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The Manning Times

• FAITH

"Who will bring us together?" A call to heal, to pray, to love



SONG. Claire Miles sings "God Bless Our Native Land," accompanied by her father, Rev. Daniel Miles, and mother, during the Fourth Annual Clarendon County National Day of Prayer Breakfast held May 1 at Manning United Methodist Church. The musical tribute was one of several moments of reflection calling for national healing and unity. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Fourth Annual Clarendon County National Day of Prayer Breakfast was held Thursday morning at Manning United Methodist Church, where residents, pastors, elected officials, and community leaders gathered in a spirit of humility and hope, united in prayer for the nation and for one another.

The event, themed "Heal Our Land," was co-chaired by Manning Mayor Julia A. Nelson and Clarendon County Council Chairman Jay Johnson. Scripture readings, solo performances, and intercessory prayers centered on renewal, repentance, and reconciliation, culminating in a keynote address by retired Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr.

The call for healing was perhaps most poignantly expressed in a moment of quiet conviction from Cooper: "Who is going to bring us together?" he asked the room. "Who is going to speak to unity, to harmony? Right here and today. That's why we are here."

Cooper, a Maysville native and longtime public servant in Clarendon County, reflected on the fractures in American political, religious, and social life. In a speech that was both personal and deeply spiritual, he pointed to the divisions that dominate public discourse—from political party polarization to denominational rifts—and urged attendees to start rebuilding unity through faith and individual action.

"The enemy is us," Cooper said, quoting political cartoonist Walt Kelly's adaptation of the War of 1812 message: "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Cooper

See **PRAYER**, Page **4**

EDUCATION

School board hears second budget reading and celebrates student achievement

mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County School District Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, with major highlights including the celebration of student academic achievements, discussion and approval of the second reading of the district's proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and public comments raising concerns about property usage and legislative impacts on school

The meeting began with an invocation led by Rev. Johnnie Lawson and proceeded with a series of public comments. Among the speakers were Clarendon County residents Charles L. and George Frierson, both of whom inquired about

future plans for the soonto-be-closed Walker-Gamble Primary School and accessibility concerns related to Rainbow Lake Road.

Frierson also announced upcoming commemorations of the Briggs v. Elliott case, a Clarendon County origin of the historic Brown v. Board of Education



Supreme Court decision, and shared information on veteran recognition events being planned in Sumter.

Dr. Adrian Frierson, on behalf of the **Brilliant Minds** of South Carolina program, requested use of Walker-Gamble's gymnasium for a proposed six- to nineweek summer

enrichment program for children ages 5

The board then recognized a large group of students for their outstanding academic performance. Eighth graders who qualified as Junior Scholars based on high PSAT scores and high school students with perfect scores on endof-course exams were honored. "These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our students, the support of their families and the hard work of our educators," said Dr. Keisa Carr, Director of Communications and Community Relations. "They also serve as clear evidence that we are making strong academic strides across the Clarendon County School District. Congratulations to each of you. We are proud of your excellence and excited for your future."

EVENT

See **BOARD**, Page **4**

BirdFest 2025 draws record crowds with bluegrass legends and rising stars

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

With sunshine on Friday and a brief spell of rain Saturday afternoon, BirdFest 2025 still drew enthusiastic crowds who stayed—and came back—for an unforgettable weekend of bluegrass and Americana music at The Wildlife Education Center in Pinewood.

Held in the heart of Clarendon County, the festival brought together music lovers from across the region for performances on two stages, vendor favorites, and heartfelt community spirit. Even as showers rolled in Saturday, many fans remained, umbrellas in hand, and returned in full force for the evening's legendary headlin-

See **BIRDFEST**, Page **5**

From the soul-stirring harmonies of Holler Choir to the legendary sounds of Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, this year's BirdFest delivered on every note.

LEGENDS TAKE THE MAIN STAGE

One of the weekend's most anticipated acts, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, did not disappoint. Skaggs, a 15-time GRAMMY winner and member of both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame, took the stage Saturday evening backed by his powerhouse band: Russ Carson, Jake Workman, Dennis Parker, Gavin Kelso, Mike Rogers, and Billy Contreras. Together, they delivered a performance that honored the traditional sounds of bluegrass while thrilling the audience with modern

ORGANIZATION

Battle-Bryant confirmed as first director of Statewide Workforce Development office

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Dr. Rebecca Battle-Bryant, a longtime workforce development leader and

Summerton resident, has been confirmed as the first director of the newly created The appointment was made by Gov. Henry

BATTLE-BRYANT See **DIRECTOR**, Page **5**

South Carolina Office of Statewide Workforce Development (OSWD). McMaster in December

Dr. Rebecca

and confirmed by the Senate on April 16. The position, established by the Statewide Education and Workforce De-

velopment Act of 2023, will serve as the coordinating hub for all state-level workforce development efforts. Housed within the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), the OSWD is tasked with aligning agencies, institutions, and employers to create a more unified, accessible system for both job seekers and

"When they first approached me, I was shocked—but honored," said Battle-Bryant, who left behind a successful con-





FORECAST

81 high, **66** low







Patsy WILLIAMSON

Patsy Elaine Gray Williamson, 81, widow of James Larry Williamson, died Friday, May 2, 2025, at Lake Marion Nursing Facility.

Born July 11, 1943, in Kingstree, she was the daughter of the late Ralph Edward Gray and the late Eunice Olivia Brown Gray. She was the owner and operator of Pat Tours. She established Williamson Research Services. She was a member of Manning First Baptist Church and served in several capacities including church secretary, Sunday School teacher, Handbell & Adult choirs, Outreach Director and several committees. She previously served on the Board of Visitors of the Children's Bureau of South Carolina.

She is survived by three children, Larry Blaine Williamson (Susanne) of Barnwell, Olivia Kay Hale of Manning and Jennifer Anne Williamson of Lexington; three grandchildren, Charles Tyler Hale of Greer, Forrest Everette Williamson of Clyo, GA and Hailey Anne Williamson of Beech Island; three sisters-in-law, Harriette Gray of Olanta, Jackie Tiller of Knoxville, TN and Linda Williamson of Kingstree; and a brother-in-law, Otto Williamson (Peggy) of Kingstree.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two children, Allan Gray Williamson and Amy Joyce Williamson; a brother, Ralph E. Gray, Jr.; sister-in-law, Gail Gray; nephew, Ralph E. Gray III; three nieces, Suzanne L. Gray, Robin Williamson Long and Brooks Renee Williamson; and three brothers-in-law, Ray Tiller, Richard Williamson and Billy Williamson.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at Manning First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Phillip Reynolds and the Rev. Larry Kennedy officiating. Burial will follow in the Manning Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Rich Williamson, Brad Williamson, Forrest Williamson, Tyler Hale, Barry Ham, Lin Ham, Craig Varn and Matt Varn.

Honorary pallbearers will be the TEL Sunday School class of Manning First Baptist Church and Michael Varn.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025, at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 617 Pickwood Drive, Manning.

Memorials may be made to Manning First Baptist Church, 49 W. Boyce Street, Manning, SC 29102, or to the Clarendon Christian Learning Center, P.O. Box 911, Manning, SC 29102.

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



Leslie GAINEY

Leslie Ernest "Ernie" Gainey, 71, husband of Edna Dora Burkett Gainey, died Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at Morrell Rehab Center in Hartsville.

Born June 21, 1953, in Hartsville, he was a son of the late Carl Pinckney Gainey and the late Annie Lou Dalrymple Gainey. He lived in Hartsville for most of his life and moved to Manning in 2008 to be closer to his grandchildren. He attended Summerton Baptist Church until his health failed.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years of Manning; two children, Georgina Coffey (Frank) of Manning and Spencer Gainey of Hartsville; two grandchildren, John Coffey and Meredith Coffey; two brothers, Mike Gainey (Rhonda) and Reggie Gainey (Tonda), both of Hartsville; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Clarendon Memorial Gardens, 1237 Bloomville Road, Manning, with the Rev. Danny Holly officiating.

The family will receive friends immediately following the graveside service and other times at the residence, 1500 Doral Drive, Manning.

Memorials may be made to Samaritan's Purse, www. samaritanspurse.org.

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



Sammie PRINCE

Sammie Lee Prince, 87, died Sunday, April 27, 2025 at his residence. He was born August 30, 1937 in Manning, SC. A son of the late Jasper Prince and reared by Isaac and Clara Prince.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Thursday, May 1, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St. Manning, SC. Burial will follow in Hilton Cemetery, Manning, SC.



• CLUB NEWS

Rotary roundup: Beekeeper shares buzz-worthy insights on hive life and honey



NATURE. Samantha McManus, local beekeeper and guest speaker, inspects a ground bee nest at the home of



BEES. Samantha McManus shares the fascinating world of bees—from hive dynamics to honey harvesting—during her presentation to the Manning Rotary Club. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning Rotary Club welcomed a sweet and spirited presentation from Samantha McManus at its weekly meeting, where she shared her experience as a local beekeeper, educator and pollinator advocate. McManus, who began beekeeping in 2019, is the wife of Rotarian and Reverend David McManus of Manning United Methodist

"I did not bring any bees," she assured members at the start, "but I do want to talk about why these tiny creatures

matter."

