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The Manning Times



APPRECIATION: Kimberly Johnson, left, and Ladell Grice, right, present Lt. Thomas Huckaby of the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office with the Work-Based Learning Supervisor of the Year award during the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon at F.E. DuBose Career Center on May 14.

(MEESHA WITHERSPOON/CCSD)

Kolb named SCASA Adult Education Director of the Year

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtscreporter@gmail.com

For Dr. Lara Kolb, adult education has never just been a job. “It is a calling rooted in believing in second chances and the transformative power of education,” Kolb said.

That calling recently earned Kolb one of the state's highest honors in adult education.

Kolb, director of Clarendon County Adult Education, has been named the 2026 Adult Education Director of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA), recognizing her leadership and the continued growth of the county's award-winning adult education program.

The recognition comes after a string of statewide and national honors for Clarendon County Adult Education, including the Excellence in Local Programming Award from the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE). Under Kolb's leadership, the program has gained attention for high retention rates, expanding workforce certifications, growing graduation numbers and advocacy efforts for adult learners.

Receiving the SCASA award, Kolb said, was both personal and professional.

“Receiving the South Carolina Association of School Administrators Adult Education Director of the Year award is both humbling and deeply meaningful to me,” Kolb said. “Personally, it represents the culmination of years of service dedicated to helping adult learners

overcome obstacles, achieve their educational goals and create better opportunities for themselves and their families.”

She said the recognition also reflects the people behind the program's success.

“Professionally, this award

strengthens our communities.”

That team-centered approach has become a hallmark of the program.

“Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to support adult learners, often going above and be-



DIRECTOR: Dr. Lara Kolb, director of Clarendon County Adult Education, was recently named the 2026 Adult Education Director of the Year by SCASA for her leadership and advocacy for adult learners.

(PROVIDED/CCSD)

reflects the collective efforts of the outstanding teachers, staff, community partners and students I have had the privilege to work alongside throughout my career,” she said. “It validates the importance of adult education and workforce development in

yond to meet students where they are and help them succeed,” Kolb said.

Kolb's path into adult education began long before arriving

See KOLB | 5A

Career center honors law enforcement during National Police Week

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Students, educators, attorneys and law enforcement officers gathered Thursday at F.E. DuBose Career Center for the school's annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon, held in recognition of National Police Week.

The event celebrated the partnerships between local agencies and the career center's law enforcement program while honoring officers who serve throughout Clarendon County. Speakers throughout the afternoon

reflected on leadership, mentorship and the responsibility that comes with careers in public safety.

Attorney Shaun Kent, the luncheon's keynote speaker, focused his remarks on communication and storytelling in the justice system. Kent spoke candidly about how juries process information and stressed the importance of law enforcement officers presenting truthful and well-documented cases.

“The people who should be telling the most effective sto-

See LUNCH | 12A

EARLY VOTING AHEAD OF JUNE 9 PRIMARY STARTS NEXT WEEK

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Early voting for the June 9 primary election will begin Tuesday, May 26, and continue through Friday, May 29, before resuming Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5. Voting hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Clarendon County Election Office, located at 3 S. Church St. in Manning, which will serve as the county's only early voting location.

Election Day will be held Tuesday, June 9, with all Clarendon County polling locations open. Public testing of voting equipment is scheduled for Friday, June 5, and the Board of Canvassers will meet Thursday,

June 11, at 10 a.m.

Active candidates appearing on local ballots include:

GOVERNOR

Republican: Pamela Evette, Joshua Kimbrell, Nancy Mace, Ralph Norman, Rom Reddy and Alan Wilson

Democratic: Jermaine Johnson, Mullins McLeod and Billy Webster

SECRETARY OF STATE

Democratic: Jason Belton and Edwina Winter

STATE TREASURER

Democratic: Vincent Coe and Trav Robertson Jr.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Republican: Stephen Gold-

See VOTING | 12A

CCVRE TIGHTENS BALLOT HANDLING PROCEDURES

Discusses poll delays, staffing and public comments policy

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections approved several new election security and public participation policies Monday night while also addressing concerns tied to poll worker assignments, delayed poll openings and recommendations from a recent South Carolina State Election Commission audit.

The board met May 18 at Clarendon County Council Chambers for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Among the most significant actions, the board unanimously approved a new policy stating no one person should ever be alone in the presence of uncounted ballots. Members also voted to prohibit the reuse of security seals and require any voided or damaged seals to be logged and stored for at least one year.

The policy changes come days after the board voted during an emergency meeting to request a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

See CCVRE | 7A

DIGEST



CLARENDON
Scene | 7A



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
announced | 5A



JOHNSTON wins
Bassmaster Elite | 8A



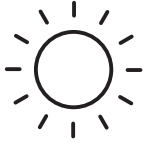
HOPE HEALTH
town hall | 5A

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THURSDAY'S FORECAST

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59° low



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Levi Pearson Foundation Gala celebrates legacy, future leadership

SUBMITTED

The Levi Pearson Scholarship Foundation hosted a sold-out gala in Manning on Saturday, May 16, bringing together community leaders, educators, students and supporters to celebrate education, leadership and the enduring legacy of civil rights pioneer Levi Pearson.

Held in honor of Pearson's historic contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, the evening served as both a celebration of progress and a call to action for future generations.



building pathways for future generations through education and community empowerment.

A Clarendon County native, Pearson is widely recognized for his efforts to challenge educational inequities in South Carolina, helping lay the groundwork for the landmark desegregation case that became part of Brown v. Board of Education.

One of the highlights of the evening was a keynote address delivered by Alexander Conyers, president of the South Carolina State University. Conyers spoke about embracing change,

charging forward with purpose and creating pathways to the future for young people through education, perseverance and service.

His message encouraged attendees and scholarship recipients alike to remain committed to growth, leadership and uplifting their communities.

The Foundation also recognized outstanding community impact during the program. Kathleen Gibson received the Levi Pearson Hall of Fame Award for her dedication and service as a community liaison and advocate for the local community.

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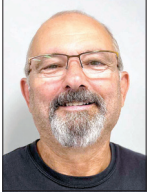
PERSPECTIVES

Life in the Palmetto State
The sand may just be our problem

BY LEE REAVES

I sometimes write in the abstract, and this is certainly one of those times.

While the title of this article may seem a bit half-baked, hopefully by its end, you will see the premise come into view.



LEE REAVES

COLUMNIST

Down through time, many inferences have been made about sand and how it affects our lives. In Jesus' parable about the two builders, whereby he was adamantly clear about the folly of building your house upon the sand, He illustrates what would happen when the "storms of life" came upon this house and its foundation. It would crumble under the duress exacted on it by these intense storms. We could certainly compare it to life, our life. In fact, it was clear through his teachings what would happen when the wise man built his house upon the rock and what would happen when the foolish man built his house upon the sand.

The rock could withstand all that was thrown at it. The

sand would wash away almost immediately, leaving you with nothing.

Another aspect; look at the sand bars in a river or at the beach. They are forever changing because they are devoid of structural integrity. They are at the mercy of the fickle winds and tide, so therefore, we can never count on their stability and structure.

In 1969, a popular country music artist, Roy Clark, resurrected a song that was written many years before he released it. It was a massive crossover hit for him that spanned the country and adult contemporary music genres.

The song was "Yesterday, When I Was Young," and there is a thought in that song that says, "the thousand dreams I dreamed, the splendid things I planned, I always

built to last on weak and shifting sand."

The song throughout its lyrics laments his youthful decisions and how his dependency on his weak and sandy foundation crumbled under the weight of life. In fact, the last line of the song says, "The time has come for me to pay for yesterday, when I was young."

Now granted, the overall dynamic of the song is based on the folly of youth, but a strong undertone is that of building something substantial on such a fragile and untrustworthy underfooting.

There is also quicksand, and we know how dangerous that is.

Last but not least, the old saying about the ostrich sticking its head in the sand to avoid danger is another inference of sand and its negative connotation. Now I don't know how true that saying is because I don't know much about ostriches, but it certainly makes for a poignant point.

I know what you are saying by now; Lee, can you get to the point and get me off this buggy ride?

Well, here's my point.

Are we basing our lives and futures on a foundation that will disintegrate at its first exposure to bad weather, our stormy life?

Do we still stand for integrity and grit, or do we vacillate with the four winds? If faced with a challenge of whether to do right or what feels good, do we choose?

