

# The Manning Times

• WEATHER

## No injuries reported as tornado sweeps through Summerton



**STORM.** A tree lies snapped and blocking Walker Street in Summerton following Friday’s storm. The photo shows the damage across from Summerton Presbyterian Church. (Photo by Dwight Stewart)

**BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY**  
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The National Weather Service has confirmed that an EF1 tornado touched down in the town of Summerton on Friday, May 30, as part of a severe weather system that produced damaging straight-line winds across parts of Clarendon County.

According to a preliminary storm survey released by the NWS Columbia office, the tornado formed at 5:01 p.m. and tracked nearly 10 miles through Clarendon County with estimated peak winds of 90 mph and a maximum width of 200 yards. While there were no reported injuries or deaths, the storm left a trail of downed trees, damaged property and disrupted power lines in its wake.

Summerton Fire Chief Michael Johnson emphasized the importance of staying alert and heeding official warnings during such events.

“Summerton was issued a tornado warning on Friday afternoon, just before this storm took place,” Johnson said. “It is especially important to stay informed for your safety along with the safety of others. Pay See **TORNADO**, Page 4

**INSIDE**



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Pilot Club awards \$4,000 in scholarships to local seniors **8**



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• SPORTS

## State champs! Lady Wolverines deliver big win for Turbeville



**CHAMPS.** The East Clarendon High School Lady Wolverines celebrate their 5-3 victory over Saluda to win the SCHSL Class 2A Softball State Championship on Saturday, June 1. The win marks the program’s first state title since 2017. (Photo provided by East Clarendon Athletic Booster Club)

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

After a long season marked by hard work, weather delays, and a roller coaster of travel plans, the East Clarendon High School softball team capped off their campaign with a 5-3 victory over Saluda on Saturday, claiming the SCHSL Class 2A State Championship—its first since 2017.

For head coach Jason Newsome, it was all about the team’s dedication. “Just happy for the girls,” New-

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**FORECAST**  
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• EVENT

## Messtival turns the library lawn into a literacy playground



**PLAY.** Children create giant bubbles using oversized wands at the Bubble Station during the Harvin Clarendon County Library’s Summer Literacy Messtival on May 31. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

**BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY**  
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The Harvin Clarendon County Library’s front lawn was a joyful splash of color, bubbles, and giggles on Saturday, May 31, as families poured in for the first-ever Summer Literacy Messtival — a messy, hands-on celebration designed to make reading fun. Hosted by the library and

• BUSINESS

## Mind Body Mat builds strength and connection in Manning

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

On South Mill Street in downtown Manning, a fresh approach to wellness is unfolding. Mind Body Mat, a boutique fitness studio offering yoga, barre, and Pilates, has quickly become a space where movement meets mindfulness—and where community takes center stage.

The studio opened in December 2024 under the leadership of Raegan McKenzie, a Kingstree native whose passion for wellness was sparked far from home. While attending college in New York City, McKenzie was surrounded by a culture of movement. With studios on every corner and friends training for marathons, she found her own rhythm in yoga and hot Pilates classes.

“It became my outlet—a time where my mind could be quiet,” she said.

After more than six years of consistent personal practice, she returned to South Carolina and soon felt the absence of that daily movement. With few fitness studios nearby, McKenzie decided to create the space she longed for—both for herself and for others.

She began teaching at Shalom and Company, a local studio started by Peyton McGinnis. When McGinnis announced she would be closing the business, McKenzie made the bold decision to take it over. Less than a month after earning her certifications, she became the owner of her own studio.

“I didn’t intend to own a studio so soon—or ever, really,” she said. “But God always has a plan, even when it looks different from our own.”

Since rebranding as Mind Body

See **MAT**, Page 4

See **MESSTIVAL**, Page 4





LETIDA  
LANGSTON

Letida Eunice Langston, 86, widow of Cecil Chessley Langston, Jr., died Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at her home.

Born March 11, 1939, in Florence, she was the daughter of the late Clyde Strickland and the late Eunice Vause Strickland. She was a member of Santee Baptist Church where she served as organist and pianist for many years. She taught piano and she loved to fish.

She is survived by two daughters, Miranda Upp (Bill) of Summerton and Myra Jenkins of Manning; seven grandchildren, Beth Etheridge (Robert), Brad Calcutt (Sarah), Brittany Briley (Tony), Robbie Campbell (Jessica), Victoria McCollough (Matthew), Chelsea Lee (Nicholas) and Ryan Tedder (Roxie); numerous

great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Alton Langston (Ann) of Union; sister-in-law, Melba Rae Lehman (Jim) of Florence; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Cecil Chessley Langston III; two grandchildren, Ken Langston and Mickey Tedder; and a brother, Rudy Strickland.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 30, 2025, at Santee Baptist Church with the Rev. Adam Wilson, the Rev. Gene Mosier and the Rev. Bennie Barwick officiating. Burial will follow at Elim Baptist Church Cemetery in Effingham.

Grandsons and nephews will serve as pallbearers and honorary pallbearers.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at Santee Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Turbeville Children's Home, P.O. Box 229, Turbeville, SC 29162.

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



ALLARD  
BROGDON III

Allard Memminger Brogdon III (Sonny), 83, passed away peacefully Monday, May 26, at his home in Alcolu.

Born on March 10, 1942, Sonny was the son of the late Allard M. Brogdon, Jr. and Dorothy Davis Brogdon.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of the South Carolina National Guard Armory in Manning, where he retired with 30 years of service. He retired from Campbell Soup in Sumter and worked a number of various jobs from his

youth.

He is survived by a wife of the home, Virginia Brogdon; a son, Al (Becky) Brogdon of Sumter; Connie (Robert) Wolfe of Sumter; 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 41 years, Polly B. Culick Brogdon, a sister, Ann Brogdon Mullen, and a son, Victor A. Brogdon.

His body was donated to the USC School of Medicine in Columbia.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, June 14 at 2 p.m. at Clarendon Baptist Church in Alcolu.

Donations can be sent to Tunnel to Towers Foundation for Veterans & First Responders.

The family would like to extend thanks to Fresenius Kidney Care of Manning, McLeod Home Health of Manning, and Agape Hospice for their compassionate care.



HENRIETTA  
BLACKWELL

Henrietta Burgess Blackwell, the daughter of the late William Jasper "Coot" Burgess and the late Carrie B. Burgess was born December 9, 1933 in Gable, South Carolina. She was the widow of the late Willie Jasper Blackwell.