McManus began by emphasizing the importance of South Carolina's native solitary bees—many of which nest in plant stems or soil rather than hives. She encouraged Rotarians to support pollinator habitats by maintaining "messy" gardens over winter, leaving behind flower stalks where native bees often lay their eggs.

When it comes to honey bees, McManus spoke passionately about her own hive, located beside the parsonage. She walked the club through the structure and dynamics of a working beehive, sharing fascinating facts about the different types of bees—worker bees, drones, and queens.

"The worker bees are all female and live about six weeks," she said. "They do everything from collecting pollen and nectar to guarding the hive and

caring for the young."

Drones, or male bees, play a far simpler role: they mate with queens and die shortly afterward. "They don't forage or help in the hive. In the fall, the females chew off their wings and throw them out. It's ruthless,"

McManus joked.
She explained that honey bees are classified as livestock and are essential to agriculture.

Her hive recently produced 30 pounds of honey, with more expected during this spring's "honey flow," when flowers are

abundant and nectar is plentiful. McManus also shared insight into the queen bee's demanding role. "A queen lays 1,500 to 2,000 eggs a day," she said. "She can live up to five years unless the hive decides she's underperforming—then they replace

The club learned how bees create products like beeswax, propolis, and royal jelly, all of which have applications in skincare and medicine. McManus brought samples of honey and wax, noting that she uses her beeswax to make lip balms and hand salves, sold locally at Whimsi in Manning.

When asked about local honey's health benefits, McManus explained that lightly filtered honey still contains local pollen, which can ease allergies. "I used to have terrible allergies," she said. "Now, after working with bees and breathing it in all the time, I've noticed a huge difference."

She concluded with helpful tips for avoiding stings and what to do if stung, including scraping the stinger out rather than pinching it, to reduce venom absorption.

Samantha McManus' informative and engaging talk left the Rotary buzzing with curiosity and appreciation for the vital role bees play in ecosystems, medicine, and even backyard gardens.

President Johnson James thanked McManus for her visit and invited members to grab one of her cards to follow her beekeeping updates online. The meeting concluded with reminders about next week's scholarship presentations.

The Manning Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at Porter Jack's in Manning. For more information and club news, follow the club on Facebook.

• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

Building buildings

Have you ever built something? House, model, clubhouse, hunting lodge, restore an old car, re-mod-



Bobby **JONTE**

el existing house, or any other type of building or such that might need work: anything could count as building.

You probably have gotten involved with some type of building project in one form or another. You wouldn't necessarily have to be involved with picking up a hammer or hauling lumber.

You could be on a planning committee or a finance committee. You could arrange for getting plans or ordering materials. There are lots of different things you could be involved in. You might be a designated worrier or complainer. You might just not do anything except tell people doing the work that they are doing it incorrectly. All those things are happening in any building project.

A building project has a plethora of jobs and they all seem to be needed for a building. Let's get with the first one. Someone has to do something that involves action. A bricklayer told me that the hardest part of his job was starting. He always said that if he could get some mortar mixed and put one brick in place the rest was easy. He did big jobs and usually put bricks on the exteriors of building. He told me about driving up to a church and his job was to put up the exterior walls. He and his son showed up at the job site. There were stacks of bricks and pallet loads of mortar and piles of sand all around the yard. His son looked at the tall walls and asked his dad how were they going to finish the job. The dad replied that they wouldn't be able to finish it unless they got started. "Let's get out of the truck and go to work." They finished the job right on time once they got started.

Action saved the day on that one. Actually, planning is the first and hardest part of any building job. What is it that you want to build? You've got to know what it is you want, what materials will be needed, and who can do this kind of work? This is before anything is done. Planning can keep a building project simple or complex. The planning can also lead to maybe the hardest part of the building project: finance. How much will this thing cost? Who is going to pay for it? Have we lost our minds?

I was looking at a picture of a church the other day. The church bulletin had a picture of several church buildings. One building was built in the 1890's and another picture was of the present church built in the 1960's. One wizened old woman that was the oldest member in the church told me about the near riot at the finance committee meeting about building the church. Half the church was praying for a new building and the other half was praying to keep the old building. Cost was the biggest complainant about the new church. The old member remembered that the church was so expensive that it would never be paid for. The end of time would come before this giant building could be paid for. She claimed that they just didn't have any faith and when this too expensive church was completed and the members were through cussing each other out, they paid for it in five years. Several years later, everyone agreed that they should have built the church twice the size.

The cost of things does have a way of getting in the way of a big building project. One guy was building his house and the project was getting more expensive than what he wanted. He was trying to think of ways to cut costs. His contractor told him that he was starting to put in the chimney. There was an ash dump that was supposed to be put in the chimney. They could leave out the ash dump and that would save \$20. He thought he could carry out ashes and save that twenty dollars. What a good idea. He said that he has been carrying ashes out of the fireplace and making a mess for the last fifty years. He did save that \$20 way back then.

Any building project can cause all sorts of friction and turmoil for all sorts of reasons. It can cause businesses to fail, churches to spilt and even lead to divorces over trying to complete a building project.

We know that disagreements can be pretty bad. Seemingly small differences can cause big fights. Luckily building projects don't lead to fist fights but they could. People will fight over small things. Just the other day they had a big fight at the nail salon. Seems a person from the dentist's office came in and got into a fight. They had to call the SWAT team. Police reported that they were fighting tooth and nail.

• LIFE IN THE PALMETTO STATE

The Works Progress Administration

If you are not at least my age, early 60's, or older, then this will Lee probably be a foreign

REAVES probably be a for term to you.

It may even be foreign to some older than me, but if you are familiar with this term, or more specifically, had a part in it, you would have to agree that its sweeping installment was transformational in our national landscape.

You see, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was formed to put people back to work after the economic ravages of the Great Depression. On October 29, 1929, where the US found itself in an unemployment and banking nightmare, the likes of which we have never seen and hopefully never will again.

While the banks were in turmoil and complete disarray, the unemployment was worse. The overall unemployment number nationwide was estimated to be 25%, but in some areas, it was figured to be as high as 50%. Out of every two people, one was out of work, and the one that was working didn't make enough to cover their bills and therefore life was extremely tough-to the point of losing belongings to foreclosure.

After 1929 and its devastating blow, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), was elected President in 1932. One of his platform issues was putting people back to work in what was called the New Deal.

Now, the New Deal was a comprehensive plan to restructure the struggling US economy and unemployment woes, as well as get us back on track to national prosperity.

Now while it is not my intent to debate the pros and cons of his unconventional policies, I do intend to discuss the aspects of the WPA projects nationally and then bring to light the impact it had on our beloved county.

There were actually two phases of the new deal.

The first phase of the New Deal was from 1933 to 1934 in which his primary push was to get the banking industry back on its feet. This, hopefully, would start the long journey back to national stability and solvency. A caveat to this approach was to put in place safeguards to prevent a recession of this magnitude ever happening again.

The second phase of the New Deal, 1935 to 1938, was to focus on our natural resources, giving farmer's relief, and to set up programs to get people back to work–more specifically through the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC).

Some of the projects the CCC undertook was planting trees to build windbreaks in the Midwest. Their aim was to curtail the destruction of the wind through dust storms by establishing a root system that would stabilize the soil, establishing fire lines, and build forestry lookout towers to assist in pre suppression efforts to get ahead of wildfires.

While the CCC was focused on the youth, targeting ages 18 to 25, the WPA sought out the older, more skilled workers to perform tasks necessary to improve our nation's infrastructure. Such as building roads, bridges, dams, and other heavy

infrastructure fixtures.

Both groups, however, were given food, shelter, healthcare, and educational skills. After all that the government provided for you, you were still paid, but the plan was that you had to send a portion of your paycheck back home.

One of the larger undertakings

of WPA during its lifespan was the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) whereby they dammed up the Tennessee River to generate electricity, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), as well as controlling the massive flooding and devastation brought on by a swollen river that got out of its banks during certain times of the year.

Now, the construction of the Santee Cooper lakes project or the South Carolina Public Service Authority, was likened to a project of the TVA.

Side note: For those of you that don't know, the name Santee Cooper is just basically a nickname for the Santee River and the Cooper River, respectively, because its governmental name was such a mouthful—The South Carolina Public Service Authority.

When this movement came to our neck of the woods to begin the Santee Cooper project, workers came out of the woodwork to clear the woods, excavate, and haul the dirt that built the 26 miles of earthen dams and dikes that would eventually back up the water used for recreation and power generation.

Now there were makeshift WPA camps all over this region to house these workers engaged in this massive project, some permanent and some mobile depending on where the work was going on.

Most clearing activities were done with axes and crosscut saws. The trees in these affected areas were massive. I have worked in these swamps most of my professional life and still marvel at their size.

The interesting fact about the Santee Cooper project, which began in 1939, is that it was completed in a little over two years because President Roosevelt deemed it a national defense project after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in late 1941. So, all of the outfall outlets used to allow the water from the Santee River to keep flowing out of what would be the lakes to continue construction, had to be closed off so that the reservoirs, Lakes Marion and Moultrie, filled up to flow through the hydro plant and generate electricity to send power to the Pittsburgh Metallurgical Company. That is where they produced ferrochromium, a key defense material used to harden steel on ships and tanks at its North Charleston plant.

