THINGS YOU WILL DO:

- Manage the operation of the Voter Registration and Elections Department ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and procedures.
- Direct and supervise the duties of administrative staff and volunteers.
- Coordinate election activities with the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, the State Election Commission, and local entities.
- Plan and coordinate all voter registration procedures and sites in accordance with state law.
- Provide information to the news media, public officials and the public regarding registration and election procedures and results.
- Develop and administer the department budget to ensure effective and efficient use of budgeted funds personnel, materials, facilities, and time.

Provide administrative support to the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, as well as coordinate

- attend, and participate in Board meetings.
 Stay updated of all laws and regulations affecting public elections and registration procedures.
- Prepares certified reports reflecting registration totals, voter registration statistics, party enrollment, official vote totals for public offices, and forwards to appropriate state, county, or other agencies.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Integrity Honest and ethical in all matters.
- Independence Developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.
- Self-Control Maintain composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
- Relationships with Others: Shares knowledge with managers, supervisors, and co-workers for mutual benefit.
- Attention to Detail Being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.

WHAT YOU WILL BRING TO THE TABLE

- o Bachelor's degree in public administration, business or a related field is required.
- 3+ years of general administrative experience and/or an equivalent combination of education, certifications, training, and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Must possess State Election Commission Certification or obtain one within twelve months of becoming employed as Executive Director.
- o Must possess a valid state driver's license.
- Must be able to lift up to 10 pounds, at times, and have the ability to operate a variety of office machinery
 and equipment including computers, typewriters, calculators, adding machines, copiers, fax machines, etc..

Job Type: Full-time

Clarendon County considers qualified applicants for employment without regard to sex, race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, pregnancy, leave status, disability, veteran status, genetic information and/or any other characteristic or status protected by national, federal, state, or local law. Please tell us if you require a reasonable accommodation to apply for a job or to perform your job.

CLARENDON COUNTY IS PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EOE) AFFIRMATIVE ACTION (AA) EMPLOYER.

Please contact us at: Human Resource – Clarendon County Administration (clarendoncountygov.org) or call
803.435.9654.

Applications can be downloaded here: Clarendon County Employment Application

Manning Showcase

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

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





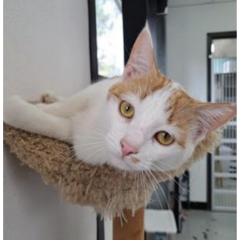
Gibbons Street Park For children 11 and under

Bring your own container.
For more information contact City
Hall, 435-8477.









«CHASE Hi, I'm Chase, a charming 6+ year-old boxer/bully mix, full of joy and love. I'm a friendly guy, always ready to greet you with a wagging tail. My favorite thing in the world is squeaky toys - they're so much fun! While I enjoy romping around and playing fetch, I don't mind lounging around either. I might be a bit choosy about my canine friends, but that's just because I want to make sure we're a perfect match. What I'm really looking for is a forever home where I can share all the love I have to give. Adopting me means gaining a friend who'll always be there for you, always ready to play and always happy to see you. I promise you won't regret it! I'm also neutered and up to date on my vaccinations.

«HERBIE Hello there! I'm Herbie, a friendly 8-month-old DSH. I'm a real chatterbox and I love to share my thoughts with anyone who'll listen. I'm also quite outgoing, always ready for a new adventure. Playtime is my favorite time of the day, but I also enjoy cuddles and quiet moments. I get along well with other cats too. I'm sweet and lovable, and I promise to bring lots of joy and laughter into your life. If you're looking for a playful and affectionate companion, I'm the one for you! I'm also neutered and up to date on my vaccinations.

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







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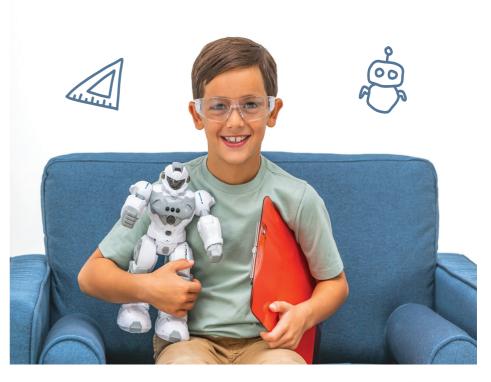
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South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis



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CHURCH DIRECTORY Alcolu Church of God of Prophecy - Alderman Can Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church - Panola Antioch Baptist Church - Jordan. Antioch RMUE Church - Pinewood. Apostolic Revival Center - Manning Melina Presbyterian Church - Sardinia Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - Summer Riggers AMF Church - S.C. 261 Fast 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

Congregation Temple Bethel - S.C. 261 Fast, Manning Cornerstone Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church

2116 Greeleyville Highway., Manning.

Cross Roads Bible Fellowship - 5546 Paxville Hwy Manning

Cypress Fork Freewill Baptist Church - Cypress Forks community

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

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 Missionary Baptist Church - 7 E. Keitt Street, Manning

Great Commission Ministries - 1631 Trinity Church Rd. I-95 & Highway 301, Alcolo

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 - Forestor

Hope Lutheran Church - American Legion, Manning.

Horse Branch Freewill Baptist Church - Turbeville

House of God - 119 W Huggins St., Manning.

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

Liberty Hill AME Church - Summerton.

Liberty Free Will Baptist Church - 2761 Liberty Church Rd., Manning. Lighthill Baptist Church - Manning.

Macedonia Church of God by Faith, Inc. - 26 Mazyck St., Summertor

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.

Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church - Horse Branch Road, Turbeville

The Master's Place - 7 S. Church Street, Manning

McKenzie Tabernacle Church - New Zion

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. Nebo Baptist Church - Plowden R

Mt. Pleasant Union Methodist Enisconal 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 Town Freewill Baptist Church - West Turbeville Highway, Lake City,

New Zion Church - Salem Road, New Zion.

Payville Rantist Church - S.C. 261 Payville Paxville United Methodist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville

Pine Grove AME Church - 7779 Kenwood Rd.

Pine Grove Church - Turbeville, SC

Prayer House Mission Church - Davis Cros

The Presbyterian Church - North Brooks Street, Manning, Dr.

Providence AME Church - Mallet Road, Manning

Rock Hill Bantist Church - Old Georgetown Road, Manning. Santee AME Church - Dingle Pond Road, Summerton

Sardinia Presbyterian Church - Sardinia

Seacoast Manning - Weldon Auditorium

Second Baptist Church - Alfred Henry Drive, Manning

Society Hill AME Church - 1030 Morella Road, Manning

Spring Hill AME Church St. James AME Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church - N. Cantev St., Summertor

St. Paul Holiness Church - St. Paul.

St. Peter AME - Rimini

Summerton Presbyterian Church - 16 South Canty Street

Summerton Southern Methodist Church

Taw Caw Baptist Church - Summerton

Trinity AME Church - 39 W. Rigby Street, Manning.

Trinity Church - U.S. 301, Alcolu

True Way Holiness Church, Highway 521 in Alcolu

Turbeville Southern Methodist Church - Turbeville.

Union Community Christian Church - Nesbitt Rd. Wyboo Community Church - 12135 Highway 260, Manning.

EDUCATION

Laurence Manning wins 2025 S.C. Children's Book Challenge



CHALLENGE. Laurence manning fifth graders pose with the award they earned. (Photo C/O Laurence Manning Academy)

SUBMITTED

mtscreporter@gmail.com

A book written and illustrated by four fifthgrade students at Laurence Manning Academy has been selected as one of the statewide winners of the 2025 Children's Book Challenge. Sadie Gamble, Ellafair DuRant, Railyn Joyner and Kayden Crisanti, creators of Uncle Phil and the Electric Adventure, were revealed as the winners of the competition's group division at the conclusion of the school's weekly chapel session on Wednesday.

The Children's Book Challenge is sponsored by Black River Electric Cooperative and the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Participating students from across the state were asked to write and illustrate a children's book that focused on staying safe around electricity. Uncle Phil and the Electric Adventure competed

against books from across South Carolina after being selected by Black River Electric as the local finalist.

"We're excited, but not surprised, that the judges were impressed with both the story and illustrations that Sadie, Ellafair, Railyn and Kayden created for their book," says Stephanie Floyd, of Black River Electric. "We hope they learned a lot and had a lot of fun participating in this contest."

The four students split a \$500 prize, and their book will be printed and mailed to elementary schools throughout South Carolina. Laurence Manning Academy librarian Rebekka Taylor let the students know about the competition and helped them get started. She received a \$250 prize.

"This was a way that our kids could be creative and put pencil to paper," says Taylor. "They learned all kinds of different things, about being a writer and working as a team, as well as the art concepts. Our teachers have come to me and said that their writing has improved since we started this."