Are we trying to teach resiliency and self-reliance to our youth, or are we letting the many distractions raise them; i.e., radio, tablets, comput-

Financial Focus
FOUR REASONS A 529 PLAN MIGHT MAKE SENSE FOR YOUR FAMILY

SUBMITTED BY:
JESSE SURETTE,
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Key takeaways

Despite their tax advantages, just 14% of adults include a 529 plan in their education savings strategy, according to a 2025 Edward Jones and Morning Consult study.



JESSE SURETTE

FINANCIAL
ADVISOR

529 funds cover college, vocational programs, registered apprenticeships and can be used towards K-12 education.

In addition to tuition, 529 funds can pay for students' day-to-day needs like internet, computers, qualified room and board, and certain K-12 tutoring costs.

A 529 education savings plan might sound like something only families with college-bound kids need. But the versatility of a 529 account may surprise you, whether your child heads to a four-year university, a trade school or elsewhere.

1. What are the tax benefits of a 529 education savings plan?

Earnings in a 529 plan grow free from federal taxes, and withdrawals used for qualified education expenses are also federally tax-free. While 529 contributions are not federally

deductible, many states allow a deduction on your state return.

Despite their tax advantages, just 14% of adults include a 529 plan in their education savings strategy, according to a 2025 Edward Jones and Morning Consult study. Instead, most families rely on traditional personal savings accounts.

2. Can a 529 be used if my child doesn't attend a traditional college?

Beyond four-year colleges, you can use 529 funds for community colleges, graduate schools and vocational programs. Apprenticeships in fields like plumbing, electrical work and welding qualify too, provided they are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

If your child earns a scholarship, you can withdraw up to that amount from your 529 account without penalty, though earnings may still be taxable.

3. What does a 529 plan cover beyond tuition?

Qualified costs for 529 plan withdrawals include books, supplies, computers, internet access and educational software. For students enrolled at least half time, room and board also qualify, including off-campus housing up to what the school sets as its cost of attendance.

Recent changes in the law expanded 529 plan qualified expenses. Some new eligible expenses include certain test-

See REAVES | 12A

See FOCUS | 11A

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THE MANNING TIMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

We welcome Letters to the Editor as a forum for our readers to share ideas, respond to local issues, and contribute to civic dialogue.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Length: Letters should be 350 words or fewer. Shorter letters have a better chance of being published.
- Tone: We encourage respectful dialogue. Letters may express strong opinions but must not include

profanity, personal attacks, or libelous statements.

- Focus: Letters may respond to articles published by The Manning Times, or may address any topic of local public interest, including community events, government actions, education, or elected officials.
- Identification: All letters must include the writer's full name, street address,

and a daytime phone number. Only the name and town will be published. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

- Originality: Letters must be original and not submitted elsewhere. We do not publish open letters or form letters.

EDITING AND PUBLICATION:

- Letters may be edited for length, clarity, style, and factual accuracy.

- Submission does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to decline letters at our discretion.
- Letters reflect the opinions of the authors, not the views of The Manning Times.

RIGHT OF REPLY:

- In cases where a letter names or criticizes an individual or organization, we may offer that party the opportunity to respond

before publication.

- If they decline to comment, we may include an Editor's Note stating that the opportunity was offered.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

- Please email your letter to: manningsctimes@gmail.com or melissamccoywrites@gmail.com
- Include "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Letters may also be mailed or dropped off at our office.

HAPPENINGS

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Library, Manning Times launch Teen Press Corps for area students

STAFF REPORT
mtscreporter@gmail.com

The Manning Times and Harvin Clarendon County Library are partnering this summer to launch Teen Press Corps, a new hands-on journalism and media program designed to help local students develop writing, photography and digital communication skills while documenting life in Clarendon County.

The eight-week initiative was developed through a partnership between The Manning Times and Harvin Clarendon County Library Youth Services Librarian Bevin Davis. Library Director Holly Cockfield and Davis first approached the newspaper with the idea as a way to create more opportunities for teens interested in media, content creation and local storytelling.

"We wanted to give students a chance to tell the stories happening in their own community while learning real-world skills they can use in school, future careers and everyday life," Davis said.

Teen Press Corps will begin Friday, June 5, with weekly meetings at 1 p.m. at the li-

brary. The sessions will continue through July 31, excluding June 19 and July 3.

Organizers said the experience is designed to function more like a newsroom workshop than a traditional summer camp. Participants will begin with journalism basics before moving into interviewing, feature writing, photography, event coverage and digital media content creation.

Weekly topics will include journalism fundamentals, AP style and ethics, interviewing techniques, visual storytelling, social media content creation, event coverage and portfolio building.

Students will also complete hands-on assignments throughout the summer, including community interviews, photography challenges and local event coverage opportunities.

Melissa Foust-McCoy, managing editor of The Manning Times, said the goal is not only to introduce journalism, but also to encourage confidence, curiosity and stronger community connections among local teens.

"We want students to realize that stories are everywhere," McCoy said. "Some of the most

meaningful stories come from the people they already know — family members, neighbors and coaches. This program is really about helping them learn how to ask questions, listen carefully and share those experiences in a meaningful way."

Participants will have opportunities to learn:

- basic news writing and AP style
- interviewing and communication techniques
- photography basics and visual reporting
- social media and digital content creation
- event and community coverage

Some student work may also be featured through The Manning Times and library platforms during the summer.

The program is open to teens interested in writing, photography, media, social media or creative communication. No prior experience is required.

Another informational meeting for interested students and parents will be held Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. at Harvin Clarendon County Library.

For more information, contact Harvin Clarendon County Library or The Manning Times.



ROTARY: Blaze Gillespie, campus pastor for Seacoast Church Manning, speaks to members of the Manning Rotary Club during the club's May 13 meeting, sharing the church's mission, community partnerships and current outreach programs.

(MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY/THE MANNING TIMES)

ROTARY ROUNDUP: SEACOAST PASTOR SHARES CHURCH MISSION, COMMUNITY FOCUS

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Members of the Manning Rotary Club welcomed Blaze Gillespie, campus pastor for Seacoast Church Manning, as the guest speaker during the club's May 13 meeting.

Gillespie shared both the story behind Seacoast Church and his own journey from football coach and Army veteran to ministry leadership, while also discussing several outreach efforts and programs currently taking place through the local campus.

"Love God, love people — the end," Gillespie told Rotarians. "We try to love God and love people and have fun doing it."

Seacoast Church began in Mount Pleasant in the late 1980s and has since grown into a multi-campus church with 15 locations across the Carolinas, along with online outreach and prison ministry programs. Gillespie said the Manning campus has spent more than 20 years operating through weekly setup and teardown efforts before recently moving into its permanent location on Brooks Street.

"This building is much more than just a normal church building for our church and our church members," Gillespie said, crediting volunteers — known within Seacoast as the Dream Team — for years of behind-the-scenes work.

Gillespie shared the church's focus on relationships, community and partnerships with existing organizations rather than creating competing programs.

"Our goal again is not to do it all," he said. "We want to sup-

port, celebrate, encourage and promote the local organizations that's already existing and just try to build them up as much as possible."

He focused on Seacoast's partnerships with organizations including Well Watered Ministries, United Ministries and Vision by Design through volunteer work and local missions outreach.

Gillespie also spoke about the importance of small groups and building community within the church.

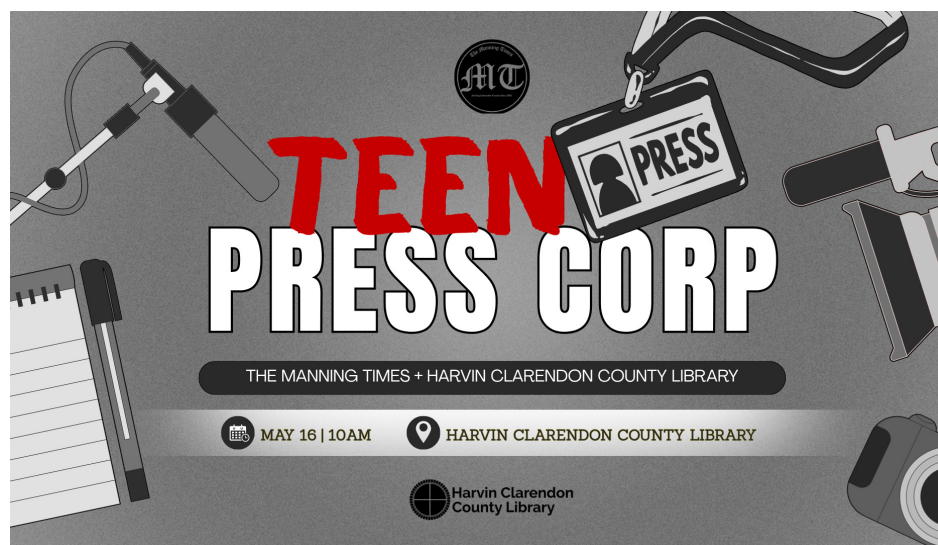
"We believe so much in community," he said. "You can walk in the mess with someone, you can celebrate with them, but more importantly, you can have the trust to come show up broken and share that with someone and walk out of there feeling like you have a team behind you."