Henrietta received her formal education at Melina Parochial School in Gable, South Carolina, Alcolu Elementary School in Alcolu, South Carolina and Manning Training School in Manning South Carolina. She received certification in Food Service from the State of South Carolina.

Henrietta, was affectionately known as "Rat" to family and friends and "Hennie" to those who hold her dear in their hearts. She was very active in the communities in which she lived and served, and was called the Unofficial Babysitter. She had a heart of gold and love to give, especially to the children in the schools and in her neighborhoods.

She attended Melina Presbyterian Church in Gable, SC as a child. After the family moved to Alcolu, she became a member of Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Alcolu, SC. where she was baptized and faithfully served as a member of the Youth, Adult and Senior Choirs, the Usher Board, the Young Women Auxiliary and the Culinary Ministry. She enjoyed and participated in plays as a young adult and was a contestant in the Miss Senior Green Hill pageant. She was very dedicated to her church and loved her fellow church members where she had many children.

Henrietta's work ethic began at an early age. She worked as a Domestic Caregiver for the late Dr. Joe and Mrs. Ruth King in Manning, South Carolina for many years and lovingly raised their children. Upon their deaths and with the help of her friend, the late Olivette Singleton she was employed with Clarendon School District Two where she worked

in Food Service for more than 20 years before her retirement. It was her mission and desire to feed every child that came in her presence that did not have lunch money. She enjoyed life to the fullest and she touched many lives and those who knew her with tremendous generosity, kindness and wisdom.

She departed this earthly life on Sunday, May 25, 2025 at her home in Alcolu. She was preceded in death by her parents and four children: Carrie (JD) Brown, Jimmie Dale Blackwell, Charles Alexander Blackwell and Sharon Henriette Blackwell. One grandchild: Ern Hendray Blackwell.

Those left to cherish her memories are: Her Children: Willie Mae Manning of Manning, SC, Jacqueline Blackwell of Alcolu, SC, Delphine Chatman of Sumter, SC, Leroy (Carrie) Blackwell of Sumter, SC and James Eric (Sheryl) Blackwell of Sumter, SC; Goddaughter: Marilyn (Benny) Kelly of Manning, SC; Godsons: Jonathan (Cynthia) Burgess of Manning, SC and Manson Timothy (Betty) Singleton of Philadelphia, PA; Bonus children whom she raised: Betty (Billy) Coffey, Mary Taylor, Ann (GG) Cutter, Joseph "Bo" King, Jr. and Cathy (Mitchell) Garner, all of Manning, SC; Twenty-Two Grandchildren, one of whom was her caregiver, KaTasha Blackwell Smith; Twenty-Eight Great-Grandchildren and Four Great-Great Grandchildren: An Aunt; Ethel Bryd of Sumter, SC; Life Friends: Rutha Lee Epps, Eva McFadden and Lillie Ramsey all of Alcolu, SC. She had many Special Children, Close Cousins, and Friends who are too numerous to name.

Public viewing was held at 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning, SC.

Celebration of life took place 3:00 PM Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Alcolu, SC. Rev. Delbert H. Singleton, Jr., Pastor and eulogist, Rev. Al Hammett Jr., presiding, Pastor David Woods Jr., Rev. Willie Wright Jr. and Rev. Henry O. Blackwell, assisting. Burial followed in the Churchyard Cemetery. Ms. Blackwell lied in state one hour prior to the time of service.

The family received friends at her residence, 1121 Ocean Rd., Alcolu, SC.



NAOMI  
BLAIR

Naomi Thames Blair, 76, wife of William Blair died Thursday, May 29, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey, Sumter, SC. She was

born October 28, 1948, in Manning, SC. A daughter of the late Luther and Victoria Dingle Thames.

There will be no public viewing.

Funeral services will be held 12 Noon Friday, June 6, 2025, at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, 4829 Alex Harvin Highway, Manning, SC. Burial will follow in the Churchyard Cemetery.

The family is receiving friends beginning 3:00 PM til 7:00 PM Wednesday June 4, 2025, and Thursday June 5, 2025, at her residence 1034 Virginia Pine Ct., Manning, SC.



HARRY  
PARSON

Harry C. Parson, 76, died Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence, SC. He was born January 15, 1949 in Davis Station, SC. A son of the late

Corner and Mattie Pearson Parson.

Public viewing will be held 2PM til 6PM Monday, June 2, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St. Manning, SC.

Celebration of life will take place 10:00 AM Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr, Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St., Manning, SC.

Burial will follow in Hopkins Cemetery, Summerton, SC.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his brother John and sister-in-law Gail Parson at 6338 Moses Dingle Road, Manning, SC, 4PM til 7PM daily.



WILLIE  
BRIGGS

Willie Albert Briggs, 79, died Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Calhoun Convalescent Center, Saint Matthews, SC. He was born June 20, 1945, in Manning, SC. A son of the late Abraham Briggs and Hattie Mae Doughty.

Public viewing will be held 2PM til 6PM Saturday, May 31, 2025 at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St. Manning, SC.

Wake services will be held 6PM til 7PM Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Hayes F. Samuels, Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church St. Manning, SC.

Funeral services will be held 1:30 PM Sunday June 1, 2025 At Hayes F. Samuels, Sr., Memorial Chapel, 114 North Church, St., Manning, SC.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister, Evangelist Beulah and Minister Leroy Palmer, 1082 High Hill Lane, Manning, SC.



• CLUB NEWS

Rotary roundup: Jay Johnson reflects on county governance



**MEETING.** Clarendon County Council Chairman Jay Johnson speaks to the Manning Rotary Club about county leadership, growth challenges, and the importance of accessibility in local government during the club's May 28 meeting. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

**BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY**  
[mtscreporter@gmail.com](mailto:mtscreporter@gmail.com)

The Manning Rotary Club welcomed Clarendon County Council Chairman Jay Johnson as the guest speaker at its May 28 meeting. Johnson, who was elected chairman last year, shared his personal background, his perspective on local governance, and the challenges and opportunities facing the county.

A lifelong resident of New Zion, Johnson spoke candidly about his unexpected path into public service. "I never intended on being a politician," he said, recalling how he left college just 12 hours shy of a civil engineering degree to help on his family farm after his father's back injury. "But sometimes the Lord puts you where you're supposed to be."

Though relatively new to elected office, Johnson emphasized the importance of communication and accessibility in his role. "If you've got a problem, call me," he said. "I might not agree with you, but I'll listen to you. That's my job." He said he fields calls daily, many of which fall outside county jurisdiction, but he makes an effort to return every one.