Uncle Phil and the Electric Adventure tells the story of a family trip to "New Pork" to visit their Uncle Phil, an electric lineman with Black River Electric. Uncle Phil teaches them about how electricity works and how to stay safe. He also takes them to see "The Statue of Pigerty."

"We created the pig statue because we wanted to include something fun to help kids learn about electricity," says Kayden Crisanti.

"We're all different personalities but we worked together, and it ended up being a great book," says Railyn Joyner. "I learned that if you always try your best, you'll get something good out of it."

cooperatives have been

committed to powering

South Carolina's electric

rural communities since 1938. This concern for communities, and the future of our youth, has carried forward to today. By inspiring students to learn more about energy in our state, S.C.'s electric coops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's leaders.

The South Carolina Children's Book Challenge is cross-curricular project focused on energy education that also correlates to many South Carolina state education standards. The program is sponsored by South Carolina's electric cooperatives. Fourth and fifth-grade students in South Carolina are invited to write and illustrate a children's book about our electric cooperatives. Winning entries will be awarded cash prizes as well as an opportunity to have their books published. For more information, visit enlightensc.org/book.

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SPORTS SHORTS

NEWS

BYALEX FEAGIN & MAX-PREPS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Laurence Manning Swampcats Battle Hard in Nail-Biter Loss to Philip Sim-

Varsity Lacrosse: Philip Simmons 8, Laurence Manning 7 Friday, April 4

In a tightly contested matchup on Friday night, the Laurence Manning Academy Swampcats came up just short, falling 8-7 to Philip Simmons High in a game filled with momentum shifts and fast-paced action.

Both teams exchanged goals in the opening half, with offensive fireworks and a high-tempo transitional style defining the first two quarters. At halftime, the Swampcats trailed by a narrow margin, 6-5.

Philip Simmons extended their lead early in the third quarter, going up 7-5. In response, the Swampcats shifted their approach, adopting a slower, more controlled offense. The adjustment paid off as they clawed back to tie the game at 7-7 midway through the fourth

However, a late turnover led to a fast-break goal for Philip Simmons, giving them the decisive edge. Laurence Manning had one final opportunity in the last 90 seconds, but the comeback effort fell just short.

Defensively, Laurence Manning was anchored by strong performances from Brock Tamburello, Cade Hodge, and Gavin Brown. In goal, Phoenix Tisdale tallied five saves.

Despite the loss, the Swampcats showed resilience and teamwork, giving fans an exciting game and plenty of hope as the season continues.

(Report courtesy of Mike

Swampcats Shut Out John Paul II to Extend Home Win

Varsity Softball: Laurence Manning Academy 10, John Paul

Friday, April 4

The Laurence Manning Acadny Swampcats bounced back in a big way on Friday night, cruising to a 10-0 shutout victory over the John Paul II Golden Warriors and extending their home winning streak to 12 games.

After managing just one run in their previous outing, the Swampcats came out swingingracking up 11 hits and putting pressure on the Golden Warriors from the start. The dominant win marked the ninth time this season Laurence Manning has defeated an opponent by eight runs or more, a testament to both their offensive firepower and rock-solid defense.

Senior pitcher Kaylee Parmenter Avins was lights out once again, allowing only three hits and striking out nine in the complete-game shutout. She has now gone four straight appearances

without surrendering more than one earned run.

Offensively, Lyza Pricklemeyer had a career night, going 3-for-4 with four runs scored and a stolen base—setting a new personal best for runs in a single game. Ashley Rae Hodge added to the scoring with a 2-for-4 performance and two runs of her

Laurence Manning out-hit John Paul II 11 to 5 and kept the Golden Warriors off balance throughout the night. With the win, the Swampcats improved to 13-2 on the season, while John Paul II dropped to 1-2.

The two teams will meet again in a quick turnaround rematch scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Laurence Manning will look to continue their dominance and extend their impressive home streak even further.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

Manning High School

Manning Falls to Brookland-Cayce, Drops Tenth Straight Varsity Boys Soccer:

Brookland-Cayce 8, Manning 0 Friday, April 4

The Manning Monarchs were unable to snap their losing streak on Friday, falling 8-0 to a strong Brookland-Cayce squad in a one-sided match.