A former head football coach at Wagener-Salley High School and Camden High School, Gillespie said he felt called into ministry after speaking at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp with student athletes.

"I just knew that it was my time to say yes and amen," he said.

Gillespie also shared details about several current programs and upcoming events at the Manning campus, including weekly "Custom" youth gatherings, an afterschool program for Manning Junior High and Manning High stu-

See ROTARY | 9A



MUMC partners with first responders for community outreach

STAFF REPORT
mtscreporter@gmail.com

Manning United Methodist Church (MUMC) is launching several new outreach efforts aimed at supporting local families and children in partnership with the Manning Police Department and Manning Fire Department.

The church's Committee on Missions recently announced the initiative, titled "Opportunities to Love Our Neighbors," which focuses on food assistance and comfort items for children experiencing difficult situations.

One project includes providing a 12-foot by 10-foot portable building behind the Manning Police Department to store nonperishable food items. According to the announcement, the Manning Police De-

partment and Manning Fire Department will distribute the food to families in need throughout the community.

The church is also beginning a monthly food collection effort to help keep the building stocked. Donations of nonperishable staple foods may be brought to Manning United Methodist Church on the first Sunday of each month and placed on the middle front pew. Organizers said other churches have also been invited to participate in the ministry effort.

In addition to food support, the church is preparing "Child Comfort Bags" for police officers and firefighters to distribute to children facing stressful or traumatic situations, including children removed from homes during emergency situations.

Each drawstring backpack will include a child's toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap,

soft washcloth, small blanket, stuffed toy and a box of Pop-Tarts.

According to the church, 60 backpacks were recently distributed to congregation members to take home, fill with the requested items and return for distribution.

"We have prepared one bag and the cost was a little under \$30," the announcement stated.

The church said the goal of the effort is to provide practical support while sharing compassion throughout the community.

Donations for the outreach projects may also be dropped off at The Manning Times office.

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Clarendon County School District announces Teachers of the Year

SUBMITTED

The Clarendon County School District has announced its Teachers of the Year for the 2026-27 academic year, recognizing nine educators across the district for their dedication to students and excellence in the classroom.

Honorees were selected based on instructional practices, commitment to student achievement and contributions to their school communities, according to a release from the district.

The 2026-27 Teachers of the Year are:

Adrianna Lee, Walker Gamble Elementary School
Takelia Hammett, Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary School
Shameika Hilton, Manning Elementary School
Quinten Kelly, Manning Junior High School
Jennifer Mongold, Manning Early Childhood Center
Jennifer Hunt, East Clarendon Middle/High School
Ashley Davis, Scott's Branch Middle/High School
Anita Hatfield, Manning High School
Erica Wallace, F. E. DuBose Career Center



TEACHERS DManning Elementary School Principal Allyson Goff, left, poses with Shameika Hilton after Hilton was named Manning Elementary School's 2026-27 Teacher of the Year. At right, Kim Johnson, left, Erica Wallace and Dr. Keisha Carr pose together after Wallace was named F. E. DuBose Career Center Teacher of the Year for the 2026-27 school year. Photos of all the award recipients can be found on manninglive.com.

"These educators inspire not only their students but also their colleagues and the entire community," Superintendent Shawn Johnson said in the release. "We are incredibly proud of our Teachers of the Year. Their passion for education, commitment to student success, and unwavering support for their fellow educators exemplify the core values of our district."

District officials said the teachers were recognized for creating engaging and nurturing classroom environments while fostering a love for learning among students.

Campus Teachers of the Year will apply for District Teacher of the Year later this month. The district plans to recognize the educators during the 2026-27 Opening Convocation in July.

According to the release, the district remains committed to academic excellence, innovation and community engagement while working to provide a supportive learning environment for students and educators.

Photos of all the award recipients can be found on manninglive.com.



(PROVIDED/CCSD)

Care, comfort and support: Creating space for time together

BY MISSY ARD
mtsreporter@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Due to a production error, a portion of last week's story was inadvertently omitted from the jump page in print. We regret the error and are publishing the complete story in this week's edition.

In the weeks ahead, The Manning Times is sharing stories from local families who have walked through serious illness with loved ones and the role hospice and palliative care played during that time.

For many, these services are not fully understood until they are needed. Through these conversations, families reflect on the challenges they faced, the support they received and the moments that mattered most.

This week's story shares how hospice care helped the family of Shannon Peebles navigate her final months while allowing her to remain at home surrounded by the people she loved.

A life well lived is often measured in the people left behind to tell its story.

For David Peebles, remembering his wife Shannon means remembering a woman who spent her life caring for others, putting family first and pouring herself into the



FAMILY: The Peebles family is pictured together prior to Shannon Peebles' death in February 2026 after a battle with cancer. Family members said hospice care helped create space for more time together during her final months.

(PROVIDED/DAVID PEEBLES)

children she taught and loved.

"She loved kids, young children and homeschool teaching and was all about educating children," David said. "She was a caring person who was always reaching out to others and putting others first. She was very

generous and a woman of faith."

Shannon Peebles died this past February at age 57 after battling cancer. David said

See CARE | 11A

HopeHealth town hall centers on keeping rural patients connected to care

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsreporter@gmail.com

HopeHealth CEO Carl Humphries spent Monday afternoon talking about health-care, but much of the conversation centered on something simpler — making sure people in rural communities do not fall through the cracks.

During HopeHealth's quarterly Town Hall meeting on May 18, Humphries walked community members through the role federally qualified health centers play in South Carolina while also addressing growing concerns about provider shortages, rising costs and potential Medicaid cuts.

The event, held at HopeHealth in Manning, was designed to help patients and residents better understand the organization's mission and services.

Rather than opening with statistics, Humphries introduced attendees to "Angela," a fictionalized patient based on a real person HopeHealth helped. He described a divorced mother struggling to manage Type 1 diabetes while working multiple jobs, raising children and coping with the loss of health insurance.

"She has to choose between insulin and groceries," Humphries said.

Humphries used Angela's story to explain HopeHealth's approach to care, describing the organization as a "medical home" that treats the whole person rather than isolated medical

issues.

"We're looking at Angela's sit-



CARL HUMPHRIES, CEO
HOPE HEALTH

uation, and we're trying to treat the whole person," he said.

Throughout the presentation, Humphries explained that HopeHealth serves patients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay through a combination of federal grant funding, insurance reimbursements, sliding fee discounts and the federal 340B drug pricing program.

The 340B program became one of the evening's larger talking points as Humphries discussed ongoing debates over prescription drug discounts for community health centers and hospitals.

"Our position more typically is, well, you're making billions of dollars in profit," Humphries

See TOWN HALL | 10A

KOLB FROM PAGE 1A

in Clarendon County. Before moving to South Carolina, she served as principal of an alternative school in Virginia and later began teaching English as a Second Language classes and GED courses for incarcerated adults.

"My favorite groups of students have always been 'on the fringe' — meaning they're a little different for some reason," Kolb said. "I loved the students and their reasons for being in Adult Education immediately."

Now in her seventh year leading Clarendon County Adult Education, Kolb said one of her biggest goals has been bringing more visibility to a field she believes is often overlooked.

"It's always been called the best kept secret in education," she said. "I hope to make it a little less hidden."

Her advocacy work has expanded beyond the classroom in recent years. In 2025, Kolb was selected as South Carolina's

State Advocate for Adult Education Fellow, allowing her to participate in national advocacy efforts and policy discussions on behalf of adult learners.

While proud of the opportunity, Kolb admitted stepping into a more public advocacy role pushed her outside her comfort zone.

"As an introvert, this new role is kind of scary," she said. "But then I think of how scary it must be for an adult to walk through the doors of a school building and ask someone to help them get an education that they missed, and I get over the fear of advocating quickly."

Clarendon County Adult Education has continued to grow steadily in recent years. The program has maintained retention rates above 90 percent for both students and staff while increasing the number of graduates and workforce certification participants annually. Kolb said the goal moving forward is simple.