This meant that the Pinopolis project, presently known today as the Jefferies Hydroelectric Station, had to accelerate the construction to begin the process of rapidly generating electricity for the war effort.

Now the interesting fact I stated earlier was not that we had a large stake in WWII, but what the "accelerated construction effort" entailed.

At the time that this war declaration was proclaimed, Lake Moultrie had been predominantly cleared and was ready to be filled, however, Lake Marion had not. The construction project had no choice, because of the President's decree, but to take unconventional measures to close the spillway gates and raise the elevation of the water from the river.

The problem lay in what was to be done with the debris from the clearing process.

They decided to pile the felled trees and stumps up and cable/chain them to the unearthed stumps. This assisted in the accelerated effort needed to flood these reservoirs and start generating electricity badly needed for the war effort.

So, because of the resolve of these men, this massive project circa 1930's

- 1940's, was finished in an amazing 27 months—a feat inconceivable in today's time.

To bring this historical buggy ride to a close, a myriad of issues had to exist for this project to even be conceivable.

First, there was the depression of '29 thereby causing a tremendous need to put people back to work after the devastation of that dark October in 1929.

We also had the effects of an economic downturn going on in the south, especially South Carolina, in the cotton and the timber industry mostly. Its "fall from grace," if you will, began to weaken a burgeoning economy that juxtaposed what was a thriving way of life and then crushed all normal efforts to subsist. So, the depression basically came through and got what little they had left.

The lack of rural electrification to not only improve the way of life, but to provide the basic amenities of a basic life was not there.

From the new deal perspective, they not only addressed the ill effects of an uncontrollable river but the horrible consequences of the devastating outbreak of malaria that came with a high death rate.

FDR's new deal was addressing all the aspects of the above litany of challenges facing South Carolinians but then the Japanese had to complicate things by their bombing of Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

"A day that will live in infamy" rang out in the president's speech. (Remarks from his speech on the 8th of December 1941 regarding the tragic bombing of our base in Oahu, Hawaii.)

So, now our social project had become a wartime project changing the game plan entirely.

Whatever it took to get electricity to Charleston was done to produce the aforementioned ferrochromium for the war effort.

On February 17, 1942, Santee Cooper sent electricity from Jefferies hydro generating plant to Charleston for the first time and still does today.

Now you might ask why the historical excursion of something that happened almost a hundred years ago?

Basically, I love history, but more

than that, to be able to look back on the impact our area had on these incredibly tough times and its involvement on the world stage. I hope by your reading this, you

can grasp the enormity of the impact the lakes have had on history—not just for fishing and boating.

In closing, there are few people that I would like to thank that I couldn't have done it without them to write this article.

Don Brice, a resident of Clarendon County, is the son of the superintendent of the clearing of the lakes. I was fortunate enough that I met him and he let me pick his brain for the real story. In fact, the accompanying picture of the man standing on the stump with the transit was his father.

Also, to ladies at the Clarendon County Archives, Ms. Witherspoon and Ms. McFadden, and Ms. Howard from the Harvin Library, I thank you profusely for your assistance.

And to an anonymous Gentleman who is one of the smartest men I know–thanks.

I hope you enjoyed this historical journey down memory lane.
May God richly bless you.

MAY 10

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 9

CCTC GRADUATION 10AM OR 3PM, SUMTER CIVIC CENTER

FLEA MARKET, PLEASANT GROVE

RESTORATION PROJ. 12-5 PM, 1012

MAY 5-9

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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Special Occasion?

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WORSHIP. Community members and law enforcement officers participate in a moment of group worship during the Fourth Annual Clarendon County National Day of Prayer Breakfast. The gathering drew residents and leaders from across the county in a shared call to faith and reconciliation. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)



DINING. Attendees, including Manning High School AFJROTC cadets, line up for a hot breakfast following the National Day of Prayer service at Manning United Methodist Church. The meal was prepared and served by the church's Men's Fellowship. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

PRAYER

FROM PAGE 1

added, "That's good news, and bad news. The good news is that we only have to correct ourselves."

He drew from 2 Chronicles 7:14, reminding attendees of the biblical formula for national restoration: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..."

Cooper emphasized that prayer must be more than a passive noun, it must become an active verb. "Prayer cannot just remain in our lives as a thing," he said. "It has to become a word of action."

Rev. David D. McManus Jr., pastor of Manning United Methodist

Church, delivered the prayer for the nation, laying bare the nation's spiritual condition. "We are a people obsessed with self," he said. "And yet You—God—allow us to come to Your throne of grace. So Lord, bless and judge us. For Your judgment is Your truest blessing."

His prayer called not just for blessing but for transformation. "Break down the walls of hostility that separate and bind and destroy us," McManus prayed. "Remind us that every last one of us exists for the other and not for ourselves."

Additional prayers were offered for the Clarendon County community by the Honorable R. Ferrel Cothran Jr., who reminded the crowd, "It truly matters how we love each other." Musical performances included solos by Dr. Brenda C. Clark and Ms. Claire Miles, accompanied by her father, Rev. Daniel Miles.

The event, sponsored by local businesses and organized by the Summerton and Manning Rotary Clubs, served breakfast prepared by the Men's Fellowship of Manning United Methodist Church. Mayor Nelson closed by thanking those who made the event possible and reminded guests to carry the morning's message forward.

"Let us take his words to heart," Nelson said of Cooper's address. "So that we can be the change."

The morning closed in prayer led by former council chairman Dwight Stewart: "May we, as Your people, go forward and share those blessings with those whom You love"

As the community looks forward to next year's fifth annual gathering, the call remains simple and urgent: love God, love your neighbor, and pray with action.



SERMON. Retired Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Cooper Jr. delivers the keynote address at the Clarendon County National Day of Prayer Breakfast. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

BOARDFROM PAGE 1

GE 1 overnight field trips were approved, includ-

-Scotts Branch High School JROTC's summer camp at Fort Jackson;

-East Clarendon's OPD program attending the Special Olympics in Myrtle Beach; -Manning High FFA's participation in the

state convention;
-Upward Bound enrichment trips to Chicago and Atlanta;

-FFA's national leadership conference in Orlando; and

Several -Walker-Gamble fifth graders' trip to Washington, D.C., planned for March overnight 2026. field trips

Chief Financial Officer Cathy Williams presented the second reading of the 2025–2026 general fund budget, proposing a 5.19 mill increase that would bring the district's total millage rate to 181.1 mills. Williams explained that while the increase may seem high on paper, the previous year's revenue had been conservatively estimated. The updated budget reflects a teacher salary increase of \$1,500, adjustments for health insurance premiums, employee vacancies, and other cost changes. The second reading of the budget was approved unanimously.

During the public hearing, Clarendon County Auditor Patricia Pringle addressed the board, warning of significant local revenue losses if state bill H.3858—which includes a 50% tax cut on boats and elimination of outboard motor titling—is passed. She also urged the board and public to advocate for the renewal of the 1% school debt-relief sales tax before it sunsets, noting it offsets approximately \$5 million annually for the district. "If we lose that one cent, it will increase the tax burden on property owners across the county," Pringle said.

Following an executive session, the board approved a student transfer request and accepted personnel recommendations from Superintendent Dr. J.W. Johnson.

Board Chair John Bonaparte concluded the meeting with announcements, including a ribbon-cutting for the Briggs Delaine Pearson Foundation on May 24 and the formation of a four-member policy review committee. Bonaparte echoed Pringle's call to contact legislators regarding the school sales tax.

"We all need to call our representatives and ask them to re-establish that one cent sales tax," Bonaparte said. "If not, long term, the board will have no option to upkeep our buildings, and it's going to be detrimental to our taxes. This one cent sales tax is the best thing we can do long term."

The next CCSD Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025.





MUSIC. Attendees gather in front of the main stage at the Wildlife Education Center in Pinewood, S.C., for a weekend of live music from bluegrass legends and rising stars. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

BIRDFEST

FROM PAGE 1

Closing out both Friday and Saturday night

mastery.

were Steep Canyon Rangers, North Carolina natives known for their innovative blend of Americana and bluegrass. With 14 studio albums, a GRAMMY win, and past collaborations with actor and banjoist Steve Martin, the group captivated fans with rich harmonies and standout solos. Mandolinist Mike Guggino and bassist Barrett Smith even returned Saturday afternoon for a special second stage set.

SPOTLIGHTS ON RISING ARTISTS

Friday's acts included the energetic Cosmic Possums, the soul-drenched sounds of Holler Choir, and the all-women string band Della Mae, who earned standing ovations for their performances rooted in storytelling and activism. Della Mae's Celia Woodsmith and Kimber Ludiker led the group with passion and power, blending fiddle-driven melodies with bold vocals.

Saturday's early lineup introduced festival goers to emerging favorites like Stoneface Mountain, a Boston-based group of young musicians keeping the genre's roots alive. Their classic sound, reminiscent of Flatt and Scruggs, was met with enthusiastic applause.

Later in the afternoon, Fireside Collective brought a burst of progressive bluegrass energy to the main stage. Winners of the 2016 MerleFest Band Contest and

known for blending folk, funk, and blues into their sets, the Asheville-based quintet had the crowd on their feet with each fiery instrumental break.

North Carolina husband-and-wife duo Chatham Rabbits delivered one of the weekend's most intimate performances with heartfelt lyrics and acoustic charm. Their set was praised for its emotional depth and simplicity, reminding listeners of the genre's storytelling roots.