Brookland-Cayce took control early and maintained steady pressure throughout, limiting Manning's chances and capitalizing on defensive gaps. The result marks the Monarchs' tenth consecutive loss, as they continue to search for their first win of the season.

With the loss, Manning moves to 0-10 on the year, while Brookland-Cayce improves to 8-6 overall.

Looking ahead, the Monarchs will travel to face Atlantic Collegiate Academy on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. The Lions are currently riding a five-game win streak, but Manning will be looking to turn things around and bring more intensity to the field. Brookland-Cayce will return home to host Airport High on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Information sourced from

Monarchs Crush Mullins with Season-High Scoring Outburst

Varsity Baseball: Manning 20, Mullins 3

Friday, April 4 The Manning Monarchs made a statement on the road Friday night, delivering their most dominant offensive performance of the season with a commanding 20-3 victory over the Mullins

The win marks the Monarchs' fifth straight and pushes their overall record to an even 6-6. Manning's bats were on fire from the first pitch, racking up their highest single-game run total of the year and overpowering a struggling Mullins squad that has now lost 17 straight games dating back to last season.

Friday's match-up was the latest in a recent string of high-scoring outings for Manning, who previously notched 18 runs against Kingstree on March 25 and 15 runs in three separate games this season.

The Monarchs will look to ride their momentum into Thursday's home matchup against Mountain View Prep, with first pitch scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Meanwhile, Mullins will aim to regroup and break their skid when they host East Clarendon on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The Wolverines come into that game riding an eight-game winning streak.

With their offense clicking and confidence building, the Monarchs are proving to be a team to watch in the second half of the season.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

Monarchs Dominate Mullins in 16-0 Softball Shutout

Varsity Softball: Manning 16, Mullins 0

Friday, April 4

After being held to just two runs in their previous game, the Manning Monarchs softball team came roaring back on Friday with a statement win, shutting out the Mullins Auctioneers 16-0 on the road.

The victory marked the Monarchs' fifth win of the season—and their fifth by a margin of 12 runs or more. With the win, Manning improves to 5-4 overall, continuing to show dominance on both sides of the ball.

Freshman standout Shayden Epps made her presence felt in a big way. She tossed two shutout innings, allowing no hits, no runs, and no walks-marking her third straight appearance without a walk. Epps also contributed at the plate, going 2-for-3 and scoring a run.

Dakota Lambert powered the offense with an all-around performance, going 1-for-3 with three runs scored, three RBIs, and two stolen bases. She's been on a tear lately, logging at least one steal in each of her last three

Unique C also turned in a strong effort, reaching base in all four of her plate appearances while scoring twice and adding a stolen base.

The Monarchs will look to keep their momentum rolling when they host Atlantic Collegiate Academy at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Mullins, now 0-2 on the season and on a six-game losing streak dating back to last year, will face East Clarendon at home on the same evening.

With another dominant win in the books, Manning's lineup is heating up at just the right time.

Information sourced from **MaxPreps**

East Clarendon

East Clarendon Looks to Extend Win Streak on the Road Against Mullins

Varsity Baseball: East Claren-

don at Mullins

Tuesday, April 8 - First Pitch at 6:30 p.m.

The East Clarendon Wolverines will travel to take on the Mullins Auctioneers on Tuesday evening, bringing an eight-game winning streak into a matchup that pits one of the region's hottest teams against one still searching for its first win.

East Clarendon (10-4) enters the contest riding high after a dominant 14-0 shutout over Kingstree, their most lopsided win of the season. The Wolverines' offense was firing on all cylinders, reaching base at a staggering .700 clip and consistently applying pressure on the basepaths.

Kenley Sullivan was a standout in that victory, scoring two runs, stealing three bases, and reaching base in both of his plate appearances—setting a new career high for runs scored in a single game. Dawson Beard added to the offensive surge, going a perfect 3-for-3 in getting on base, with two runs and two stolen bases of his own.

With consistent production up and down the lineup, East Clarendon has averaged nearly nine runs per game during their current home win streak, which dates back to last season.

Mullins, on the other hand, continues to struggle. The Auctioneers fell 20-3 to Manning on Friday, marking their 17th consecutive loss dating back to last season. They are now 0-14 on the year and looking to turn the tide on their home turf.