"Just keep getting better," she said.

She also hopes adults who may feel intimidated about returning to school understand they are not alone.

"The first step may feel small, but it can open the door to life-changing opportunities," Kolb said. "Whether your goal is a GED or high school diploma, a new career, or setting an example for your family, those goals are absolutely within reach."



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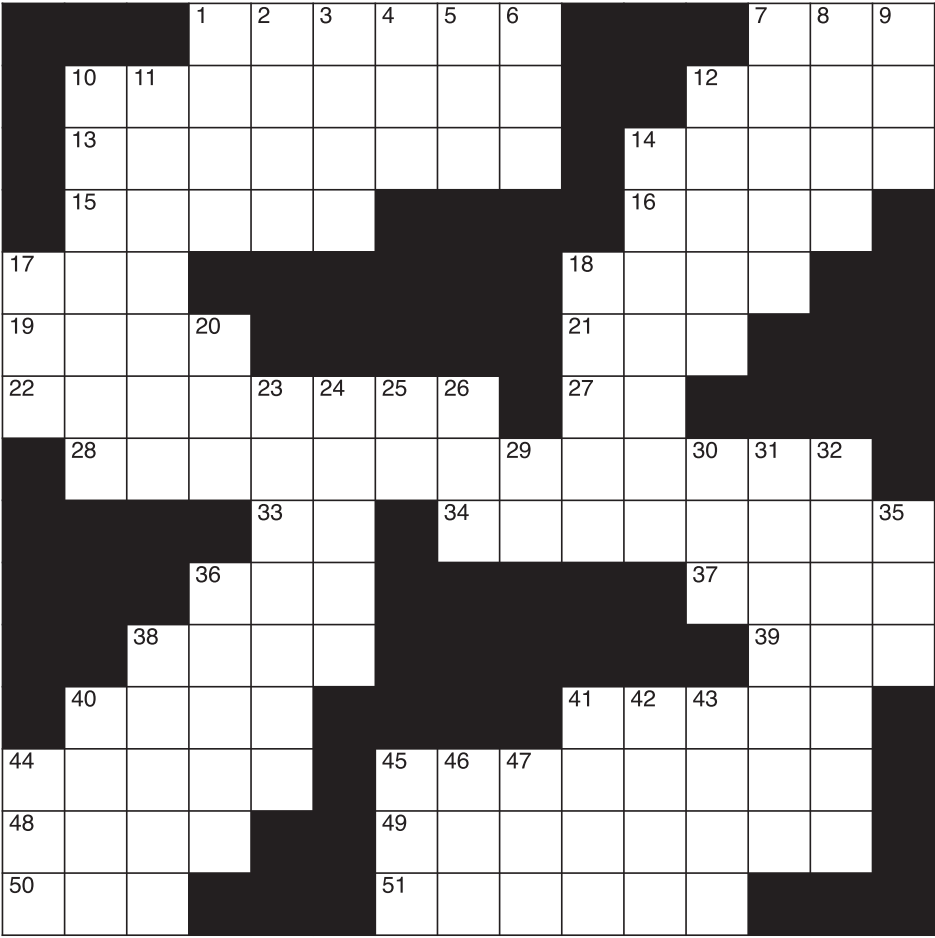
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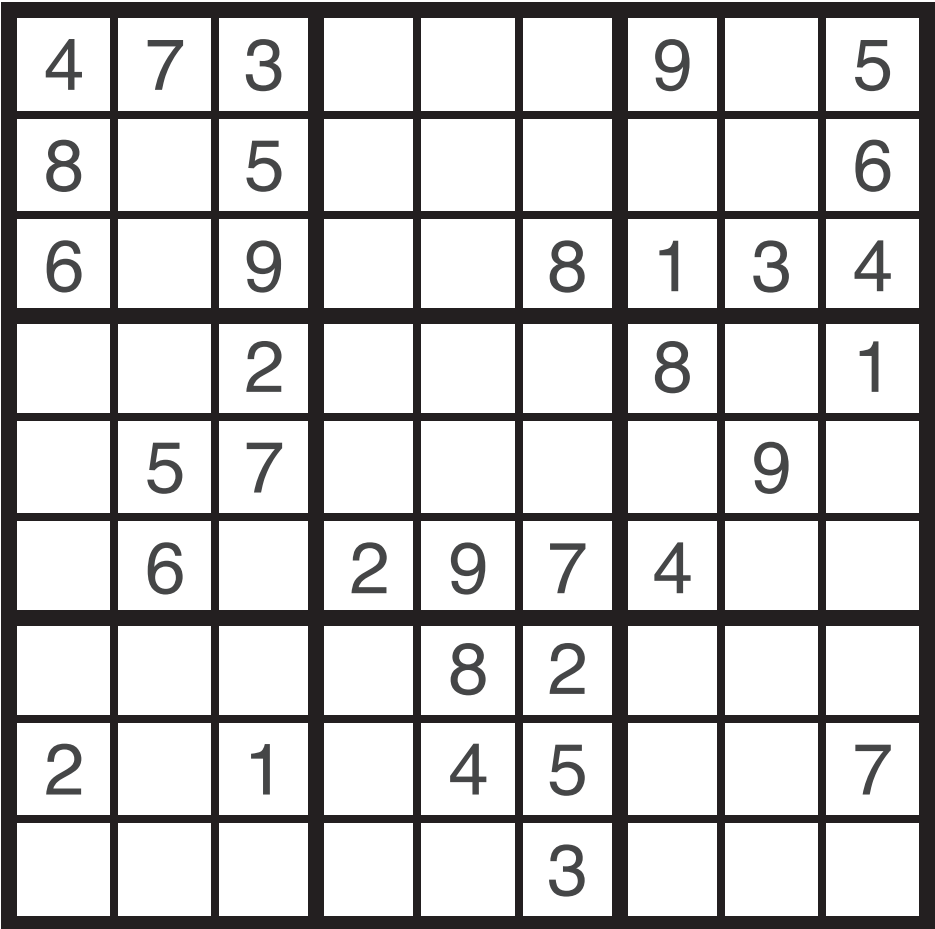
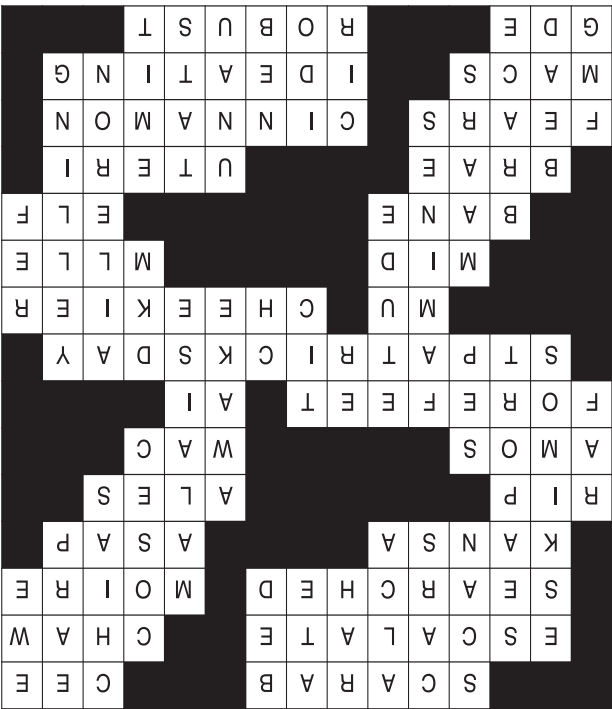
CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle
7. Gambling game ___-lo
10. Further along
12. Type of tobacco
13. Looked for
14. Silk fabric
15. Computer method to solve equations
16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
17. Tear
18. Brews
19. "Famous" cookie baker
21. Women's Army Corps
22. Front parts of an animal
27. It's causing quite a stir
28. Beloved March holiday
33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
34. More impudent
36. Indicates center
37. Young woman (French)
38. A cause of distress
39. Santa's helper
40. Hillside
41. Many wombs
44. Is afraid of
45. Popular baked goods ingredient
48. Popular computers
49. Conceiving of
50. Google certification (abbr.)
51. Sturdy
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
5. Consumed
6. A place to sleep
7. Small seeds
8. Legendary law man Wyatt
9. Female sheep
10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
11. A place ships dock
12. Reciprocal of sine
14. Discomfort
17. British Air Aces
18. Exit sleep
20. Solar energetic particle
23. Plagues characterized by starvation
24. Short musical composition
25. Trauma center
26. Habitual twitching
29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
30. Decameter
31. Hinged surface in a wing
32. Shouting
35. Sports official
36. Volcanic craters
38. Supportive device
40. It's part of a rosary
41. Two-toed sloth
42. Body art
43. Let out
44. Foreign medical graduate
45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
46. Couples say it
47. Bird's beak