Johnson highlighted the complexities of local leadership, particularly around balancing funding demands with taxpayer expectations. "Everybody wants more money for departments, but they also want their taxes cut," he said. "It doesn't work that way. We've got to live within our means."

He also touched on major growth issues, from the need for more housing to economic

development, noting the recent announcement of Project Bonjour—which will bring 300–340 jobs to the county with a starting salary of \$69,000. He acknowledged that agricultural landowners' reluctance to sell poses a challenge to expansion but said economic pressure is likely to shift that over time.

Johnson answered questions from Rotarians about impact fees, development planning, and constituent engagement. He credited the county's development board for pursuing industry and said long-term progress depends on collaboration and community involvement. "We've got people with great ideas, but if they don't show up to meetings or speak out, those ideas don't move forward," he said.

When asked what he's most proud of so far, Johnson said, "That I'm just a nobody from New Zion who ran against a 24-year incumbent and won. And that I've made it through a budget without flipping out."

The meeting closed with an update from President Johnson James on the ongoing Children's Dictionary Project. This year, Rotary Clubs from Manning and Summerton, alongside Delta Kappa Gamma, helped distribute dictionaries to more than 9,300 third-grade students across the district. "The kids are always excited to get them," James said. "This is one of those projects that really makes a difference."

The Manning Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at noon at Porter Jack's restaurant in Manning. For club updates and events, follow Manning Rotary Club on Facebook.



• MT. HOPE SCROLLS

Consistency project

You know me. I'm always interested in some project. A lot of my projects you don't hear about. Many times I get into a project that fails spectacularly in the very first weeks of the project. Other times a project goes a long time before it is abandoned and something new take its place. Still, I look for the smallest step I can take towards a big project today. If I can find a project and get started it is possible that this project may continue to fruition. Consistency is the big thing. Keep working and stay consistent.

Well, the brain trust got on this the other day. The truism of being consistent fell right into place. They all had ideas, examples and proof positive that consistency was all around us. The first example of proof was from an unlikely source. Do you have a navigation system in your car? Does the maps or tracking information come from your phone? Do you carry your phone everywhere? One guy said that when he got into his car the gps map would show a route to his work. It came up every weekday. In the afternoon,

the navigation system would show the route back to his house. If he got into his car on Saturday morning, the route to the golf course would come up and on Sunday morning a route to his church would show up. Well, what else would come up? He is consistent about going to work, golf course 'Double a penny a day and it won't be long before you have a million dollars. True but once you start on doubling some bigger numbers the task gets a lot harder. Miss a few days and the consistency part of the truism "Use it or lose it" enters in. See how easy it is for a good idea to turn into a hot mess?

It didn't take long for all of us to prove that a lot of things were automatic and we did them on a predictable routine. The trouble was right in front of us. How do we keep our project on a predictable routine that let's us make progress? Then we got on what was the small step we could do and keep doing to make a doable routine that would allow us to finish what we started? Then the discussion turned to ways to keep a routine going. After a few testimonies about failed projects and new ideas for creating a consistent method of doing our new project it was lunchtime. Lunchtime usually gets in the way of the brain trust actually figuring out an expectable method of solving our dilemmas. We headed for the cars to ride to our favorite restaurant. Six of us rode in two cars. Just to prove how we had fallen into a predictable routine, the guy I rode with had his gps pop up with the route to the restaurant. Then the two big words came out: if only. If only we could be that predictable with some other projects.

Consistency will come about the next time the brain trust meets. We will discuss some problem, consider different ideas of what a consistent action would be and then prove that consistent action works when the gps pops up with the route to the restaurant. At least we are consistent about something.



# The Manning Times

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• OPINION

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,  
Why does the Attorney General of South Carolina allow for the constant, illegal, and fraudulent harassment and annoyance of South Carolina citizens by telemarketers? As I write this today, I have received 15 solicitation calls. Two dozen per day is not unusual. I am on the "Do Not Call" government list, yet they keep calling, even when asked to cease. They spoof the telephone

caller ID to hide their real identity and purpose. We are an elderly household, and they wake us up each morning and continue into the evening. Most of the solicitations are for some kind of insurance—be it Medicare, car warranty, or funeral. The latest is from ambulance chasers wanting to know if I have had an accident in the last two years. I, along with many others I'm sure,

wish this problem resolved. Sincerely,  
Sam R. Morrison  
Wyboo, SC  
CC:  
Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General  
Fawn Pedalino, District 64  
Jeff Zell, District 36  
James Clyburn, U.S. House, District 6



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**JUNE 5**  
•OATS MEETING AT HARVIN CLARENDON COUNTY LIBRARY AT 10 AM  
•KNIT NIGHT AT HARVIN CLARENDON COUNTY LIBRARY AT 5 PM



**JUNE 9**  
JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB AND POP-UP FARMER'S MARKET AT HARVIN CLARENDON COUNTY LIBRARY 1PM-5PM



**JUNE 14**  
FARMER'S MARKET REOPENS



**JUNE 18**  
GOSPEL IN THE PARK JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL FROM 4PM-8PM AT THE WALKER GAMBLE PARK, 2358 WALKER GAMBLE RD. NEW ZION

**JUNE 19**  
CLARENDON COUNTY JUNETEENTH PARADE AND FESTIVAL ON RAILROAD AVENUE IN SUMMERTON

**JUNE 28**  
CLARENDON COUNTY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEN'S EXPO WITH FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS FROM 5:30PM-7:30PM AT THE CLARENDON COUNTY COMPLEX, 13 MAPLE ST. MANNING



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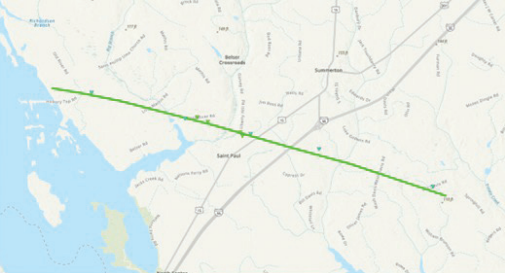



 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
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## Preliminary Damage Survey Results

Summerton, SC – Clarendon County

Date	05/30/2025
Time (Local)	05:01 PM EDT
EF Rating	EF1
Est. Peak Winds	90 mph
Path Length	9.94 miles
Max Width	200 yards
Injuries/Deaths	None



**PATH.** A preliminary storm survey from the National Weather Service confirms an EF1 tornado touched down in Summerton on May 30, 2025. The tornado traveled nearly 10 miles through Clarendon County, causing significant tree damage but no reported injuries. (Image provided by National Weather Service Columbia)

## TORNADO

FROM PAGE 1

attention to the weather warnings and advisories through your phone, local news, or radio because they are important in helping us prepare and respond effectively. We are thankful there were no injuries sustained during this event.”