MORE THAN MUSIC

The second stage featured a packed schedule of performances, including a band competition, Carolina Bluegrass Style, and a live recording of The Wiley Cash Show. Vendors offered everything from West Wind Tie Dye and Local Pie to Guat A Taco and Lawyers Barbecue, while kids and adults alike enjoyed interactive experiences from Twisted Yoga and Cookie Pics.

BirdFest 2025 was made possible by generous support from local sponsors including Simpson Construction (Platinum); Sounds of Grace, Sumter Opera House, Morgan Stanley, and Sumter Edge (Gold); and Lewis Lawn Care, A Mobile Storage, Kent Law Firm, Southern Crown Partners, and many more (Silver).

As BirdFest continues to grow, organizers say they're already planning for next year's event, hoping to expand both artist outreach and community programming.

"This weekend was about more than music," one attendee shared. "It was about connection—through every song, every story, and every smile in the crowd."

DIRECTOR

FROM PAGE 1

sulting business, Battle Plan Consulting, to accept the

role. "I just felt like we're at this odd time in our country and state's history, and we need to give of ourselves for the greater good. I know this system inside and out, and I know I can help."

Battle-Bryant has held leadership roles in higher education, private industry, and government, including as Vice President of Human Resources and Workforce Development at United Infrastructure Group, and as Assistant Executive Director for Workforce and Economic Development at DEW. She also served for more than a decade as Vice President of Corporate Training and Economic Development at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

She said her broad experience gives her a unique understanding of how to bridge gaps between employers, educational institutions, and job seekers.

"I've seen the system from a myriad of perspectives—as a hiring manager, a trainer, an administrator, and even as a parent helping my own daughter navigate college and career decisions," she said. "I've also done deep research on workforce trends in rural communities and know how intimidating these systems can be. We have to make them easier to access."

Battle-Bryant emphasized that her early priorities include understanding the work already completed by the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development—formed alongside the OSWD—and meeting with stakeholders to develop a shared vision.

"I'm not here to add bureaucracy. I'm here to bring people to the table," she said. "Everyone is doing good work in their own lanes. My role is to help us align—so

that employers can more easily find the skilled workers they need, and citizens can better navigate their path to meaningful employment."

She said one of her goals is to improve communication between state agencies and education systems, especially as employers shift to skills-based hiring models.

"Employers want to know what a graduate can actually do," she said. "There's growing skepticism about credentials alone, and we need to ensure education programs are connected to real-world applications."

She also noted the generational shift in the workforce and the importance of reaching job seekers where they are.

"Younger generations aren't looking at job listings in newspapers—they're on TikTok," she said. "We've got to adapt our outreach and make sure we're being inclusive across age, race, background, and experience."

Originally from Alabama, Battle-Bryant came to South Carolina as a teenager when her father was stationed at Fort Jackson. A graduate of Auburn University, she holds a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of South Carolina. She now lives in Summerton with her husband, Drayton Bryant, and their daughter, Vivian, who is completing a chemistry degree at Erskine College and plans to pursue engineering at Clemson with the goal of becoming a pilot in the armed services.

Battle-Bryant's first official day in the OSWD role is set for May 19. She will step down from her service on the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections Board in advance of that date.

Board in advance of that date.

While the position is new, she says the

"Workforce development has been my passion for 25 years," she said. "It's not just about jobs—it's about building a system that creates opportunity and dignity. I'm excited to do that work for the people of South Carolina."

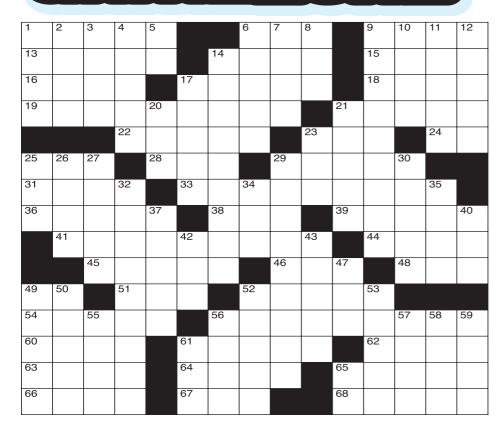








GAMEZONE



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

1. Not soft 2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword 3. Line a roof 4. Greek god of the underworld 5. Software 6. Large-headed elongated fishes 7. Shag rugs 8. Type of whale 9. Lacking a plan 10. Spill the beans 11. Some is "heavy"

12. One who has been canonized 14. Indicate times 17. Greeting

Josh 21. Seashore 23. Indicates before 25. Electrical power unit

20. Broadway actor

26. Destitute 27. Drags forcibly 29. Impropriety

30. Word forms 32. Equal to 10 meters 34. Neither

35. Computer language 37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)

Scottish origin 42. A promise 43. Challenges 47. Official

40. A woolen cap of

49. People living in Myanmar 50. Notable tower 52. Type of sword

53. Vaccine developer 55. Listing 56. Summertime

insects 57. Concluding passage 58. Guitarist Clapton 59. Damp and musty

61. Central nervous system 65. Against

1. Two-person German 38. Express with a head submarine 6. 60-minute intervals 39. Affair (abbr.) 9. Database management system 13. Vertical position

14. American jazz singer 46. Automobile 15. Ancient Greek City 16. Former Senate

51. Mouth Majority Leader Harry 17. Japanese seaport 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual 19. Assigns tasks 22. Discounts

position 28. Lentil 29. Extremely angry 31. Yellow-flowered European plant

52. Infections 54. Curved pieces of a horse collar 56. Shameless 21. Beloved type of cigar 60. Assist in escaping 61. Capuchin monkey 23. Cambodian commu-genus nist leader Pot 62. Cold wind 24. Important football 63. Retired Brazilian NBAer 25. Kilometers per hour 64. Tropical Old World 65. Bulgarian city 66. Speak indistinctly 67. Soviet Socialist 33. American state Republic 68. Between-meal 36. Some are made by rabbits sustenance

movement

41. Cured

cal period

(abbr.)

48. Focus a shot

44. Youth organization

45. 18-vear astronomi-

49. The NFL's big game

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2								

I am a singer born on May 16, 1966 in Indiana. As a young girl, I dreamt of being a jockey, but the family business of singing ultimately had a bigger pull. I became one of the most successful pop artists in history with sales from my fifth album, which bears my first

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« DON'T PEEK! »

GAME ANSWERS BELOW

9	5	8	4	3	7	2	1	6
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2	8	7	3	6	9	4	5	1

GUESS WHO



JANET JACKSON

Hospice

Our hospice services aim to provide comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families. We offer various services, including pain management, emotional and spiritual support, and assistance with daily tasks.

Our team of compassionate caregivers works closely with each patient and their family to develop a personalized care plan that meets their unique needs and preferences.



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

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LEGALS •

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AUCTIONS

STABLER FARMS RETIREMENT AUCTION. May 3, 2025 at 9 AM. 7160 Cola Rd, St. Matthews, SC. JD 333G w/Forester Hd 1112 Hrs. Tractors, combines, trucks and related farm equipment. Consignments accepted. J G Blocker Auction. 843.908.3866

LIVE ESTATE AUCTION. Selling Two Partial Estates! Sat., April 26 at 9:30am. 36 Tumbleweed Drive, Blackville, SC 29817. Lots of Furniture, Antiques, Glassware, China, 28ft Camper, 2008 Ford F150 pickup, 1998 Lincoln Town Car, 2003 Mazda Miata, Lots of Tools, Trailers, Shop Equip., Pond Boat and much more! Consignments are being accepted so please call now. Preview Friday, April 25 from 11am-6pm. Browse www.cogburnauction.com. Any further questions please call (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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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.

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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.

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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.

MEETING

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).

The meetings are held at Southern Senior Living in the Aycock Board Room located at 3147A Sumter Highway, Manning, S.C. 29102.

FOR SALE

Land for sale. Access to Lake Marion in the Potato Creek area. Property contains open clear land with trees. Call for details on 6.39 acres. 803-478-5355 ask for Barbara.

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.

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Statement Of Nondiscrimination

funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

prior civil rights activity, in any

program or activity conducted or

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or US-DA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339

Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than

English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program

Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program. intake@usda.gov.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director,

Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll-free (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Revised August 2008 (5/1-5/15)

NOTICE

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

To All Customers of Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. On Nov. 24, 1997, the South Carolina Public Service Commission designated Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. provides the supported services -- voice telephony service and broadband Internet access service – throughout its designated service area. These supported services include: -Voice grade access to the public switched network;

- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge; - Access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in the service area of Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. has implemented 911 or enhanced

911 systems; - Broadband Internet access service which includes the capability to send data to and receive data from the Internet, but excludes dial-up service. Voice telephony service is provided at rates that start at \$20 per month for residential customers and \$28.70 per month for business line customers. Broadband Internet access service is provided at rates that start at \$39.95 per month for residential customers and \$44.95 per month for business customers. Farmers Telephone Cooperative Inc. would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for voice and broadband for your area upon request.