CLUES DOWN

1. Peruse quickly
2. Automobiles

▼ ▼ ▼ THIS WEEK'S ANSWER KEY ▼ ▼ ▼



Level: Beginner

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

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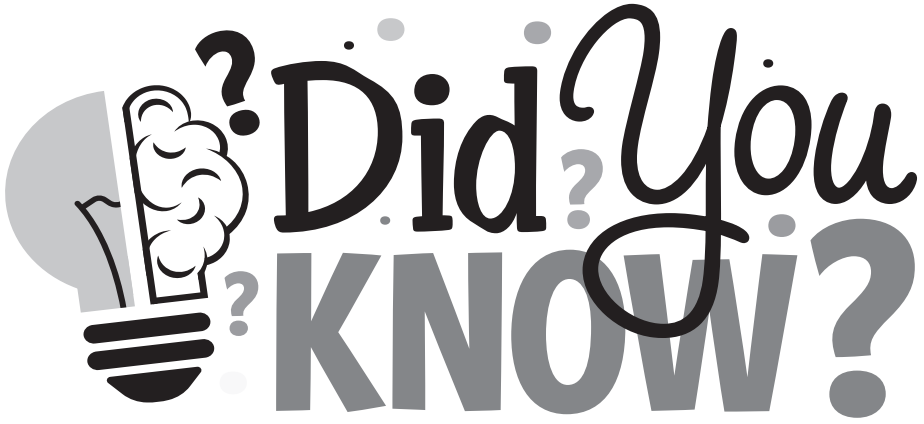
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer/songwriter born in New York on May 9, 1949. I played the piano at a bar to help support my mother while in high school. I progressed to being a Grammy Award-winning artist and pianist known for my huge catalog of songs. I am the third best-selling solo artist in the U.S.

Answer: Billy Joel



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Community moments captured around Clarendon County



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Turbeville council advances trio of financial ordinances

BY ALEX FEAGIN
miscreporter@gmail.com

The Turbeville Town Council moved several key financial ordinances forward during its May 12 meeting, including measures tied to the town's 2026-27 budget, business licensing requirements and the potential use of tax anticipation notes to help maintain operations during the fiscal year.

Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 2026-01, which establishes the town's annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The ordinance applies to all departments within the Town of Turbeville.

According to budget documents presented to council, the proposed 2026-27 budget includes approximately \$1.89 million in projected revenues and about \$1.86 million in projected expenditures.

The general fund budget includes projected revenues of \$625,718 and expenditures of \$619,688. Utility fund revenues and expenditures are both projected at more than \$1.2 million.

Council also approved the first reading of Ordinance 2026-02, which authorizes the use of tax anticipation notes, commonly referred to as TANs.

The ordinance states that much of the town's operating revenue comes from property taxes, which are not typically collected until later in the fiscal year. The measure would allow the town to temporarily borrow funds, if needed, to cover operating expenses such as payroll and other costs before tax revenue is received.

Under the ordinance, the town administrator would be authorized to issue the notes without additional council action if the town's projected cash position requires interim financing. The ordinance also requires the town administrator to prepare projections showing cash needs and available funds before any notes are issued.

The ordinance further states the town would maintain a reserve equal to at least 5% of operating expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Council members also approved the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03, the town's annual business license ordinance.

The measure requires businesses, companies and professionals operating within the Town of Turbeville to obtain a business license. The ordinance states the licensing structure is intended to help generate revenue for town operations, debt obligations and other municipal expenses. Teachers and ministers are exempt under the ordinance.

The updated business license schedule would take effect for the 2026-27 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

In addition to the ordinance readings, council reviewed the April financial report. The report showed total income of \$149,413 for the month compared to \$131,686 in expenditures, leaving a monthly surplus of \$17,727. Year-to-date revenues totaled more than \$2.05 million, while year-to-date expenditures stood at approximately \$1.82 million.

Water and sewer operations continued to make up a significant portion of the town's finances. The water department reported more than \$1.08 million in year-to-date revenue, while sewer revenues totaled more than \$432,000.

On the expenditure side, the water department showed approximately \$947,080 in year-to-date expenses, while sewer expenses totaled nearly \$399,000. Police department expenditures were listed at approximately \$149,846 year-to-date, while streets and beautification expenses totaled more than \$208,000.

The Turbeville Town Council holds its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

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TOWN HALL FROM PAGE 5A

said of pharmaceutical companies. "It seems like it would be okay for you to continue to allow us to purchase drugs at a discount."

Humphries also warned that looming Medicaid cuts and changes to Affordable Care Act subsidies could create additional strain on rural healthcare providers and patients alike.

"It's estimated that 140,000 people will lose their healthcare coverage just in South Carolina alone," he said.

While the presentation covered HopeHealth's growth from a grassroots nonprofit in 1991 to a regional healthcare provider with more than 20 locations and 645 employees, much of the audience discussion focused on access to care in rural communities.

Attendees asked about appointment wait times, physician shortages and the difficulty of recruiting providers to smaller towns like Manning.

HopeHealth staff acknowledged some routine appointments currently extend into July but said urgent hospital follow-ups are prioritized through partnerships with McLeod Health.

"We're just trying to take care of patients, whether it's with you all or with us," one McLeod representative said during the discussion.

Humphries repeatedly emphasized the importance of collaboration between healthcare organizations serving Clarendon County.

"We're stronger together," he said.

HopeHealth currently serves more than 11,000 patients locally, according to Humphries, including about one in every three Clarendon County residents.

CONTACT US:
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ELITE: Canadian pro Chris Johnston has won the 2026 Yokohama Tire Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes with a four-day total of 113 pounds, 12 ounces.

(ANDY CRAWFORD/BASSMASTER)

Johnston dominates at Santee Cooper to capture second Elite Series win

BY CHRISTOPHER DECKER, BASSMASTER

Canadian pro Chris Johnston said he had long wanted to win a Bassmaster Elite Series event built around southern largemouth bass.

This week at Santee Cooper, he did it in dominant fashion.

Johnston, of Peterborough, Ontario, captured the 2026 Yokohama Tire Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes with a four-day total of 113 pounds, 12 ounces, earning his second Bassmaster Elite Series victory and a \$100,000 first-place prize. His winning margin over second-place finisher Brandon Palaniuk was 19 pounds, 12 ounces.

"I've been pegged as a smallmouth guy up north, but I have been very consistent with these southern fisheries and had some close calls with Bassmaster," Johnston said. "So, to win one in this fashion is unbelievable. To have the week I had, catching 5-, 6- and 7-pounders the whole time, you couldn't ask for anything more."

The victory marked Johnston's second career Elite Series win, his first coming at the St. Lawrence River in 2020. It also earned him his second Century Belt, making him just the third angler to earn Century Belts on both smallmouth and largemouth fisheries.

Lakes Marion and Moultrie have now produced nine Century Belts since the inaugural 2006 Elite Series season, and Johnston's winning weight was the second-heaviest in tournament history at Santee Cooper behind Preston Clark's 115-pound, 15-ounce performance in 2006.

The event was hosted by the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce and drew national attention to the Santee Cooper fishery once again.

Johnston's strategy centered around main lake docks in less than 10 feet of water. While many anglers focused on vegetation and cypress trees, Johnston believed resident largemouth bass living around overlooked docks could produce winning fish.

"I don't think they get a lot of pressure," Johnston said. "There aren't really any spawning pockets nearby. But the ones that do live there are big ones."

Using a Hideup Coike Fullcast bait rigged

with a tungsten sinker and treble hook, Johnston worked docks throughout the tournament, relying on techniques he said were influenced by his experience using Garmin LiveScope technology.

"As soon as I felt it was in the depth range I wanted, I would jerk it," he said. "Then if you give it a double twitch, that gets the bass aggravated. It was almost like working a jerk-bait."

Johnston discovered the pattern on Lake Moultrie during practice, but after struggling there on Day 1, he shifted his focus to Lake Marion for the remainder of the event.