Clarendon County Emergency Management Director Allen Lee noted in remarks to the press that the storm brought high winds and heavy rain, toppling trees throughout the region. Residents reported loud crashes and power outages, with some structures sustaining roof and water damage.

Public Information Officer April Co-

nyers said emergency responders received three storm-related calls Friday evening: two involving downed power lines and one for a tree that had fallen on a house. Fortunately, no one was injured in those incidents.

“We had a few medical calls unrelated to the storm, but in terms of storm response, that was it,” Conyers said. “We’re grateful the damage wasn’t worse and that everyone is safe.”

Summerton Mayor Keith Bowman could not immediately be reached for comment, but Clarendon County officials continue to assess damage and coordinate with the NWS for final determinations on the storm’s impact.

Residents are encouraged to report damage by emailing photos or details to [clarendonem@clarendoncountygov.org](mailto:clarendonem@clarendoncountygov.org).

## WOLVERINES

FROM PAGE 1

I’m just glad it worked out for them.”

The Lady Wolverines jumped out early with two runs in the first inning and leaned on a dominant performance from senior pitcher Laiklyn Gaskins, who struck out 11 and allowed just four hits. Gaskins, who pitched with poise even after giving up a late home run, has been a staple for East Clarendon in the circle.

“She’s a competitor. We knew we were going to get her best effort,” Newsome said. “She was calm and loose all day, and that confidence gave her teammates a boost, too. She pitched her behind off. What else can you say?”

The morning of the game, the team gathered at school for a last-minute batting practice session—a change in routine made possible by the altered schedule after Thursday’s weather-related postponement.

“It wasn’t part of the original plan, but with the late start time, we had the opportunity,” Newsome said. “It let the girls lock in one more time and gave the community a chance to send us off.”

That final BP session paid off quickly. Gaskins tripled in the first inning and scored on a bunt single by freshman Zoey Culick. Culick went on to tally three hits and drive in a run in the fifth, showcasing a level of poise beyond her years.

“Zoey is just a freshman, but she’s a very mature hitter,” Newsome said. “She practices relentlessly and has the ability to focus in big moments. We had confidence in her, and she came through in a big way.”

some said.

“They worked really hard this year, and

Veteran leadership was also key. Seniors Gaskins and second baseman Ann Grace Knowlton were instrumental in shaping the team’s identity under Newsome, who took over the program two seasons ago.

“They became like family,” Newsome said. “From the moment I got here, they bought into everything we were trying to build. For two players at the end of their careers to invest like that, it’s huge. They’ve set a standard.”

Now, the challenge becomes building on that legacy. With two standout seniors graduating, Newsome said the focus will quickly turn to the weight room and preparation for what comes next.

“We know we’ll need to be better next year than we were this year to do this again,” he said.

Still, for the community of Turbeville and those who proudly wear the blue and white, this victory already carries weight that goes well beyond the final score.

“Our school just really has an unparalleled level of community support,” Newsome said. “It creates a sense of pride in your school and in your town. Everybody feels connected to it.”

As for the younger girls in the district dreaming of one day wearing the East Clarendon uniform?

“We’s love to see them out there,” Newsome said. “It’s a lot of work. Wearing that uniform means something, and we hope it means something to them. And we hope to be able to continue the same level of success moving forward.”



## MAT

FROM PAGE 1

Belser.

Together, the instructors aim to create a welcoming, energizing environment that encourages growth at every level.

“Mind Body Mat is modern, with upbeat playlists, bright energy, and a community vibe,” McKenzie said. “You chat with the person next to you, make friends, cheer each other on.”

That sense of connection is central to McKenzie’s vision. She describes MBM as a “third space”—not home, not work, but a place where people can show up, feel seen, and belong.

While yoga and Pilates are McKenzie’s personal specialties, she said Belser’s barre classes bring a dynamic balance to the studio. Their combined approach offers something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned movers.

For those walking through the doors for the first time, McKenzie understands the hesitation. She makes a point

Mat, McKenzie has expanded class offerings to six days a week. The studio now features Vinyasa yoga, Pilates mat, and barre classes led by Summerton native Emily

to greet each client by name, check in after class, and offer modifications along the way.

“I always encourage people to bring a friend—it’s way less scary and way more fun that way,” she said.

McKenzie said one of the most rewarding parts of teaching has been watching others find their own outlet in movement. Whether it’s a student holding a challenging pose, adding more weight, or simply returning week after week, the growth is personal—and deeply meaningful.

Behind the scenes, MBM is also growing. The studio is currently undergoing renovations to accommodate more students, and a new Pilates instructor will join the team in June to launch a beginner series.

Earlier this spring, McKenzie hosted a free “Yoga in the Square” event in downtown Manning. More than 40 women attended.

“That was such a beautiful moment,” she said. “I hope for many more like it.”

Though her journey began in Kingstree and took root in New York, McKenzie said opening a studio in Manning just made sense.

“Living by the lake and owning a studio in Manning just feels right,” she said.

Mind Body Mat is located at 9 South Mill Street in Manning. For class schedules and more information, visit [mindbodymat.co](http://mindbodymat.co) or follow the studio on social media.



**FITNESS.** Community members stretch during a free “Yoga in the Square” class hosted by Mind Body Mat in downtown Manning. More than 40 participants attended the event, held in front of the Clarendon County Courthouse. (Photo by Raegan McKenzie)



# Farmers of Clarendon

## A staple in the community.

CLARENDON COUNTY

Economic Development





**CHARACTERS.** Children greet costumed characters including Elsa, Bluey, and Chase from Paw Patrol during the Summer Literacy Messtival at the Harvin Clarendon County Library. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)



**FACE PAINTING.** A volunteer with Glass Slipper Solutions paints a child's face during the Summer Literacy Messtival, a hands-on celebration of reading and creativity in Manning. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)



**BLUEY.** A young attendee shows off her Bluey face paint while working on an art project with a family member during the Summer Literacy Messtival held outside the Harvin Clarendon County Library. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)



**MESS.** Families gather on the lawn for messy art activities during the Summer Literacy Messtival, hosted by the Harvin Clarendon County Library and supported by a grant from Save the Children. (Photo by Melissa Foust-McCoy)

MESSTIVAL  
FROM PAGE 1

themed “Color Our World,” the event was made possible through an early literacy grant from Save the Children and brought in hundreds of local children and their families for face painting, art stations, story time, and free books.