Please call 888-218-5050 if you have any questions. (5/1-5/15)

NOTICE

To All Customers of FTC COMMUNICATIONS LLC dba FTC WIRELESS On Nov. 13, 2007, the South Carolina Public Service Commission designated FTC Communications

LLC dba FTC Wireless the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services

FTC Wireless provides wireless service for monthly rates beginning at \$70. This includes access to:

- Public switched network including a certain amount of local usage;
- Long distance services;
- Emergency services; Operator services; - Directory assistance;
- Other services designed to persons with disabilities;

- Toll (Usage) limitation service. Use of these services could result in added charges dependent upon the service and the selected service plan.

FTC Wireless would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for any of its available

services within your area upon

Please call 888-218-5050 if you have any questions. (5/1-5/15)

NOTICE OF ABANDONED WATERCRAFT To all persons claiming interest in: 1973 -14' - LONESTAR -52320352

CARRIE DETWILER of 14 South Duke St., Summerton, SC 29148Will apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft/outboard motor. If you have any claim watercraft/outboard motor, contact SCDNR at (803)734-3699. Total repair fee owed as of April 28th, 2025 is \$400.00. Upon thirty days after the date of the last advertisement, if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, the SCDNR shall issue a clear title. --(05/1-5/15)

SALE OF PROPERTY

Pursuant to Section 4-9-30 and Section 4-9-120 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, County intends to transfer Parcel hereinafter described:

Located off Lizzie Creek Road - Tax Map Parcel: 147-00-03-

Parcel shall be transferred in an "AS IS" condition and be subject to all visible and/or recorded easements, covenants, restrictions, regulations and encumbrances as may be found in the public records of the County. Documents are available online: https://clarendoncountyprocurement.sc.gov/solicitations (05/08-05/22)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLI-

See **LEGALS**, Page 8

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Johnson | DuRant, LLC,

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BY KATHERINE HUTCHINSON

mtscreporter@gmail.com

VANDALISM OF PROPERTY

On March 17, an officer was dispatched to the Manning Walmart in reference to a civil disturbance that also involved property damage. Upon arrival, the officer met with the complainant who advised that a Sierra Smith came in the store after hours without being asked or allowed in to contact her child's father who is an employee on duty at the time and that she began going around the store knocking items off the shelves and displays, causing damage to some items in the process. The complainant stated that Smith has been contacting the store repeatedly via telephone making threats and advising she will continue coming to the store and that nothing is going to stop her. Some of the items observed damaged were a few onions and approximately four cases of water bottles. The complainant advised that loss prevention was contacted and would follow up in the open hours of the business with further information after the security cameras were reviewed.

ASSAULT

On March 17, an officer responded to City Trends in Manning for a disturbance and assault. Upon arrival, the officer met with Tabitha Watson in the parking lot who was still very irate and agitated and said that she knew she was probably going to jail, but that the officer should watch the video. The officer was alone at first so Watson was asked to sit in the patrol car until things could be sorted out and she did so willingly and without incident. The officer went inside to speak with the complainants as backup units arrived. One complainant advised that Watson had purchased several items earlier and left without incident. Then, some time later, Watson returned to the

store around 5 p.m. and demanded a new bag. The complainant advised that she gave Watson a new bag and she still wasn't happy, and she then began yelling and cursing and demanding two bags. They offered her a second bag and she still wasn't satisfied. Then she started "losing it" and demanding her money back and started being aggressive. At one point she shoved a complainant and threw a metal sign stand at her while another employee was attempting to separate them. Employees as well as two witnesses advised officers that Watson was acting irrationally and there had been no reason for her actions. After confirming the altercation on video, officers placed Watson under arrest. She was cited for assualt and placed on trespass notice from City Trends.

AGENCY ASSIST

On March 17, City of Manning police units were asked to assist the Clarendon County units at the TA Travel Center in Clarendon County's jurisdiction. Manning units were advised that Clarendon County unites were not close to the scene and that they needed assistance due to a subject at the store causing a scene. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the subject. The subject was a black male with a black jacket and a book bag. The male appeared intoxicated, smelled of alcohol, and his eyes were bloodshot red. The male was having issues standing up straight, catching himself from falling by grabbing the shelf in front of him. When contact was made, the man's speech was slurred and he was rambling. The man was then detained by an officer and was escorted outside to wait for County's arrival. The officer had to keep the subject from falling over while they were walking. ID was unable to be acquired at the time due to the level of intoxication the man was under. County arrived on scene and decided to arrest him.

LEGALS

FROM PAGE 7

MON **PLEAS** FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF CLARENDON CASE NO.: 2025-CP-14-00236 Sharon Thames Plaintiff,

NA

IN THE

COURT

COM-

SUMMONS & NOTICE (Quiet Title Action)

John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim to be heirs of Bertha Thames, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability and claiming or who might claim to be an heir at lawof Berth Thames,

Defendants. **SUMMONS**

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this Action, which, together with the Summons, and Lis Pendens was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on the 29th day of April, 2025, a copy of which is hereby served

upon you and to serve a copy of your An-

swer to the Complaint on the subscribers,

PO Box 137, Manning, SC 29102, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF **GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI** YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Scott Robinson, Esquire of Clarendon, South Carolina has been appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi in the above entitled action by an Order dated May 1, 2025, and that such Order will become absolute thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons herein unless such Defendants as may be infants, incompetents, nonresidents or otherwise under any legal disability or someone in their behalf, in the meantime, shall procure the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem Nisi; and that such Order is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina. JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC BY: s/William H. Johnson William H. Johnson, S.C. Bar No. 15167 PO Box 137 – 411 N. Brooks St. Manning, South Carolina 29102 Telephone: (803) 435-0909 Facsimile: (855) 926-0923 william@jdnlawfirm.com Attorney for Plaintiff

FOREST VILLA APARTMENTS

(05/08-05/22)



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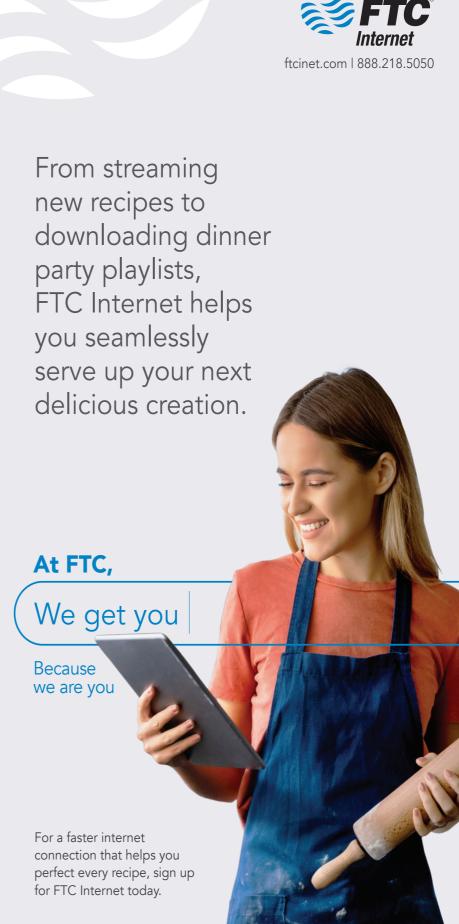


«BECKETT Hi, I'm Beckett! I'm a spry, clever shepherd mix, approximately 1 ½ years old, who loves a good game of fetch. My days are filled with tail wags, barks of joy, and the occasional nap. I'm friendly with other dogs, so if you have other furry pals at home, we'll be fast friends! I'm a bundle of energy, always ready to explore, play, and learn new tricks. I'd love a home where I can continue to grow, learn, and love. I'm neutered, current on my vaccinations and tested negative for heartworm.

«KUNA Hello there, I'm Kuna! I'm a young dashing fella who's approximately two years old and full of energy and love. I'm a friendly guy, always ready to make new friends, both human and feline. I love a good play session, chasing toys and pouncing on pretend prey. But I also know when it's time to wind down and enjoy a good cuddle. I'm a real sweetheart, always ready to show affection and receive it in return. I'm neutered, current on vaccinations and tested negative for Feline Leukemia/Aids.

ASCAS is participating in Bissell Pet Foundation's Empty The Shelter Adoption Event May 1 through May 15, 2025. Adoption fees for each of our available dogs and cats are reduced to \$70 plus \$25 for microchipping. An approved application is still required.





CHURCH DIRECTORY

Alcolu Church of God of Prophecy - Alderman Camp Ro Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church - Panola Antioch Baptist Church - Jordan. The Master's Place - 7 S. Church Street, Manning Antioch RMUE Church - Pinewood. Apostolic Revival Center - Manning Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - Summer 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 Congregation Temple Bethel - S.C. 261 East, Manning Cornerstone Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church 2116 Greeleyville Highway., Manning. Cross Roads Bible Fellowship - 5546 Paxville Hwy Manning Cypress Fork Freewill Baptist Church - Cypress Forks community 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 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 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. 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. Lake Marion Baptist Church - Off Hwy 301, North Santee Liberty Hill AME Church - Summerton Liberty Free Will Baptist Church - 2761 Liberty Church Rd., Manning.

Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church - Horse Branch Road, Turbeville

McKenzie Tabernacle Church - New Zior

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 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 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

Paxville Baptist Church - S.C. 261 Paxville

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 Cross

The Presbyterian Church - North Brooks Street, Manning, Dr Providence AME Church - Mallet Road, Mannie

Rock Hill Baptist 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. Luke Baptist Church - Foresto

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

St. Matthias Anglican Church - North Duke at Canty, Summer

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

Manning Deliverance Temple - (Apostolic Denomination) 6422 June Burn Rd, Manning. Manning Progressive Church of Jesus - Hwy. 521, Manning.

AGRICULTURE

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

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

Simpson appointed State Executive Director of South Carolina Farm Service Agency



DIRECTOR. Cody Simpson, center, newly appointed State Executive Director of the South Carolina Farm Service Agency, speaks with Gov. Henry McMaster, right, and others during a field visit in South Carolina. (Photo provided)

STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

W.R. "Cody" Simpson III, a Manning native and fifth-generation South Carolina farmer, has been appointed State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in South Carolina, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

Simpson, who helps operate W.R. Simpson Farms, LLC with his family, was appointed by President Donald J. Trump and will oversee the implementation of USDA FSA programs across the state, including disaster assistance, conservation efforts, and loan programs that support agricultural producers.

"I am deeply honored to be asked by President Donald J. Trump to

serve as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency of South Carolina," Simpson said in a public statement. "As a fifth-generation South Carolina family farmer, I understand firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing our agricultural community."

Simpson, a graduate of Francis Marion University, pledged to work "tirelessly to support the needs of our state's farmers and foresters, and ensure the prosperity of rural

strengthen our agribusiness industry, communities across South Carolina." He previously served as Chief Executive Assistant and Agriculture Advisor to Governor Henry McMas-

ter and is a member of the Nation-

Management, Agriculture, Wildlife,

al Governors Association's Land

and Rural Communities Advisory Network, as well as the South Carolina Forest Recovery Task Force. He also serves as a major in the South Carolina State Guard.

"Congratulations to my agriculture advisor Cody Simpson on being appointed State Executive Director for the SC Farm Service Agency," McMaster said in a social media post. "A 5th-generation farmer, Cody's deep roots within our agriculture community and passion for rural SC will serve our farmers and foresters well."

Simpson also thanked Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, House Speaker Murrell Smith, and South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation President Harry Ott for their support and encouragement.



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





Family Owned & Operated







Youth Rally You are welcome to the Youth Rally on May 31, 2025, at 6 pm. The **location is at New Start Church of the Nazarene**, 4686 J W Rhames Rd, Manning, SC 29102. Focused on youth in grades 6th-12th. You can expect games, prizes, music, food and a good time. See you there.



SPORTS

Willis and Porter win CATT Tournament



BASS. Billy Willis and Glenn Porter display their winning catch (Photo C/O CATT)

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Billy Willis and Glenn Porter claimed victory at the Carolina Anglers Team Trail (CATT) tournament held Saturday, May 3, 2025, on South Carolina's Santee Cooper Lakes. The duo brought in a five-bass limit weighing 25.90 pounds, including the tournament's largest bass at 8.87 pounds, securing the top spot and the Big

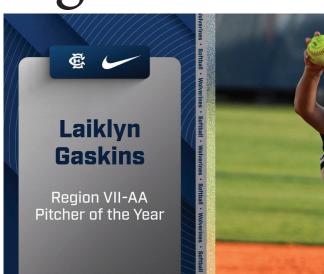
The event featured strong competition, with Michael Craven and Justin Craven finishing second with a total weight of 25.17 pounds. Wesley Bilton and Trez Wienges took third place with a five-bass total of 21.85 pounds.

The tournament awarded a total of \$2,770 at the ramp, with \$1,800 going to Willis and Porter for their first-place finish. Additional payouts included \$650 \$200 for third place. The event also contributed \$330 to the 2025 Santee Cooper Spring Final fund and \$50 to the 2025 CATT Championship fund.

The next Santee Cooper Qualifier is scheduled for May 10, 2025, and is designated as a GOLD event with an entry fee of \$130 at the ramp. Anglers interested in participating can find more information on the CATT website.

SPORTS

East Clarendon players earn top regional baseball and softball honors



STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Several standout athletes from East Clarendon High School have been recognized by Region VII-AA coaches for their exceptional performances this season, earning some of the top honors in both softball and baseball.

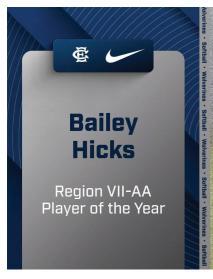
Bailey Hicks was named Region VII-AA Softball Player of the Year, a testament to her consistent offensive output and aggressive base running. Hicks is currently batting .457 with 32 hits, 26 RBIs and 39 runs scored. She has stolen 32 bases and has struck out only four times this season.

Joining her in the spotlight is teammate Laiklyn Gaskins, who was selected

as Region VII-AA Softball Pitcher of the Year. Gaskins boasts a 10-3 record on the mound with a 2.68 earned run average. Over 73 innings pitched, she has recorded 75 strikeouts while holding opponents to a .182 batting average.

On the baseball diamond, East Clarendon's Foster Matthews was honored as the Region VII-AA Baseball Pitcher of the Year. Matthews has put together an impressive 9-1 record with a minuscule 0.734 ERA. Over 47.2 innings, he has allowed just 37 hits and struck out 52 batters while issuing only 13 walks.

The honors highlight a successful spring for East Clarendon's athletic programs, with coaches and fans alike celebrating the players' dedication and performance throughout the season.









Hosts

A FELLOWSHIP BANQUET



Theme: What a Fellowship May 24, 2025 @ 3 PM

\$20.00 Donation Dress Attire: Semi-Formal

You don't want to miss this. There will be singing from different soloists, lots of food and fun. Come, fellowship with us.

Point of Contact is Sister Doris Wright 803 460-9947

Speaker: Minister Corey Thompson The All Purpose Motivator

SPORTS

Manning High girls soccer earns historic first win



TEAM. The Manning High School varsity girls soccer team celebrates after earning the program's first-ever victory with a 2-1 overtime win against Edisto High on Monday, April 28, 2025. The milestone win was led by head coach Ellese Rojas and highlighted by two goals from Raven McCray. (Photo C/O Ellese Rojas)

STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning High School varsity girls soccer team made history Monday night, earning the program's first-ever win with a 2-1 overtime victory over Edisto High.

Led by head coach Ellese Rojas, the Monarchs broke through with a hardfought performance that showcased their grit and determination. Sophomore Raven McCray scored both goals for Manning, lifting the team to its long-awaited mile-

stone win. Rojas hopes the victory helps shine a spotlight on the team's commitment and growth. "I would love for the community to see how much heart and dedication these girls have poured into this season,"

SPORTS

LMA's BJ Balls signs to play baseball at Florence-Darlington Tech

she said.



SIGNING. BJ Balls, seated right, celebrates his commitment to play baseball at Florence-Darlington Technical College alongside family members and coaches during a signing ceremony at Laurence Manning Academy on April 30. (Photo C/O Laurence Manning Academy)

STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Laurence Manning Academy senior BJ Balls signed to continue his academic and athletic career at Florence-Darlington Technical College during a ceremony held April 30.

Surrounded by family, teammates, and former coaches, Balls celebrated the next step in his baseball journey as part of the Stingers program.

The Swampcat community congratulated Balls on the achievement, writing, "Your Swampcat family is proud of you and will be cheering you on!"

• HEARING

Public hearing set for May 15 on HOME funding plan for affordable housing

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Residents of Sumter, Clarendon, Kershaw, and Lee counties are being urged to attend a public hearing on Thursday, May 15, to weigh in on how more than \$675,000 in federal housing funds should be spent in their communities. The hearing, scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments office in Sumter, is a key opportunity for the public to influence the region's five-year strategy to expand affordable housing and improve living conditions.

The draft 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2025 Annual Action Plan outlines how the Santee-Lynches Regional HOME Consortium will use federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to meet local needs. Shekia Harvin, HOME Coordinator for Santee-Lynches RCOG, said the plan reflects a shift in strategy based on past performance and current data.

"While developing the new HUD HOME five (5) year Consolidated Plan, Santee-Lynches Regional Council of

Government (SLRCOG) noted that the past priorities of the program were not aligning with the needs of the region," Harvin said. "In the past a majority of the funds were allocated to owner-occupied housing rehab which yielded a low return on investment. To make a greater return and to fit the needs of the region, changes were made allocating a lower amount to owner-occupied housing rehab and more to the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, CHDOs (Community Housing Development Organizations) and (LITHC) Low Income Tax Credit Housing

The public hearing allows residents to weigh in on these priorities and help refine the direction of housing programs.

"All residents are encouraged to attend and provide comments on proposed uses of the funds," Harvin said. "The comments and feedback from the public hearing would be used in conjunction with data results from needs assessment surveys to identify specific areas of interest related to the programs that would be beneficial in those counties."

From April 2023 through the present, the COG has provided more than \$500,000 in Tenant-Based Rental Assistance across all four counties. Construction is underway on multiple HOME-funded developments, including a six-unit affordable housing project in Bishopville. Two units are complete, and the remaining four are expected to be finished by the end of May. In Sumter, groundbreaking was held May 9 for two duplexes and a quadplex at 12 Walker Ave. and 538 South Sumter Street.