He opened with 21 pounds, 3 ounces before posting the Rapala CrushCity Monster Bag of the Tournament on Day 2 with 32 pounds, 8 ounces. He followed that with bags weighing 29-2 and 30-15 over the final two days.

Championship Sunday featured one of the tournament's defining moments when Johnston landed a 7-pound, 7-ounce largemouth around a dock system after a tense fight through multiple poles.

"I set the hook and it didn't move," Johnston said. "It started going sideways and it must have gone around four different poles. My line was one way and it jumped 4 feet to the right of that. Somehow, it swam back through all the poles and to the boat."

After boating the fish, Johnston said he knew it would be difficult for anyone in the Top 10 to catch him.

"The rest of the day was icing on the cake," he said. "I had one of the best afternoons of the week as far as catching fish goes."

Palaniuk finished second with 94 pounds even after spending the week targeting shallow cypress trees in the Jack's Creek area of Lake Marion. He brought in limits weighing 29-1, 29-15, 20-11 and 14-5 to earn his fourth Top 5 finish at Santee Cooper.

"It was an incredible week," Palaniuk said. "The first two days were some of the best days I've had on this place. Really, they were some of the most fun days I've had fishing."

Palaniuk said a combination of dollar pads, star grass and shallow cover helped identify pro-



JOHNSTON: Chris Johnston had a magical Championship Sunday and put the tournament away at the Yokohama Tire Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes.

(SHANE DURRANCE/BASSMASTER)

ductive areas holding postspawn largemouth bass.

"There was a combination of dollar pads, star grass and some other fluffy stuff," he said. "If there were dollar pads around and a little bit of scattered star grass, that's where the big ones wanted to be."

Georgia pro Drew Cook finished third with a total of 92 pounds, 9 ounces after targeting spawning bass in Lake Marion.

"It was strictly bed fishing and we milked it for all it was worth," Cook said. "You'd go to the next pocket, and there would be nothing in there. I just had to hunt and peck around."

Wisconsin angler Kyle Norsetter earned Phoenix Boats Big Bass of the Tournament honors with a 9-pound, 14-ounce bass caught on Day 3, while Johnston's 7-7 bass earned him the Day 4 big bass award.

Cook also claimed the Toyota Bonus Bucks contingency award as the highest-placing eligible angler, while Palaniuk earned the Yamaha Power Pay contingency bonus.

Following the event, Cory Johnston moved into the lead in the Progressive Bassmaster Angler of the Year standings with 483 points.

The 2026 Bassmaster Elite Series title sponsor is Progressive. Platinum sponsors are Progressive and Toyota. Premier sponsors include Bass Pro Shops, Humminbird, Mercury, Mountain Dew, Minn Kota, Nitro Boats, Ranger Boats, Rapala, Skeeter Boats and Yamaha. Supporting sponsors include AFTCO, Daiwa, Lew's, Lowrance, Phoenix Boats, VMC and Yokohama.

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LADY WOLVERINES STAY ALIVE WITH 4-2 PLAYOFF WIN

STAFF REPORT

The East Clarendon softball team kept its postseason run alive Monday night, edging Andrew Jackson 4-2 in a tightly contested SCHSL 2A lower state tournament matchup.

The Wolverines improved to 24-8 on the season with the win, continuing a dominant stretch that has seen East Clarendon win 16 of its last 18

games.

East Clarendon's latest victory was its closest since March 30, but the Wolverines once again found a way to survive and advance in the postseason bracket.

The Wolverines have been fueled by a strong offensive stretch in recent weeks, averaging 9.4 runs per game over their last 18 contests.

Andrew Jackson entered the

game riding a four-game home winning streak, but East Clarendon halted that momentum while handing the Volunteers a season-ending loss. Andrew Jackson finished the year 13-13.

East Clarendon was set to travel to Andrews on Wednesday, with the winner advancing to a rematch against Chesterfield in the lower state championship on Friday.



PLAYOFFS: The East Clarendon softball team celebrate their 4-2 playoff victory over Andrew Jackson on Monday night in the SCHSL 2A lower state tournament. The Lady Wolverines advanced to face Andrews with a spot in the lower state championship on the line.

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WOLVERINES CONTINUE POSTSEASON PUSH

STAFF REPORT

The East Clarendon baseball team continued its postseason run Monday night, edging Cheraw 5-4 to extend the Wolverines' home winning streak to six games.

East Clarendon improved to 23-9 on the season with the victory, holding off the Braves in the team's closest win since March 13.

The Wolverines have been dominant at home throughout the postseason, picking up consecutive victories over Cheraw, Philip Simmons and Andrew Jackson in recent weeks.

East Clarendon saw contributions throughout the lineup against Cheraw, with five different players recording at least one hit. Crosby

Timmons led the way offensively, finishing 2-for-3 with a stolen base and a run scored. Timmons has now recorded at least one stolen base in three straight games.

Cheraw kept the game close behind a strong performance from Crawford Poole, who went 2-for-5 with two doubles and a run scored. Hayden McCormick reached base three times and added an RBI for the Braves.

The loss dropped Cheraw to 14-17 on the season. The Braves have lost eight straight meetings against East Clarendon.

The Wolverines were scheduled to travel to Aynor on Wednesday, with the winner advancing to the lower state championship series.



ROTARY

FROM PAGE 4A

dents, a summer roller skating outing for students and a women's "Sisterhood" gathering later this month.

The meeting concluded with Gillespie leading Rotarians in prayer for the community and local leaders.

"Let us all be together on one mission, on one goal, for one town and one community," he prayed.

The Manning Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. at Porter Jack's restaurant.



FEEDBACK

FROM PAGE 2A

website here – CALEA Accreditation | SCDPS.

IMPORTANT: CALEA is not an investigatory body; subsequently, the public portal should not be used to submit information for investigative

purposes. Additionally, there will be no response other than an acknowledgment of submissions. However, the information will be considered in context to its relevancy to compliance with the standards and tenets of CALEA Accreditation. Standard titles may be viewed on the CALEA website: <https://www.calea.org/node/11406>.

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Economic Development

Barbara Ward Mishoe

GREELEYVILLE - Barbara Ward Mishoe, born March 12, 1934, in Charleston, SC, was the daughter of the late Eugene R. Ward and Ruth Morris Ward Baker. A woman of sharp wit, unwavering faith, and a spirit that couldn't be dampened, Barbara passed away leaving behind a legacy as vibrant as her personality.



Barbara's zest for life was evident early on at Winyah High School (class of 1952) in Georgetown. Whether she was cheering on the sidelines, competing on the basketball court, or participating in numerous clubs, she was always at the center of the action. She was honored as "Ms. Pocahontas" and, in a testament to her infectious charm and bright spirit, was voted Senior Superlative "Most Flirtatious"—a title she carried with a wink for the rest of her life.

A proud 1956 graduate of Coker College, Barbara's collegiate years were defined by leadership and athleticism. She served as Freshman Commissioner and Representative, Secretary-Treasurer of her Junior Class, and ultimately, President of the Senior Class. Her peers recognized her excellence by electing her to the Student Council, Athletic Council, and "Who's Who Among Students."

Her beauty and grace earned her a spot on the Beauty Court and in the May Day Dances, while her intellect and creativity led her to the Biology, French, and Drama Clubs, as well as the Alpha Psi Omega honor society. She was a true Renaissance woman, participating in the Modern Dance Club, serving as a Chapel Proctor, and competing in everything from tennis and crew to volleyball, hockey, and basketball. On the court, she was a standout member of the "Honor Team." At the time, the mascot was the "Coconuts," and players were restricted to playing either offense or defense. Barbara excelled as a defensive specialist. She would likely tell you that today's players could learn a thing or two from her era, given that "no one plays defense anymore!" That defensive instinct served her well later in life.

Barbara was a dedicated educator. She began her teaching career at North Charleston High School and later taught at Greeleyville Elementary, Manning Christian Academy, and Laurence Manning Academy, the latter of which she helped found.

She was a pillar of the South Carolina community, serving on the parole board for the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and acting as a formidable force in the South Carolina Republican Party. When she made a bid for a SC House seat, she did so with the goal of bringing a "down-home," common-sense approach to the Capital City. A lifelong member of the Methodist Church in both Greeleyville and Georgetown, Barbara's faith was her cornerstone.

Barbara was preceded in death by the love of her life, Thomas Neil Mishoe of Greeleyville; her mother, Ruth Ward Baker; her father, Eugene R. Ward; her brother, Roger Ward; her nephew, Brad Freeman; and other beloved family members who welcomed her home.