“I think it went really well,” said Library Director Holly Cockfield. “It’s funny — about 10 minutes before 10 a.m., I started to panic that no one would show up, and then it felt like everybody showed up all at once.”

The event featured appearances by popular children’s characters including Elsa, Bluey, and Chase from Paw Patrol, thanks to Glass Slipper Solutions. For Cockfield, seeing the look on children’s faces when the characters arrived was a moment she won’t soon forget.

“The surprise and joy — that was defi-

nately the most memorable part for me,” she said.

The outdoor space transformed into a creative playground with a paint station complete with spray guns, stamps, and poster boards, and a massive bubble area with oversized wands and buckets to create bubbles as big as the kids making them. Inside the library, families gathered around tables for board games and crafts. Attendees were also treated to free refreshments, including coffee and drinks from Jilly Beans and ice cream from Carolina Sweet Shoppe.

The Messtival’s main goal was to promote literacy by changing the way kids interact with books and the library.

“It shows them that literacy and libraries are fun,” Cockfield said. “It allows us to meet them where they are and what they enjoy doing. It’s not boring or a chore — it can be exciting and an overall fun activity.”

The event was staffed by a dedicated team of library employees and volunteers, including Cockfield, Cathi Kersten,

Victoria Plowden, Bevin Davis, Jennifer Powell, Shinasty Briggs, Patricia Ragin, and Darlene Bryant.

In addition to library staff and volunteers, the event was supported by several community partners, including Clarendon County 4-H, which brought baby chicks and ducks, as well as First Steps, the Clarendon County Coalition, SNAP-Ed, the Diaper Bank, the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Department, and the Manning Police Department.

Books were available free of charge for every child who attended. While an exact number wasn’t recorded, Cockfield estimated several hundred were given away throughout the morning.

Save the Children is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of children through education, health, and advocacy in some of the nation’s most underserved communities. The group reached out to the library earlier this year and encouraged them to apply for the early literacy grant. The library was awarded the grant in March and used it

to fund the Messtival’s supplies, activities, and hundreds of free books given away during the event.

While the future of the event will depend on funding, Cockfield said she’d love to bring it back next year if possible.

In the meantime, the Harvin Clarendon County Library has a full calendar of summer programming for all ages:

Story Time is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for children from birth to age five.

Junior Garden Club meets Mondays at 1 p.m. for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Weekly performers visit Thursdays at 1 p.m. for all ages.

Tech Fridays offer engaging tech-based programming for teens ages 12 to 18 at 2 p.m.

For more information on upcoming programs, visit the Harvin Clarendon County Library or follow them on Facebook.

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# GAMEZONE

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59														

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE

DOWN

ACROSS

1. Satisfy

2. European health advocate

3. Expression of annoyance

4. Strong liquor

5. Large red deer

6. Holder of less common religious beliefs

7. West Indian shrub

8. Family of proteins

9. Wealthy, influential business leader

10. Low spirits

11. Approves food

12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman

13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics

16. Expressed in pithy maxims

18. Relaxing spaces

22. The NFL's big game

23. Proof of payment (abbr.)

24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers

25. Indicates near

27. Minneapolis suburb

28. Herring-like fish

29. Doctors' group
30. Pouches

31. Bread dipping in sauce

33. Commercials

35. A reminder of past events

36. Affected by injury

37. Geological time

39. Stationary part of a motor

42. Brings together

43. Of sound mind

44. Personal computer

46. Without (French)

47. A bank might give you one

48. Agricultural testing organization

49. A small island

50. Type of gene

51. Murres

52. Card game

53. A measure of human health

54. Australian airline (abbr.)

55. One point south of due west

56. Affirmative
1. Marsh plant

6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")

10. Fogginess

14. Home to Fools' Day

15. Absence of the sense of pain

17. Popular November holiday

19. Consume food

20. Buddy

21. Long-haired goat-antelope

22. Japanese honorific

23. Actor Malek

24. One point south of southeast

26. Illegal acts

29. As fast as can be done

31. Prevents harm to young

32. Exclamation of satisfaction

34. African nation

35. Slow-moving
- animal

37. Oh, goodness!

38. A team's best pitcher

39. Cleanser

40. Radioactivity units

41. Expectorated matter

43. Cover a wide range

45. The central area of a church

46. California capital (abbr.)

47. Dutch painter

49. 007's creator

50. Impression of dishonesty

53. Northeastern sports rivalry

57. Cloths

58. Stalin's police chief

59. Hostelries

60. Bitterly regret

61. Anwar \_\_, Egyptian statesman

## « DON'T PEEK! »

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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.

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Notice to creditors of estates: All persons having claims against the following estates must file their claims on form #371ES with the probate court of Clarendon County. The address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning SC 29102 within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this notice to creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.) or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (form #371 ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

ESTATE: Thomas LeGrande Matthews  
Case No# 2025ES1400126  
Personal Representative: Walters Jay Matthews, Jr  
Address: 301 Roslyn Ave. Cumberland, TN 37724  
Attorney: Joseph K. Coffey  
Address: P.O. Box 1292, Manning SC 29102 (05/15-05/29)

Estate: John Randall Torrey  
Case No# 2025ES1400131  
Personal Representative: Robert James Warner  
Address: 1577 Walnut Drive, Marengo, IA 52301  
Attorney: Joseph K. Coffey  
Address: PO Box 1292, Manning, SC 29102 (05/15-05/29)

Estate: Boyce Carl Summerlin  
Case No# 2025ES1400134  
Personal Representative: Randolph C. Summerlin  
Address: 1495 Steven Road, Summerton, SC 29148  
Attorney: Joseph K. Coffey  
Address: PO Box 1292 Manning SC 29102 (05/22-06/05)