The last meeting between East Clarendon and Mullins came in March 2019, when the Wolverines shut out the Auctioneers 10-0. While East Clarendon won't have the home-field advantage this time, they'll be looking to repeat that dominant performance.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

Wolverines Shut Out by Sum-

ter in Tough Road Loss Varsity Softball: Sumter 10,

East Clarendon 0

Friday, April 4

The East Clarendon Wolverines couldn't find their rhythm on Friday night, falling 10-0 to the Sumter Gamecocks in a tough road matchup.

After narrowly defeating Sumter in their previous meeting, the Wolverines were unable to replicate that success this time around. Sumter controlled the game from start to finish, handing East Clarendon its first shutout loss of the season.

The Wolverines struggled to generate offense, marking the first time this year they were held scoreless. The loss drops East Clarendon's record to 7-4 in the

Meanwhile, Sumter continues to build momentum. The Gamecocks have now won six of their last eight games, improving to 11-5-1 overall. Their consistency at the plate and in the field proved too much for the Wolverines this time out.

East Clarendon will look to bounce back on Tuesday as they travel to face Mullins at 6:30 p.m. The Wolverines will aim to regain their offensive spark and return to the win column. Sumter will take on Blythewood at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, where they'll face a pitching staff that has limited opponents to just 3.7 runs per game.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

Clarendon Hall

Clarendon Hall Falls to Calhoun Academy for Third Time This Season

Varsity Baseball: Calhoun Academy 11, Clarendon Hall 1 Friday, April 4

The Clarendon Hall Saints continued to struggle on the diamond Friday evening, falling 11-1 to the Calhoun Academy Cavaliers in their third meeting of the season.

The loss marks the Saints' 12th straight defeat dating back to last season and drops their current record to 0-6. Clarendon Hall has yet to find an answer for Calhoun Academy, who also edged them out 5-4 in a closely contested game last Wednesday.

Friday's matchup was more decisive, with the Cavaliers pulling away early and maintaining control. Calhoun Academy has now won five of its last six games, improving to 15-5 on the

Clarendon Hall currently has no additional games scheduled, while Calhoun Academy will be back in action Monday night, traveling to face a high-powered Orangeburg Prep team averaging 7.6 runs per game. First pitch is set for 7:00 p.m.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

Clarendon Hall Softball Picks Up Solid Win Over Orangeburg

Varsity Softball: Clarendon Hall 11, Orangeburg Prep 7 Friday, March 21

The Clarendon Hall Lady Saints earned a hard-fought victory on Friday, defeating Orangeburg Prep 11-7 in a high-scoring contest.

The offense came alive for Clarendon Hall, producing 11 runs to secure the win and showcase their ability to capitalize on scoring opportunities. Despite a strong effort from Orangeburg Prep, the Lady Saints maintained control throughout the game and held off a late push from their

The win marks a strong showing for Clarendon Hall as they continue to build momentum this season.

With this win under their belt, the Lady Saints will look to carry that energy into their next matchup as they continue their campaign on the diamond.

Information sourced from MaxPreps

DRIVE

Newspaper gets their can kicked by Manning FFA



GIVING. The Manning High School FFA poses with their huge collection of food donations, easily

dominating The Manning Times. (Photo C/O Logan Layne)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

mtscreporter@gmail.com

In a good-natured but lopsided contest, the students of Manning High School and Manning Junior High School's Future Farmers of America chapters handily defeated The Manning Times in the recent "Battle of the Cans" food drive.

The schools collected a whopping 1,800 cans, while the newspaper office brought in a respectable, but vastly outmatched, 300.

"This just proves what I've said all along—our students show up and show out when it comes to service," said Manning FFA Director and teacher Logan Layne. "I hope the ladies at The Times don't feel too bad. They gave it their best shot, but let's be honest—we kicked their cans."

The friendly competition, which

ran through March 21, encouraged the community to support either team by dropping off canned goods at the newspaper office or at the schools. All donations benefited local charities: United Ministries, Well Watered Ministries and Vision by Design.

While The Manning Times staff may have lost the challenge, they didn't lose their sense of humor.

"Let the record show we didn't go down without a fight," said Publisher Leigh Ann Maynard. "But honestly, we're thrilled the FFA collected so much. We may have gotten our cans kicked, but the real winners are the families in our community who will benefit from the students' hard work."

The battle may be over, but both teams agree the effort was a success and hope to make it an annual event.

"We're coming back next year," Maynard added with a grin. "And we'll be bringing more cans—and maybe a forklift."



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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.