She is survived by her children and their families: Carolyn Mishoe-Coon and her husband, Bill, and their children, Matthew and Megan Coon; Tommy Mishoe and his wife, Angie, and their children, Marshall and Jordan Mishoe; and Martie Kennedy and her children, Eric, Anne, and Lee Kennedy, along with her great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Edna Freeman and her husband, Al, and her sister-in-law, Becky Ward. She cherished her nieces, nephews, and their families: Bobby Jonte; Marge Mahoney; Virginia Jonte; Allen Freeman; Robin Kirtley; Lori Bellune; Toni Bunting; Kelli Ward; and Jessica Moultrie. Also surviving are family members Johnny Mishoe, his wife Sandra, and Leonard Mishoe, as well as special family members Darrell Turner and his wife, Vassar, and their children, Faye and Allie, and a longtime family friend, Mr. Louis Reid.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, in Mt. Hope Cemetery with the Rev. Jay Wilder officiating.

The family received friends from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, at Stephens Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Gerald Widler, Jay Wilder, Matt Wilder, Bobby Jonte, John Mishoe, and Darrell Turner.

Honorary pallbearers were Johnny Mishoe, Leonard Mishoe, Louis Reid, and Charlie Hinds.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

The family would like to thank McLeod Hospice of Clarendon for their love and care.

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

Caden Alec Jones

Manning – Caden Alec Jones, 21, passed away Sunday, May 10, 2026. He was born June 2, 2004, in Manning, SC. A son of Frank Jones and Carol Fleming.



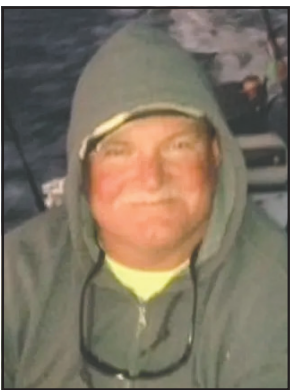
Clarence Douglas Floyd

MANNING – Clarence Douglas "Doug" Floyd, 62, passed away on Friday, May 15, 2026, at his home.

Born April 3, 1964, in Charleston, he was a son of Edith Marie Taylor Floyd and the late Clarence Waldo Floyd. He was a journeyman and worked many years in roofing and fire restoration. He was an avid fresh and saltwater fisherman.

He is survived by his mother of Summerville; three children, Jonathan Floyd (Jennifer) of Summerville, Candace Pugh (Clint) of Ramseur, NC and Stephanie Floyd of Denton, NC; nine grandchildren; a brother, Chris Floyd (Joy) of Charleston; three sisters, Debbie McLemore (Dale) of Swansea, Lois Morgan (Ron) of Ravenel and Rita Amerson (Lee) of Dalzell; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org



Renee Douglas Lawrimore

Renee Douglas Lawrimore, 72, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2026, in Myrtle Beach, following a courageous eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in Hemingway, South Carolina, on February 10, 1954, Renee was the beloved daughter of the late John and Shelby Rowe Douglas. For many years, she lovingly operated a daycare center in her hometown, nurturing countless children as their cherished "Aunt Nay." In 1988, Renee bravely embarked on a new chapter, enrolling as an adult student in Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Licensed Practical Nurse program. There, she discovered her true passion for caring for others. Renee's dedication was recognized in 1993 when she was honored as both the McLeod Regional Medical Center and the South Carolina LPN of the Year. As a nurse, she was known for her hopefulness, compassion, patience, and ever-sympathetic heart. Until her recent illness, Renee spent the last 25 years calling Manning, S.C., her home.

She is survived by her daughter, Faith Lawrimore Truesdale (J.P.) of Johnsonville; grandson, Jake Truesdale of Columbia; and twin granddaughters, Lucy and AnnElise Truesdale of Johnsonville. Renee is also survived by her brother, John (Noriene) Douglas of Mt. Pleasant; her brother-in-law, Don Trento of Naples, FL; her cousins, who served as wonderful caregivers, Lenora Avant Sullivan and Michelle Avant of Myrtle Beach, and Jay Rowe of Surfside Beach; special aunts, Joyce (Floyd) Tyler of Isle of Palms and Patsy Williams of Hemingway, along with other cherished family and friends.

Renee was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Shelby Douglas Trento, and her brother, Donald Douglas.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Agape Hospice for their warmth and unwavering support throughout Renee's illness.

Memorials may be made to the Center Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 2602 Schoolhouse Drive, Hemingway, SC 29554 or to Agape Hospice's Carnation Foundation.

The family will host a graveside service on Sunday, May 31, at 4:00 p.m. at Center Baptist Church Cemetery.

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



McConnell "Keith" Dingle

Manning – McConnell "Keith" Dingle, 49, died Thursday, May 14, 2026 at McLeod Regional Medical, Florence, SC. He was born August 17, 1976. A son of the late Sammie and Annie Daney Dingle.



Glenn William Hutto

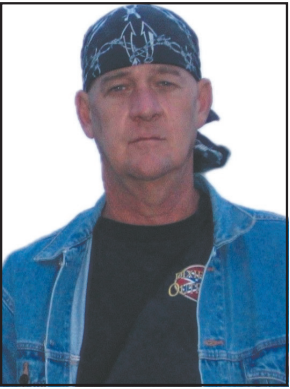
Mr. Glenn William Hutto, 62, of New Zion, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Mr. Hutto was born on February 23, 1964, in Breerton, Washington, son of Patricia Anne Huber Hutto Filyaw and the late William Jackson Hutto. He was a welder by trade who enjoyed the simple things in life. He loved nature and the outdoors and found peace in being outside. A devoted son, he faithfully cared for his mother with love and compassion. Mr. Hutto was known as a simple man with a big heart, always willing to help others and offer kindness to those around him.

Surviving are his mother, Patricia Anne Huber Hutto Filyaw; son, Jesse Shane (Ashley) Hutto; daughter, Summer Ariana Hutto; grandchildren, Gabriel, Noah, Kayden, Brittney and Krislyn; sister, Karen H. (Chris) Browder; brother, John Henry (April) Filyaw.

Mr. Hutto was preceded in death by a step-father, Delos Jackson Filyaw; maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Mary Edith Huber; paternal grandparents, Harvey and Leola Hutto.

Graveside service was held at 1:00 PM, Friday, May 15, 2026, at Floyd Chapel Cemetery. Family received friends following the service.



James Marion Edwards, Jr

MANNING – James "Jim" Marion Edwards, Jr., 48, passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at his home.

Born on January 26, 1978, in Manning, he was the son of the late Marian Martin Edwards. He was a member of Grace Christian Fellowship Church. Jim was an avid Batman fan and his family would like to encourage everyone to wear Batman attire in his memory.

He is survived by a sister, Stephanie Edwards Ratkovsky (Tom) of Manning; a half-sister, Heather Edwards Price (Frankie) of Elloree; two nieces, Sarah Ann Ratkovsky and Katie Gray Ratkovsky; a nephew, Ira Price; close friend, Shannon Hamilton of Gridley, CA; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and his beloved dog, Rizzo.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert and Thomasyne Martin.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at Grace Christian Fellowship Church Cemetery with the Rev. Mike Murdoch officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 1 to 2 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

Memorials may be made to Grace Christian Fellowship Church, P.O. Box 702, Manning, SC 29102.



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

Carnell Baxter

Manning – Carnell Baxter, 73, husband of Polly Wilson Baxter died Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at McLeod Health Clarendon, Manning, SC. He was born July 21, 1953 in Manning, SC. A son of the late Willie James and Corine Nelson Baxter.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his daughter, Shannon Cousar, 1011 Fleming Circle, Manning, SC.



GALA FROM PAGE 1A

Throughout the evening, the Foundation awarded scholarships to students, along with special scholarships recognizing both an educator and a graduate student for academic achievement and leadership. Organizers said the scholarships reflect the Foundation's ongoing mission to invest in education and provide opportunities for future leaders to thrive.

Guests filled the venue in support of the Foundation's work, creating what organizers described as an atmosphere of pride, celebration and unity. The sold-out event highlighted the continued impact of the Foundation and the community's dedication to preserving Pearson's legacy through service, scholarship and advocacy.

As the evening concluded, attendees left inspired by the Foundation's commitment to honoring the past while empowering the next generation. Through education, recognition and community engagement, the Levi Pearson Scholarship Foundation continues to ensure that the legacy of Levi Pearson remains a guiding light for future generations across South Carolina and beyond.