ESTATE: Anna May Gosnel  
Case No: 2025ES1400142  
Personal Representative: Kathy Lorraine Turner  
Address: 1465 Norwood Road, Olanda SC 29114  
Attorney: Elbert K. Turbeville  
Address: PO Box 699 Lake City, SC 29560 (06/05-06/19)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF CLARENDON ) CASE NO.: 2025-CP-14-00098 April Quintanilla Richardson, Plaintiff, SUMMONS & NOTICE (Quiet Title Action) vs. James Thompson, Rosemary Thompson Payne, Patricia Thompson, Micheal Thompson, Deborah Lovell, John Doe, representing as a class any unknown person(s) or legal

entity which are former owners of the property, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns which have or claim to have any right, title, claim, interest in or lien upon the property described herein as an Heir of James Thompson, and Richard Roe, representing as a class any other unknown person(s) having a claim or claiming to have any right, title, claim, interest in, or lien upon the property described herein as an Heir of James Thompson, 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 4 th day of March, 2024, a copy of which is hereby served upon you and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint on the subscribers, Johnson | DuRant, LLC, 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 Ricci Land Welch, Esquire of Clarendon, South Carolina has been appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi in the above entitled action by an Order dated May 6, 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, non-residents 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](mailto:william@jdnlawfirm.com) Attorney for Plaintiff (05/15-05/29)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION Notice is hereby given that PC Landing intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow for the sale and on and off premises consumption of beer and wine at 1619 Greenall Rd Road, Summerton, SC, 29148-9114. To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by (16 DAYS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT). (05/22-06/05)

Notice of Public Sale Goodfellas Storage - Manning is selling

property to satisfy a landlord's lien for nonpayment of rent. Sale to be held online at Bid13.com. Facility located at 1065 Bloomville Rd Manning, SC 29102. Auction Bidding will close on or after June 24th, 2025 at 10 am. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to the highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant(s): All spaces contain household items unless noted. Essie Kesar- Unit: 81 Herbert Reid- Unit: 68 Kathy Plowden- Unit: 45 Shanika Young- Unit: 38 Effie Pendergrass- Unit: 35 Catherine D Wilson- Unit: 9 Joyce Strothers- Unit: 4 & 3 Eric Whack- Unit: 1 (05/22-06/05)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF CLARENDON CASE NO.: 2025-CP-14-00245 SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT Porter L. Thompkins, Jr. & Patricia W. Thompkins, Plaintiffs, vs. William S. Chassereau, as Personal Representative for the Estate of William Franklin Chassereau, John Doe, a fictitious person, representing a class of individuals or legal entity who has or claims any right, title, claim, interest, or lien in or to such property described herein as Heirs of William Franklin Chassereau and/or Heirs of Shirley G. Chassereau; and Richard Roe, a fictitious person, representing as a class of any other unknown individual(s) claiming an interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the Complaint herein, Defendants. TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served on you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint on the undersigned at 29 South Mill Street, Manning, South Carolina, 29102, within 30 days after service of this Complaint, exclusive of the day of service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the thirty (30) days, judgement by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiffs will move for an order of reference or that the Court may issue a general order of reference in this action to a Master in Equity or Special Referee under Rule 53, SCRPC. TO: MINORS(S) OVER FOURTEEN (14) YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY: YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days

after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment may be made by Plaintiffs and/or ordered by the Court. LIS PENDENS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action has been commenced and is now pending in this Court upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff's against the above-named Defendant's to have a tax title to real property quieted in the name of the Plaintiff under S.C. Code Ann §§ 12-61-10 - 12-61-60. The property that is the subject matter of this action is located at 1920 Wyboo Avenue, Manning, South Carolina 29102, situated in Clarendon County, South Carolina, and is more properly described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, on the waters of Lake Marion 145 feet southeast of the right of way of South Carolina Highway S-14-414. Said lot of land, bounding and measuring, now or formerly as follows: On the Northeast by a 20-foot access strip and measuring 75 feet; On the Southeast by lands of Mary N. Reeves, and measuring 200 feet; On the Southwest by lands of South Carolina Public Service Authority and measuring 80.4 feet; and on the Northwest by lands of Ashton P. Bozard and measuring 236.8 feet. Also, a one-half (1/2) interest in the pumphouse and well, a one-half (1/2) interest in the septic system, and a one-half (1/2) interest in the storage house located on the rear of the lot. The well, septic system, and storage house being partially located on lands now or formerly owned by Mrs. Ashton P. Bozard and jointly owned with her. This being the same property conveyed to William F. Chassereau and Shirley G. Chassereau by deed recorded in Deed Book A-1332, at Page 456; later conveyed by Matt Evans, Delinquent Tax Collector for Clarendon County, South Carolina on behalf of William F. Chassereau and Shirley G. Chassereau to Porter L. Thompkins, Jr. and Patricia W. Thompkins by tax deed dated December 29, 2023, in Deed Book 1014 at Page 3140. Address: 1920 Wyboo Avenue, Manning, South Carolina 29102, Tax Map Parcel: 197-02-03-006-00. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the William H. Johnson, Esq., of the law firm of Johnson DuRant, LLC, 411 N. Brooks Street, Manning, SC 29102, has been appointed as Guardian ad Litem Nisi fo the unknown Defendants. By: Ricci Land Welch Land Parker Welch LLC PO Box 138 – 138 Mill Street Manning, SC 29102 Telephone: (803) 435-8894 Facsimile: (800) 589-2701 [ricci@lpwlawfirm.com](mailto:ricci@lpwlawfirm.com) Attorney for Plaintiffs (06/05-06/19)







# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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• FAITH

# Vengeance play moves to Patriot Hall for August 23rd performance



BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The upcoming performance of Vengeance, Turn It Over to Jesus, originally scheduled to take place at Weldon Auditorium on June 7, has been cancelled due to low ticket sales. The play, written and directed by Jacqueline Sutton-Ball, will now be performed

at Patriot Hall in Sumter on August 23, 2025, at 3 p.m. Vengeance, Turn It Over to Jesus tells the emotionally charged story of Mark and Teresa, a married couple struggling with trust and betrayal. The play explores themes of love, pain, and the hope for forgiveness, featuring a strong cast of actors including Patrice Lovely, Jeffery Lewis, Maurice Lauchner, and

Joe Tucker. “We are disappointed that we couldn’t bring the production to Weldon Auditorium as initially planned, but we are excited to announce the new date and venue,” said Sutton-Ball. “Patriot Hall in Sumter offers us a great space to showcase the powerful story of Vengeance and give our audience the experience it deserves.”

Tickets for the show, originally available at Weldon Auditorium and Imports LTD in Sumter, will now be sold through Patriot Hall. For more information or to purchase tickets, visitors can contact the venue at (803) 436-2260 or visit their website. “We look forward to seeing the community come out to support this meaningful play in August,” Sutton-Ball added.