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STRIPED BASS

Striped Bass Festival celebrates Manning's natural legacy and community spirit

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Since 1979, the Striped Bass Festival has been reeling in visitors from across South Carolina and beyond, uniting the community of Clarendon County each spring to celebrate one of its most unique natural treasures: the landlocked striped bass.

The festival, which takes place annually in downtown Manning, honors the region's distinction as home to the first documented population of landlocked striped bass in the United States. These fish, once native to saltwater environments, found a permanent

freshwater home in the lakes and waterways surrounding the area, helping to shape Clarendon County's identity as a fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

HOOKED ON HISTORY

The idea for the festival was first cast in 1979, when local leaders sought to celebrate the county's rich natural resources, particularly its thriving striped bass population. Since then, the event has grown to become a signature tradition for residents and visitors alike, blending Clarendon County's outdoor heritage with a fun-filled weekend of music, food, arts, and family-friendly activities.

"The Striped Bass Festival is about more than just fishing," said one longtime attendee. "It's about celebrating who we are as a community—our history, our landscape, and the people who make this place home."

A COUNTY RICH IN ROOTS

Manning, the festival's host city, carries its own deep historical roots. Named for John Laurence Manning, who served as South Carolina's governor from 1852 to 1854, the city stands at the heart of Clarendon County, which was named after Edward Hyde, the Earl of Clarendon and one of the original Lords Proprietors of the New World.

Over the years, the festival has expanded to include everything from fishing tournaments and fireworks to carnival rides, concerts, food truck rallies, and the beloved downtown parade. It has also incorporated educational and historical components, including events tied to the Francis Marion Trail and the Swamp Fox Murals Trail, which highlight the Revolutionary War hero's connection to the region.

A CAST OF COMMUNITY **FVFNTS**

While the striped bass may

be the namesake, it's the people of Clarendon County who make the festival truly special. Local businesses, civic groups, schools, and families all contribute to the weekend's activities, turning downtown Manning into a vibrant hub of celebration.

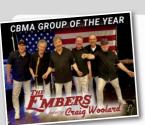
From festival queens and 5K runs to shag contests and vendor fairs, the Striped Bass Festival continues to evolve while honoring the legacy that started it all: a unique fish in a unique place, and a community proud to call it home.

For more information on this year's events, visit the City of Manning or Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce websites.

The 2025 Puddin' Swamp Festival

in Turbeville, South Carolina, will be held on April 11th, 12th and 13th. It is an annual family-friendly event.



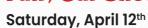


Live Music The Embers Friday, April 11th 6.30pm



Chocolate Chip and Company Saturday, April 12th 6.30pm

Student Art Contest, Craft Fair, Car Show









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The 43rd Annual Striped Bass Festival

in Manning, South Carolina, will take place on April 25-26, 2025, featuring a parade, downtown vendors, car and art shows, food trucks, and a Friday night concert.

- Friday night: Downtown concert at the gazebo
- Saturday: Striped Bass Festival Parade at 10 AM **Downtown vendors**

Food trucks

Car and art shows



The festival is a children's event. community event, festival, outdoor fun, and show/concert. Striped Bass Festival Dam Run (5k) on April 19, 2025 at Santee Dam.



Kingstree - Corporate Headquarters: 424 Sumter Hwy., Kingstree, SC 29556

Georgetown Office:

Lake City Office:

92 West Virginia Rd., Georgetown, SC 29440 349 West Main St., Lake City, SC 29560

• PUDDIN' SWAMP

Puddin' Swamp Festival honors Turbeville's history and hometown pride

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Every April, the small town of Turbeville transforms into a hub of celebration and community spirit for the annual Puddin' Swamp Festival, a three-day event that honors the area's colorful history, rural roots, and unique nickname.

First held in 2007, the festival was born out of a desire among neighbors to celebrate the town's heritage and the name that has long intrigued passersby and locals alike. Since then, the Puddin' Swamp Festival has grown into one of the state's most beloved small-town events, drawing crowds for its blend of Southern

tradition, family fun, and hometown hospitality.

A NAME WITH A STORY

The name "Puddin' Swamp" is more than just a quirky title—it's a window into the region's past. Historical records suggest that the nickname dates back to the days of William and Clem Turbeville, brothers who purchased much of the land that would become Turbeville in the 1870s. The brothers operated a general store and turpentine still in an area densely forested with longleaf pines. During that time, locals began referring to the surrounding swampy land as "Puddin' Swamp."