"The 2025 - 2029 ConPlan serves as a strategic plan to identify needs of the community related to providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities," Harvin said. "The County's PY 2025 AAP outlines proposed projects and activities by the County's HOME program to address the identified priority needs and goals in the Consolidated Plan."

The 30-day public comment period will open May 20 and run through June 20. Drafts of the plan are available at the Santee-Lynches RCOG office at 3219 Broad Street, Sumter, and online at www. santeelynchescog.org. Hard copies can also be reviewed at the administrative offices of each participating county.

Residents with accessibility needs are encouraged to call ahead at (803) 774-1311. Harvin said community participation is essential to shaping a plan that reflects real needs.

'Community feedback is provided from previous years by including the comments and survey results from public needs assessments," she said.

Although no major new elements have been added to the 2025-2029 plan, Harvin noted that the strategic shift to focus on rental assistance and tax credit housing is expected to bring a more meaningful

'By concentrating on increasing affordable housing, making use of different assistance programs, and advocating for fair housing practices for low-income and underserved populations, the Consortium works to guarantee equitable access to housing resources through collaborative efforts and partnerships," Harvin said.

For more information about eligibility for HOME-funded programs or how to participate in the public hearing, residents should contact the Santee-Lynches RCOG office at (803) 774-1311.

EVENT

John's Place to mark one-year anniversary with celebration and dedication

John Landon Black

Join us for the One-Year Anniversary of John's Place: A Recovery Resource Center Honoring the Life of John Landon Black

Anniversary of Hope

Monday, May 12 11:30am-Noon 16 N. Brooks Street For more information, contact 803-433-1252

Dedication of the Board Room in loving memory of June Briggs Donation by Jack Furse on behalf of the Kent Law Firm

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY

mtscreporter@gmail.com

John's Place, a recovery resource center founded in memory of John Landon Black, will celebrate its one-year anniversary with a special event titled the "Anniversary of Hope" on Monday, May 12, from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at the center, located at 16 N. Brooks Street in downtown Manning.

The celebration will include a dedication of the board room in loving memory of June Briggs, made possible by a donation from Jack Furse on behalf of the Kent Law Firm. The dedication recognizes Briggs' impact and contributions to the local community and her support of recovery and mental health initiatives.

John's Place was established by the John Landon Black Foundation in 2023, which was formed by the Black family following the tragic loss of their son, John, to an overdose. The center serves as a resource hub for individuals and families impacted by substance use, offering referrals, peer support, and community education.

Since opening, John's Place has hosted Narcan training sessions, provided meeting space for support groups, and worked to connect Clarendon County residents with services promoting recovery and mental wellness. The center operates under the belief that recovery is possible for everyone and aims to reduce the stigma surrounding addiction.

For more information, contact 803-433-1252.



EVENT

Gospel Fest to celebrate community and care

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

Pocotaligo River Health & Rehab will host its annual Gospel Fest and Cookout on Saturday, May 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. as part of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, bringing together residents, families, and community partners for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and faith.

Themed "Tapestry of Life," this year's event promises soulful sounds, community connection, and heartfelt worship. The Gospel Fest is open to the public and will be held on the facility's grounds at 3147 Sumter Highway in Manning. All proceeds will benefit the residents of Pocotaligo River Health & Rehab.

The celebration honors more than just the skilled nursing profession—it recognizes the residents, families, staff, and community members whose lives are interwoven through compassion, service, and support. Organizers say it's a moment to reflect on shared values and lift up the people who make the facility a home.

Minister Eloise Jackson will serve as Mistress of Ceremony, guiding guests through a program that includes scripture by Carleatha Gaymon, prayer by Minister

Lillian Wright, and welcoming remarks by Administrator Shirley Simon. Minister Regina Wright will offer the blessing of

Musical guests include the Gospel Sensationals, Sons of Faith, the Heavenly Stars, and choirs from Goodwill Baptist Church and Church on Wheels. Special appearances will also be made by Rev. Antonio Green of ACG Ministries, Dr. Karen "Lady K" Hilton Sanders, and Deacon Asbury McFadden of Gum Springs Baptist Church, among others.

Attendees can expect a lineup of entertainment, a cookout meal, and a chance to win door prizes. Vendors and sponsors are encouraged to bring their own table and chair; electricity will be available.

Sponsors and supporters include Hope Health, Agape Hospice, Clarendon County Cancer Overcomers, the National Council of Negro Women (Clarendon County Section), Paxville Community Development Center, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., among many others.

To RSVP, contact Jannett Conyers at (803) 478-2323 or (803) 566-3179, or email jaconyers@southernseniorliving.

• EVENT

Fish fry fundraiser for restoration of Historic Pleasant Grove School



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Pleasant Grove Restoration Committee is inviting the community to gather in support of a local landmark during its 2nd Annual Mother's Day Weekend Fish Fry and Flea Market, set for Saturday, May 10, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the historic Pleasant Grove School, located at 1012 Joe and Marie Road in Alcolu.

Described as "well on its way to being restored to its former glory," the school is the first public school for African-American students in Clarendon County. Built in 1933 through local fundraising and volunteer efforts, Pleasant Grove served

Black students in the Alcolu community during the Jim Crow era until its closure in 1953 under South Carolina's school equalization program. 'This year's event promises to be a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together, share their stories, and

support a great cause," said Ray Evans, chairman of the Pleasant Grove Resto-

ration Project Committee, in a statement.

"We are committed to restoring the school building to its former glory, and all proceeds from the event will go towards this noble cause."

Plates will be available for \$10 and include two pieces of fried whiting, chips, hot sauce, tartar sauce, and a soft drink. A flea market will also be held onsite.

The Pleasant Grove School is one of the oldest surviving purpose-built schools for Black students in Clarendon County and the only remaining pre-war school in rural Alcolu. It once featured a basketball court, baseball field, in-house kitchen, 4-H programs, and an active teacher's association, serving as both an educational and cultural hub.

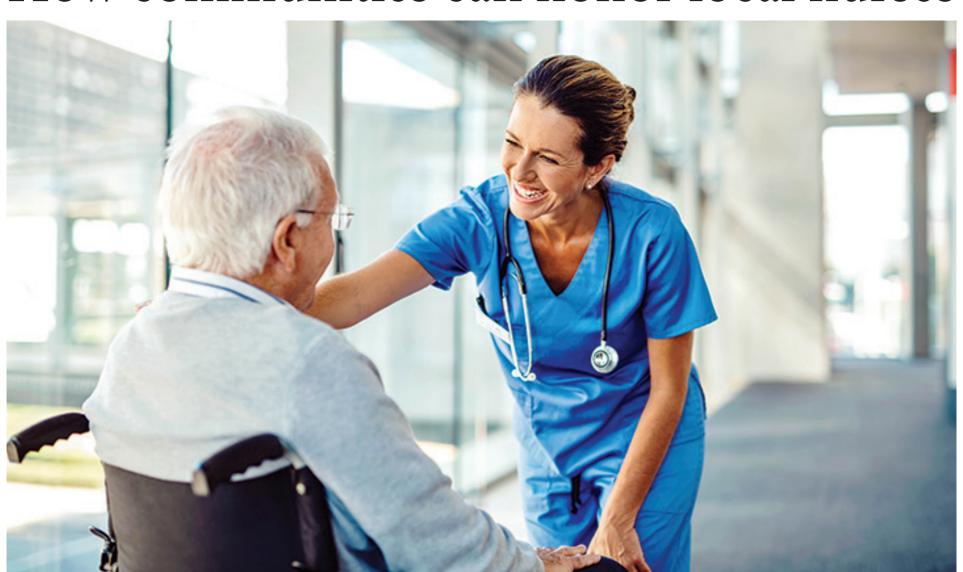
The school's history reflects both the severe inequalities of segregated education and the determination of African Americans to pursue educational opportunities within systems of oppression. The restoration project aims to preserve this legacy and the structure that housed it.

For more information, visit hpgschool. org or contact the committee at hpgschool12@gmail.com.



HEALTHCARE

How communities can honor local nurses



STAFF REPORTS mtscreporter@gmail.com

of patients.

The stress associated with the nursing profession has been well documented. A 2022 study published in the journal BMC Nursing found that job stress not only has an adverse effect on nurses' health, but also may reduce performance and quality of care, potentially affecting the outcome

There's no denying nurses have a lot of weight on their shoulders. That reality underscores the importance of letting nurses know how much they're appreciated. Community leaders can consider these ideas as they look for ways to honor local nurses.

Recognize nurses at public events. Parades, high school sporting events, holiday tree lighting ceremonies, and other community-centric events draw large crowds. That makes these events the perfect time to honor local nurses and emphasize all the work they do to help their neighbors. Ask a local nurse or two to serve as grand marshal(s) in a holiday parade and/or let local nurses flip the switch at a tree lighting ceremony. Community dignitaries like a mayor or local police chief can explain who the honoree

is once the crowd gathers.

Support a nursing charity. A community-wide campaign to support a charity that benefits nurses or causes important to nurses can be a great way to thank them for all they do. Various domestic and

international organizations are linked to the nursing profession. Prior to introducing a campaign, community leaders can speak with local nurses to see if there is any specific charity or cause important to them. Some charities may provide job training in communities where nursing shortages have made it hard for locals to access quality health care, while others may finance health care operations, including staffing of nurses, in underprivileged countries.