The production is part of Sutton Glory Ministries Productions, co-owned by Jacqueline and Lorenzo Sutton-Ball. The company continues to create impactful theatrical experiences with faith-based themes, giving God the Glory in every performance.



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• MARKET

# Fresh food, family roots and friendly faces: Manning Farmers Market returns



**FOOD.** JMac Produce sets up shop at the Manning Farmers Market, offering fresh butter beans, peas, sweet corn, tomatoes, and more. The family-run farm from Gable is a longtime favorite among local shoppers. (Photo provided by JMac Produce)

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

The City of Manning’s annual Farmers Market opens for the season on Saturday, June 14, bringing with it fresh produce, homemade goods, and a healthy dose of community spirit.

Located at the corner of Bryce and Church streets, the market will run every Saturday through October from 8 a.m. until noon. With vendors like JMac Produce, Ms. Shirley Whack, Ms. Lula Richardson, Costas Farms, and others soon to be announced, residents and visitors alike can expect a wide variety of homegrown offerings.

“Having a farmers market in Manning means more than just fresh food—it supports local growers, brings the community together, and gives neighbors a chance to connect, catch up, and meet the folks who grow their food,” said Carrie Trebil, Tourism and Main Street Manning Director.

One of the market’s returning favorites is JMac Produce, a family-run farm located just seven miles north of Manning. Owned and operated by Johnny McNair, JMac specializes in butter beans, peas, okra, sweet corn, and other Southern staples.

“My main crops are butter beans and peas—green and speckled—plus sweet corn and okra,” said McNair. “We also fill in with tomatoes, squash, zucchini, blueberries, blackberries, and watermelons. Just about everything.”

McNair, a third-generation farmer, began JMac Produce more than two decades ago after a career in agricultural sales. “I was raised on a farm, and I’ve been around farming all my life,” he said. “When I hit my early 50s, I figured I’d

retire at 60 and wanted something to do that kept me connected to people.”

That connection remains strong today, especially at the Manning Farmers Market where he can often be found chatting with customers about the best varieties of peas and how to cook them. “My wife says I talk too much,” McNair joked. “But I have a passion for what I grow. When someone asks about butter beans or peas, I can’t help but explain all the differences.”

McNair’s family plays a big role in his farm and market stand. His daughter, Meigs Porter, and grandsons John Rollins and Hogan help at both the farm and market. “One of my grandsons likes to carry watermelons to people’s cars,” he said. “He usually ends up with a tip for that.”

For McNair, the market is more than a place to sell vegetables—it’s a tradition. “It’s an 18-week season, and yes, it gets hot,” he laughed. “But we look forward to it every year.”

The Farmers Market is part of a broader national movement supporting small-scale agriculture and healthy communities. According to the Farmers Market Coalition, markets like Manning’s help preserve rural livelihoods, stimulate local economies, and offer shoppers fresh, affordable produce. Markets also foster sustainability—three out of four farmers selling at markets use practices consistent with organic standards.

To become a vendor or for more information, contact City Hall of Manning at 803-435-8477.

As the growing season gets underway, marketgoers can expect more than just vegetables. They’ll find stories, history, family pride—and maybe a few tips on the best way to cook a Dixie Lee pea.

• FOOD

# Fresh produce vouchers available for seniors

**SUBMITTED**  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will distribute fresh produce vouchers at four Clarendon County locations from June 9–12. The program, aimed at helping seniors access fresh,

locally grown fruits and vegetables, will operate on a first-come, first-served basis from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day while supplies last.

The schedule includes:

- Monday, June 9 – Turbeville Town Hall
- Tuesday, June 10 – Paxville Senior Center
- Wednesday, June 11 – Summerton Senior Center
- Thursday, June 12 – Vision by Design Inc. in Manning

At Vision by Design, a local nonprofit focused on health equity and community wellness, staff and volunteers will help distribute the produce vouchers and connect attendees with additional resources for food security and healthy living.

Seniors are encouraged to arrive early, as quantities are limited. For more information about eligibility or program details, contact the hosting locations directly.





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• WILDLIFE

# Gator season in South Carolina: What to know



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

It's officially gator season in South Carolina—or at least, it's almost time to apply for a chance to participate in one of the state's wildest outdoor adventures: the public alligator hunt. Applications for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Alligator Lottery opened June 1 and will close at 11:59 p.m. on July 15. The hunt itself won't kick off until September 13, but if you want in, you'll need to get your name in the system early.

ANCIENT REPTILES IN THE MOD-ERN WORLD

The American alligator has remained relatively unchanged for over 80 million years. Males can grow up to 16 feet and weigh more than 800 pounds, though most range between 6 and 13 feet. Females top out around 9 to 10 feet. These apex predators live up to 50 years in the wild and play a vital ecological role by

managing prey populations and creating “gator holes” that provide water during droughts.

In South Carolina, they're typically found south of the Fall Line in lakes, rivers, swamps, and occasionally backyards and golf courses. Their presence in suburban or urban areas often triggers concern—and sometimes confusion—about whether they're a danger or just passing through.

THE SLOT TAG SHUFFLE: SMALLER GATORS, MORE OPPORTUNITIES

In an effort to better manage pressure on South Carolina's largest alligators, SCDNR has introduced size-restricted “Slot Tags” for the 2025 season. These tags allow selected hunters to harvest one alligator between four and eight feet in length and come with a few important restrictions.

Unlike traditional “any size” tags (which remain unchanged), Slot Tag holders are limited in the gear they can use. Harpoons, bows, and other devices that

embed into the alligator are prohibited. Only snatch hooks, handheld snares, and ropes are permitted, since hunters may need to release an alligator that exceeds the 8-foot limit.

Slot Tags are optional and offered alongside traditional tags in the application process. If you're willing to go after a smaller gator, your chances of being drawn may be better. SCDNR is offering 400 of these Slot Tags across the state's four hunt units—Southern Coastal, Middle Coastal, Midlands, and Pee Dee—with 100 available per unit.

Each selected applicant—regardless of tag type—may harvest one gator from their assigned unit. And yes, all preference points are reset to zero whether you're drawn for a traditional tag or a Slot Tag.

HOW TO ENTER THE HUNT

To apply for the public alligator lottery, visit GoOutdoorsSC.com or download the Go Outdoors South Carolina app. The application fee is \$10, and if selected, hunters must pay an additional \$100 permit fee.

Applicants can rank their preferred hunt units (including Slot Tag units), but you can only be selected for one tag. If your plans change after being drawn, the tag is non-transferrable and non-refundable.