One enduring local legend at-

tributes the name to Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion, also known as the "Swamp Fox." According to the tale, Marion and his militia often relied on nearby farmsteads for food while navigating the swampy terrain. A popular dish during those times was rice pudding, leading the soldiers to humorously dub the area "Puddin' Swamp."

FESTIVAL ROOTS AND GROWTH

What began as a small, community-driven event has become a cherished tradition in Clarendon County. Organizers launched the first Puddin' Swamp Festival in 2007 to

promote local pride and shine a light on Turbeville's distinctive identity. Over the years, the festival has steadily grown in size and popularity, becoming a signature event on South Carolina's spring calendar.

A WEEKEND OF FESTIVITIES

Today, the Puddin' Swamp Festival is packed with activities for all ages. The event features a lively parade, live music, food vendors, craft shows, and amusement rides. Festivalgoers can stroll through rows of local goods, admire classic cars during the car show, and enjoy performances from regional artists.

One of the highlights is the playful "Miss Swamp Bottom"

beauty contest, which captures the lighthearted spirit of the festival. Other popular attractions include bingo, fireworks, and the Puddin' Swamp Olympics, a crowd favorite that invites friendly competition and lots of laughs.

Whether you come for the funnel cake, the shag dancing, or just the warm welcome, the Puddin' Swamp Festival offers a nostalgic nod to the past and a joyful celebration of community—Doin' the Stomp, as the town's slogan proudly declares.

For more information about this year's event or to learn more about Turbeville's history, visit www.townofturbeville.com.

• STRIPED BASS

Striped Bass Festival brings a month of celebration to Clarendon County

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

What began in 1979 as a tribute to Clarendon County's unique natural resource—the landlocked striped bass—has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the year. The Striped Bass Festival, presented in 2025 by HopeHealth, offers a full slate of family-friendly events, athletic competitions, community showcases, and cultural celebrations throughout the month of April, all leading up to a high-energy "Super Weekend" on April 25–26.

The 2025 festival kicked off in style with the SBF Pageant on March 29 at Weldon Auditorium, where contestants took the stage for an afternoon of grace, glitter, and community pride. The excitement continued on April 5 with the Striped Bass Festival Pickleball Tournament, drawing players of all ages and skill levels to the courts for a morning of competition and camaraderie.

Now, as the countdown continues, here's a look at the events still to come:

APRIL 12 – SANTEE COOPER OPEN TEAM TOURNAMENT (S.C.O.T.T.)

Anglers cast their lines into the waters at John C. Land III Landing in Summerton for a shot at a guaranteed \$5,000 firstplace prize. With an optional "Big Fish" entry and plenty of big memories, the S.C.O.T.T. tournament remains a staple of the festival's fishing legacy.

APRIL 19 – DAM RUN 5K

Runners of all ages laced up for the Dam Run 5K at the Santee Dam, enjoying scenic views and fresh air while embracing the festival spirit. The event combined fitness with fun and kicked off the festival's final countdown to Super Weekend.

APRIL 25 – OPENING CERE-MONIES

Downtown Manning comes alive at 6 p.m. with Opening Ceremonies. Enjoy live music from Soul Candy, carnival rides, and food from a variety of local vendors as the community gathers to kick off the biggest

weekend of the festival.

APRIL 26 – SUPER SATUR-DAY HIGHLIGHTS PARADE – 10 A.M.

March to the rhythm of community pride at the Striped Bass Festival Parade, featuring floats, classic cars, marching bands, civic groups, and more. It's a perfect moment to make memories on the festival route.

CAR & ART SHOW – ALL DAY

Cruise into downtown for the Car & Art Show, a favorite among visitors. View stunning classic cars and enjoy art created by children and adults alike at the Manning City Fire Department (38 West Boyce Street). Artists may submit up to four family-friendly works, with options to display and sell.

VENDORS – ALL DAY

Explore local crafts, food, and merchandise with a stroll through downtown vendors. From tasty bites to one-of-a-kind handmade goods, it's the perfect place to shop local and soak in the atmosphere.

For the full schedule and updates, visit www.clarendon-county.com/SBF or contact the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce at chamber@clarendoncounty.com.

Whether you're casting a line, running a race, or dancing in the streets, the 2025 Striped Bass Festival is ready to deliver a celebration worthy of its legendary



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PUDDIN SWAMP

'Do the Stomp' at Puddin' Swamp Festival

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY THINGS OFF mtscreporter@gmail.com

With fair rides, food trucks, live music, and hometown charm, the Puddin' Swamp Festival returns April 11–13 to downtown Turbeville, offering a full weekend of family-friendly fun under the theme "Doin' the Stomp."