Publicize and support efforts to improve on-the-job safety for nurses. The American Nurses Association noted that nurses were forced to reuse masks or purchase their own safety equipment during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities that want to express their

appreciation for nurses can support efforts to ensure working conditions are safe for nurses and that nurses don't need to reach into their own pockets in an effort to avoid illness.

Embrace public health efforts. One of the most effective ways to honor local nurses is to take a little off their professional plate. Community leaders can urge residents to get their annual flu shots and update other vaccinations in an effort to keep hospital admissions low, which in turn makes nurses' jobs easier.

Nurses are worthy of praise. Communities can do much to show these invaluable health care professionals how much their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.

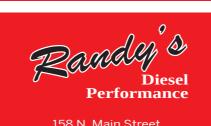












Performance

158 N. Main Street
Greeleyville, SC 29056

843-426-4455
We Appreciate Our Nurses!











MOTHER'S DAY

Honoring the mothers who raised us

SUBMITTED

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Editor's Note: There's no love like a mother's love. In honor of Mother's Day this year, The Manning Times asked our readers to share their love for their mothers. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in helping us celebrate the mothers of our community.

I'll start! My mom was fiercely independent and career driven—she served in the U.S. Air Force and still managed to be there for everything that mattered. Some of my favorite memories are seeing her in the stands at my high school soccer games, still in her uniform, cheering like I was the star of the World Cup. Now that she's retired, she's just as big of a cheerleader for her grandbabies. I love you,

-Melissa Foust-McCoy

My momma, Deborah Ard, has always been understanding, compassionate, and willing to do absolutely anything for her children and her grandchildren - including the grandpups! While raising my brothers and I, she emphasized the importance of education and never allowed us to say "I can't do it." Her creativity and innovative thinking made my childhood very fun and memorable. I know that as long as I have my momma, I am being rooted for. I owe all of my strength and confidence to her.

-Katherine Hutchinson

Sadie Plowden Windham. My mama .I try everyday to so something she did just to still keep her close. She held all of us together made our life so special. To lose her and Grandmama at a young age was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. Hold your mama's close. I know I still do mine.

-Linda Windham Smith

Her undeniable will to be independent and her authentic self. She thrives on being who she was born to me and not anyone else. Recognizing self love is important to be who you are.

-Yani Evans

Tough as nails and gentle and loving all at the same time. A blessing and a miracle. Inspires all and loved by many.

-Courtney King

My Momma, Ann Marsh, died in 2018, 4 months after my Daddy passed. I am so grateful to her for the legacy of love she left behind. I miss her everyday and can only hope to be a percentage of the fine lady she was.

-Terrey Streath

My Beautiful Mom Vivian Turner. She was a beautiful person.

The example of what a true Wife and mother should be.

My Dad was A Pastor and she was his help mate.

Everywhere dad was she was there.

She was loving and kind.

Gentle and selfless. She put God First and then her family

and then the members of the community that needed her. She is who I strive to be every day.

She was a dedicated friend to all who Love you mom and miss you every day.

-Patara Turner

She was a sweet lady. -Linda Ard Pierce

She loved and lived a full life. You always knew where you stood with her. She was and is loved by so many and missed by so many.

-Charity Cox

Mother's Day!



3000 PLOWDEN MILL RD.

VISIT US THURSDAY - SATURDAY FROM 9:00 TO 5:00



GIFTS

Mother's day crafts Mom will cherish



STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Many mothers will attest that few things are better than a little rest and pampering on Mother's Day. And when it comes to gifts, homemade items are among the most heartfelt.

Although schools and day care centers may take the lead and guide children through Mother's Day crafts, parents and caregivers looking to encourage kids to make crafts at home can explore these ideas that can turn into wonderful gifts or decorative items for Mom.

Floral votive holders. Kids can create special candle holders that they customize with pressed or paper flowers. New jars can be purchased from a craft store or empty jars at home can be repurposed. Using Modge Podge or another durable adhesive, children can attach dried, pressed flowers to the outside of the jar by painting the adhesive over the flowers; otherwise, paper flowers cut out from tissue paper or construction paper can be used. Once dry, attach a piece of decorative twine, yarn or ribbon around the mouth of the jar. Place a tealight candle

inside for Mom to enjoy. Writing pen bouquet. Why not give Mom something that is both beautiful and functional this Mother's Day? Children will have fun making flower pen bouquets. All it takes are a few inexpensive disposable pens, floral tape and artificial flowers. Place an artificial flower stem alongside the pen. It should be short enough that it will not impede writing, so cut if necessary. The petals of the flower should be up at the non-writing end. Starting at the non-writing end of

the pen, begin to wrap floral tape snugly

around the stem and pen to just before the tip of the writing end. It is better to use too much floral tape than not enough. Repeat the process for as many pen flowers as you'd like to make, then offer as a gift in a vase.

Jewelry dish. Mom can keep her favorite pieces of jewelry safe with a heartfelt clay jewelry dish. It's easy to make with only a few materials. Using air-dry clay and a heart-shaped cookie cutter, children can roll out the clay and cut out the shape. Turn up the edges slightly to make a rim so that rings or earrings won't fall out of the dish later on. Then kids can press decorative items, such as beads, small seashells, sequins, or faux gems, into the clay. The jewelry dish is beautiful as-is, or it can be painted after dry.

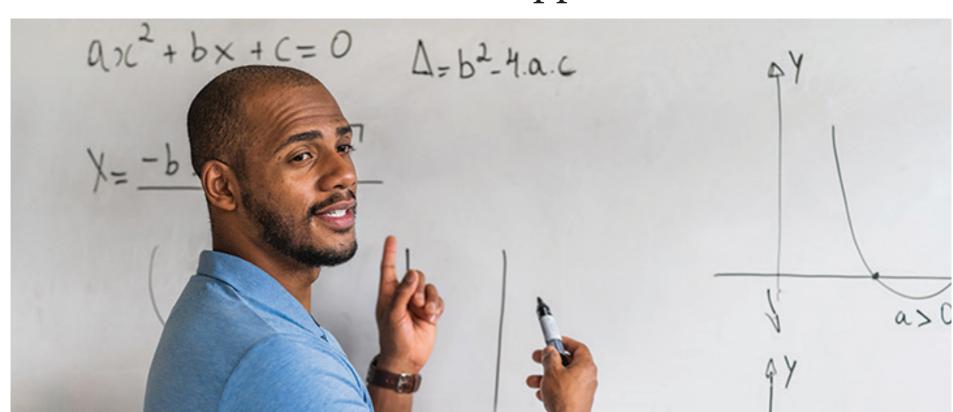
Faux stained glass. This project mixes paint with glue to create a stained glass effect. The colors can be painted on any acrylic surface, whether it's a flat, plastic photo protector in a picture frame or clear, plastic cosmetic bottles. When the light hits the items, it will produce a prismatic effect just like the real stained glass. Take painter's tape and mark off a desired design, such as writing "I Love Mom." Using separate small containers (an empty foam egg carton would work well), add a little bit of clear school glue and a few drops of desired colors or acrylic paint. Paint the different colors as they pertain to the design or pattern. The glue and paint should dry quickly and extra coats can be applied depending on how intense you want the color to be. Once the stained glass is dry, peel off the painter's

Kids can get busy crafting gifts that show Mom just how much she's loved and appreciated.



EDUCATION

How families can show their appreciation for teachers



STAFF REPORTS

mtscreporter@gmail.com

Great teachers go above and beyond for their students. Students benefit from those efforts in the classroom, but many adults also can name one, two or even more educators whose lessons and enthusiasm for learning has benefitted them long after the final bell rang on their academic careers.

The efforts of teachers who go the extra mile for their students are worthy of recognition and appreciation. Families who want to express their gratitude to teachers can do so in any number of ways.

Write a note. A personal note from a

student or parents or both can warm the hearts of teachers. Personal letters may not be as common as they once were, but they remain a thoughtful way to express gratitude and appreciation to people who have had a positive impact on a person's life. That makes a personal, handwritten note an ideal and meaningful way for families to show their appreciation for a teacher.

Pitch in at school when the opportunity presents itself. Teachers seek a helping hand at various points in a given school year. A teacher might ask for volunteers to assist with holiday parties or special school events or even request help coming up with extra school supplies or items needed for a particular project. In

fact, a recent survey from the Association of American Educators found that public school teachers spend an average of \$673 per year of their own money on school supplies. Parents can express their appreciation for teachers by responding with enthusiasm to requests for supplies, When responding, parents can ask teachers if there's anything else they can do to help and offer to volunteer their services during class parties.

Organize a class gift. A gift from the class around the holiday season and/or at the end of the year can let teachers know their efforts have not gone unnoticed. By pooling their resources, parents can give teachers an especially nice gift. A night out at a local restaurant or tickets to a

show can make for a well-deserved excursion for educators who often work long past the school day to help students learn.

Contact higher-ups at the school. An email or phone with a school principal or another higher-up in the local school system is another way for parents to ensure the efforts of a teacher are recognized. Let the higher-ups know when a teacher has made a positive impact on a child and how much their efforts are appreciated.

Many teachers go to great lengths to support their students. Families can recognize those efforts in a host of meaningful ways that will let educators know how much they're appreciated.













We Appreciate Our Teachers!