Successful hunters can target public navigable waters within their assigned units, or private lands with written landowner permission. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), national wildlife refuges, and parks are off-limits.

NUISANCE GATORS: KNOW THE SIGNS

Not every alligator needs to be removed, even if it shows up in an unexpected place. SCDNR classifies a nuisance alligator as one that has lost its natural fear of humans (often from being fed), poses a threat to people or pets, or is trapped in a location it cannot escape.

Feeding alligators—or even tossing fish

scraps or feeding ducks in gator territory—is illegal and can unintentionally train these animals to associate humans with food. Once habituated, nuisance gators must be euthanized; relocation is not allowed due to their strong homing instincts.

If you live within an HOA or under property management, report nuisance gators to them first. If you don't, contact your regional nuisance coordinator. For emergencies, Operation Game Thief is available 24/7 at 1-800-922-5431.

GATOR ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY

A few things to keep in mind:

Don't shoot unrestrained gators. Capture must occur first.

Use a bangstick or handgun to dispatch the gator—no rifles or shotguns allowed. Immediately tag the gator and complete your harvest report within 24 hours.

Cool the carcass within four hours to preserve meat and hide quality.

Never assume a gator is dead until it's secured, taped, and confirmed.

Hunters are encouraged to prepare thoroughly. SCDNR recommends at least one backup capture device, life jackets for all boat passengers, and a well-organized float plan. Guides and helpers are welcome, but everyone 16 and older must be a licensed South Carolina hunter—and nonresidents will also need to pay a \$200 fee.

A HUNT ROOTED IN CONSERVATION

From the prehistoric swamp-dweller sunning on a pond bank to the grizzled gator of your hunting dreams, the American alligator remains a fascinating—if formidable—part of South Carolina's natural heritage. Whether you're eyeing a Slot Tag to up your odds or tracking a trophy, make sure you know the rules, hunt safely, and respect the wildlife.

For more details on alligator safety, hunting rules, or nuisance reports, visit [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov).

• WILDLIFE

## Bonus Bass wraps with \$4,400 payout to Sumter angler



**FISHING.** David Ardis of Sumter holds the three-pound tagged bass he caught in Taw Caw Creek during a night fishing trip, earning a \$4,400 payout as the final registered winner in the 2024 Bonus Bass tournament. (Photo provided by Bonus Bass)

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

The inaugural Bonus Bass tournament wrapped up its final weekend with a splash, awarding a \$4,400 prize to Sumter native David Ardis after he landed a three-pound tagged bass in Taw Caw Creek on May 30—just two days before the contest's close.

Ardis, who paid a discounted \$59 entry fee during a recent promotion, had been fishing lit docks at night when he flipped his line beneath an unlit dock and hooked into the prize-winning fish. Unbeknownst to him at the time, the bass had been tagged in early March by tournament organizer Kyle Jenkins.

“This one didn't travel far,” Jenkins said. “It stayed within two miles of where it was originally released.”

Ardis is the third and final registered angler to turn in a tagged fish during the three-month-long contest, which ran from March 5 through June 1 across Lakes Marion and Moultrie. Unlike traditional fishing tournaments, Bonus Bass offered a progressive payout system that increased by \$100 each day a tagged fish went unclaimed.

“David's fish was turned in on Day 44 of the current cycle,” Jenkins said. “That's how he ended up with \$4,400—the biggest payout of the season.”

He joins fellow Sumter angler Tommy Stuckey, who claimed a \$2,700 prize, and Wyatt Sims of Timmonsville, who won \$1,300 back in March. Each registered winner also received a free one-day fishing pass to Santee Cooper Outdoors, a private fishing facility in Summerton.

But the big question remains: will one of them also land the \$25,000 grand prize? Jenkins confirmed that each of the three registered winners now has a one-in-200 shot at matching the preselected winning tag number, which was sealed and shipped by a gaming insurance company. The package is expected to arrive this week, and the grand prize reveal will take place via Facebook Live—likely hosted at Phantom Outdoors in Moncks Corner, a tournament sponsor.

Sixteen other anglers caught tagged fish during the tournament but were not registered and therefore ineligible for any prizes. Jenkins noted one of those unregistered catches went viral on social media, reaching over 1.5 million views.

“The response has been incredible,” Jenkins said. “We've had everyone from kids to retirees sign up. Some fish from kayaks or the bank, some from bass boats. It really leveled the playing field.”

Jenkins is already planning for next year's Bonus Bass season, with hopes of expanding to other South Carolina lakes, including Lake Murray and Lake Hartwell. He's also exploring the possibility of a larger prize package—potentially swapping the \$25,000 cash prize for a boat or other high-value gear through a dealership partnership.

“My goal is to make Bonus Bass the most accessible and exciting tournament in the state,” he said. “We'll take the off-season to plan, then hit the water again in January.”

For updates on the grand prize drawing and next year's tournament announcements, follow Bonus Bass on Facebook or visit [www.BonusBass.com](http://www.BonusBass.com).

• SPORTS

## East Clarendon seniors sign to continue athletic careers at the collegiate level



**ATHLETES.** East Clarendon seniors Jasmyne Lloyd and Syrus Brown smile during their college signing ceremony. Lloyd will continue her basketball career at Newberry College, while Brown will wrestle for Allen University. (Photo provided by East Clarendon High School)

**STAFF REPORTS**  
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Two standout student-athletes from East Clarendon Middle/High School will continue their athletic journeys at the collegiate level.

Jasmyne Lloyd has signed to play basketball at Newberry College, while Syrus Brown will wrestle for Allen University. The school celebrated the duo's accomplishments during a signing ceremony held May 29.

Lloyd was a key contributor to the Lady Wolverines basketball team throughout her high school career. She averaged 8.5 points and 3.6 rebounds per game during her junior season, helping lead East Clarendon to a 19-win campaign. Despite the team's jump to a more competitive 2A region in her senior year, she remained a consistent presence on

the court, averaging 5.4 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

Brown made his mark on the mat as a 175-pound wrestler, earning a trip to the SCHSL state tournament where he notched a win in his weight class. A former Lake City student, Brown transferred to East Clarendon and found success under the Wolverines' wrestling program.

Both athletes will attend historically significant South Carolina institutions. Newberry College, located in Newberry, is known for its strong Division II athletics programs, while Allen University, based in Columbia, is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) with a growing athletic profile.

East Clarendon staff and students have expressed pride in the accomplishments of Lloyd and Brown, recognizing their hard work, discipline, and dedication to both athletics and academics.