The three-day celebration will feature live performances, arts and crafts, a car show, fireworks, and gospel singing—along with the ever-popular Puddin' Swamp Olympics and parade. Hosted on and around the green in downtown Turbeville, the festival honors the town's heritage while bringing together the community and visitors for a springtime tradition unlike any other.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 - KICKING

5–10 p.m. – The weekend opens with food trucks lining the green and Gamble Street, while the fair rides come to life.

5:30 p.m. - The festival parade steps off from Pope and

6 p.m. - Welcome and announcements will be made from the main stage by Dan E.

6:30-9:30 p.m. - The Embers, featuring Craig Woolard, take the stage for a lively concert to cap off opening night.

10 p.m. – Festival grounds close for the evening.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 - A **FULL DAY OF FESTIVITIES**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. - Vendors open on the green with local goods,

crafts, and community booths.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. - The classic Car Show rolls onto Smith Street near Community Pharmacy and Gibbons Drug Co. Registration runs from 9 to 11 a.m., with judging at 1 p.m. and winners announced at 2 p.m.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Art Show open at the History Center (on the green).

10 a.m. – Official opening ceremony on the main stage with Dan E. Lockemy.

10 a.m. – Fair rides reopen. 11 a.m. - "Dancin' on Main" lights up the stage.

12 p.m. – Announcements and awards, including Beauty Queen recognitions, Art Show winners, and a spotlight on the

1 p.m. – Kellys Fine Arts performs on stage; Todd's Twisted

Balloons entertains kids on the green until 3 p.m.

2 p.m. - The Step Team takes the stage.

3 p.m. – The crowd-favorite Puddin' Swamp Olympics bring friendly competition to the stage.

4:30 p.m. - Shag lessons will get the crowd moving.

6:30-9:30 p.m. - Chocolate Chip and Company performs on the stage with high-energy entertainment.

9:30 p.m. - Fireworks light up

10 p.m. - Festival grounds close for the night.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 - CELE-BRATION AND SONG

1 p.m. - Fair rides reopen for one final afternoon.

1-6 p.m. - The Art Show

reopens at the History Center.

1 p.m. - Gospel singing begins on the stage with performances from:

- -Circle of Friends -Amy Glover
- -Karen Hilton Sanders -Judy Cooper
- -Fawn Pedalino
- -Matthew Varn

5:45 p.m. - Closing Ceremony on the main stage

6 p.m. - The festival officially comes to a close.

Festival-goers are encouraged to bring chairs and sunscreen and come ready for a weekend of good food, great music, and small-town celebration.

For more information and event updates, follow the Town of Turbeville or the Puddin' Swamp Festival Facebook page.

STRIPED BASS

Pickleball tournament serves up fun competition





PICKLEBALL. Pickleball players engage in a friendly tournament that is part of the Striped Bass Festival activities. (Photo C/O CC Chamber of Commerce)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The courts were full of energy, laughter, and lively competition on Saturday, April 5, as the Striped Bass Festival Pickleball Tournament brought together players and fans from across the region for a spirited day of matches at the Clarendon County Recreation Complex and the City of Manning courts.

Hosted as part of the annual Striped Bass Festival, the tournament welcomed players of all skill levels for a morning of fun and friendly competition. With a \$30 per player or \$60 per team entry fee, participants had the chance to compete for over \$200 in prizes and bragging rights in this fast-growing sport that

continues to gain popularity in Clarendon County and beyond.

"What an incredible day on the courts!" said the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce in a post following the event. "From fierce rallies to big laughs, the tournament was packed with energy, sportsmanship, and hometown spirit."

The event was made possible thanks to the support of Thompson Construction Group Inc., which served as the tournament's presenting sponsor. Organizers also gave special recognition to Chamber Board member and Tournament Director JoAnn Weinberg Eaddy, whose leadership and planning helped make the tournament a success.

"A huge shoutout to Thompson Construction Group Inc. for sponsoring this year's tour-

nament," the Chamber wrote. "Your support helped bring the community together for a fun, competitive, and memorable event."

The Striped Bass Festival continues throughout the month of April with a wide range of events and activities planned for residents and visitors of all ages.

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