Scholarship recipients included:

Jernee Ford, Scotts Branch High School, Florida Memorial University (ICAN Mentoring Recipient)

Chase Gantt, South Aiken High School, University of South Carolina Columbia (State NAACP/Levi Pearson Recipient)

Tanasia English-Hunter, North Carolina Central School of Law (Graduate School Recipient)

Ms. Riza Alejandro, Manning High School biology teacher (Viola Pearson Book Scholarship)

Kathleen L. Gibson, community advocate (Levi Pearson Hall of Fame Recipient)

Cortney Livingston, Sumter High School, Coastal Carolina University

Zaria Singletary, Lake City Magnet School, Lander University

Jaaleyah Burns, Wilson High School, North Carolina A&T State University

Tenia Mack, Bethune-Bowman High School, Lander University

Ansh D. Patel, Manning High School, University of South Carolina

Ziaier Bryant, Scotts Branch High School, University of South Carolina Upstate

Makayla Wilson, Battery Creek High School, Georgia Southern University

Jada Bowman, Scotts Branch High School, Benedict College

Destiny Gallishaw, Manning High School, Fayetteville State University

Trinity Washington, Barnwell High School, South Carolina State University

Rebecca Whitmore, Dreher High School, Coastal Carolina University



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To host a meeting: Call 803-433-1252

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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

22nd 2026 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.

Joyce Strothers- Unit: 3 & 4

Mark Allen Lynch- Unit: 28A

Kathy Plowden- Unit: 45

Domier Holmes- Unit: 46

Shakelsha Smiling- Unit: 5

Brianna Wheeler - Unit: 18

(05/28)

NOTICE OF MASTER IN EQUITY SALE

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2025CP1400575

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for

Clarendon County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the

case of PIC Fund I, LLC, against REITactical LLC; et al., the

Master in Equity for Clarendon County, or his/her agent, will sell on

June 1, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., at Clarendon County Courthouse,

3 West Keitte Street, Manning, SC 29102, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the improvements

thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Clarendon, State

of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 132A, on a

plat of White Oak, Section I, prepared by Edward S. Bartless, RLS,

dated August 15, 1995, and recorded in the Office of the RMC/

ROD for Clarendon County in Plat Cabinet A, Slide 3 at Plat 5; said

lot having such boundaries and measurements as shown thereon,

all being a little more or less.

TMS No: 161-07-01-006-00

Property Address: 1386 Hobbs

Dr., Summerton, SC 29148

This being the same property conveyed to property REITactical

LLC by deed of Randy Spivey, Sr. and Marci Spivey, dated March

8, 2023, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon

County March 17, 2023, in Book 1012 at Page 4176.

TERMS OF SALE: FOR CASH. The Master in Equity will require a

deposit of 5% of the bid amount in cash or certified funds, which is to

be applied on the purchase price upon compliance with the bid.

Interest on the balance of the bid at 26.00% shall be paid to the day of

compliance.

In case of noncompliance within 20 days, after the sale, the deposit of

5% is to be forfeited and applied to Plaintiff's judgment debt and the

property re-advertised for sale upon the same terms at the risk of the

former highest bidder. Purchaser to pay for deed recording fees and deed

stamps. Deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will remain

open thirty (30) days after the sale. The Plaintiff may withdraw its

demand for a deficiency judgment any time prior to sale.

Should Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent fail to appear

on the day of sale, the property shall not be sold but shall be re-

advertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter

when Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent, is present.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing

easements and easements and restrictions of record.

Any sale pursuant to this order is without warranty of any kind.

Neither Plaintiff nor Court warrant title to any third-party purchaser.

All third-party purchasers are made parties to this action and are

deemed to have notice of all matters disclosed by the public

record, including the status of title. See Ex parte Keller, 185 S.C. 283,

194 S.E. 15 (1937); Wells Fargo Bank, NA v. Turner, 378 S.C. 147,

662 S.E.2d 424 (Ct. App. 2008).7

(5/14, 5/21, 5/28)

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NEWS

CARE FROM PAGE 5A

the disease was discovered too late for curative treatment, and the focus of her care eventually shifted toward keeping her comfortable.

As Shannon's needs increased, so did the demands on

the family caring for her.

Their daughter-in-law, Lori Peebles, took leave from work to help care for Shannon at home, while other family members balanced work, caregiving and the emotional strain that often comes with serious illness.

That was when the family turned to hospice services for support.

David said the care team quickly became more than medical providers.

"They helped guide us through everything," he said. The support allowed family members to continue working while ensuring Shannon's

needs were being met at home. David said the team also helped prepare the family for changes in Shannon's condition and offered reassurance during difficult moments.

In-home hospice care also eased the burden of frequent medical visits.

Instead of repeated trips to doctors' offices or emergency rooms, much of Shannon's care could be handled at home by nurses and other members of the care team. David said that brought comfort not only to Shannon, but to those caring for her.

Providers monitored medications, addressed medical concerns and communicated with doctors as Shannon's needs changed.

Services also extended beyond medical care, helping with everyday needs like bathing, dressing and other daily activities that can become difficult for patients facing serious illness.

For the Peebles family, having that support in place created space for something equally important — time together.

One memory David continues to smile about is Shannon's sense of direction.

"She always made sure we got where we needed to go," he said. In many ways, he said, hospice care helped the family navigate unfamiliar territory as they faced the end of Shannon's life together.

While hospice care is often associated only with death, David said his family's experience was more about comfort, support and allowing Shannon to remain at home surrounded by the people she loved.

It also helped ease some of the fear and uncertainty families often carry during those moments.

For David, that support made an immeasurable difference. "She was taken care of," he said.



SHANNON AND DAVID PEEBLES

FOCUS FROM PAGE 3A

certain limits and criteria) or roll them into a disability savings account (ABLE account) for the beneficiary or a family member.

With so many options for investing, withdrawals and redirecting the money, a 529 plan is one of the more flexible tools available for families thinking

about education costs. A financial advisor can walk you through the details and help you choose a plan that fits your overall financial strategy.

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CCVRE
FROM PAGE 1A

investigation into possible criminal violations involving a current employee. Chairman Ed Gamble confirmed after Monday’s meeting that SLED has been contacted and the matter remains active. He also said the employee involved has been suspended with pay while the investigation continues.

During discussion Monday, Gamble said the board learned ballot box seals had previously been cut, recorded and reused in an effort to save money. “We are not doing that,” Gamble said. “This vote is the plan of the board.”

Vice Chairman Brian Magaw clarified the new procedures would take effect immediately, including during upcoming early voting for the June 9 primary election.

Following executive session, the board also unanimously approved a second motion requiring blue ballot bins to remain sealed once removed from voting tabulators until legally reopened for counting. Members additionally authorized up to \$8,500 to purchase 18 additional ballot bins.

Gamble said the board wants to ensure both election security and public confidence moving forward.

“Not only does it have to be right, it’s got to look right,” Gamble said during chairman’s remarks.

Public comments focused heavily on recent election operations.

Clarendon County Auditor Patricia Pringle thanked the

board and staff for recent election work but urged members to place poll workers closer to their homes whenever possible, particularly elderly workers traveling before daylight hours.

“It discourages some of your most reliable and faithful workers,” Pringle said.

She also questioned why some polling places opened late during the recent Clarendon County Council District 2 special election.

Gamble acknowledged the delays, including one precinct that reportedly opened roughly 40 minutes late and another more than an hour late.

“There’s no excuse for it,” Gamble said. “Those two instances were inexcusable.”

Director Robert Adams apologized for the issues and said the office is already changing procedures ahead of the June primary.

“We were trying something new,” Adams said. “It didn’t work. We won’t do it again.”

Adams said the office plans to implement a ranking system allowing poll workers to request their top three preferred precinct assignments while also improving communication with polling locations before Election Day.

The board also formally elected Mary J. Ardis as board secretary. According to Gamble, Andrea Killman stepped down as secretary several months ago but remains on the board. Ardis had been serving as acting secretary prior to Monday’s vote.

Members additionally approved moving the June 11 canvassing meeting for the June primary from Clarendon County Council Chambers to the elections office on South Church Street in Manning.

The board also approved a policy governing public participation at meetings. The policy limits speakers to three minutes each, caps public comments at five speakers per meeting and requires comments remain related to agenda items or board business.

During chairman’s remarks, Gamble addressed the recently released SEC audit examining Clarendon County elections between 2023 and early 2025.

The 105-page review identified procedural, administrative and recordkeeping failures involving absentee ballot handling, poll worker reimbursements, meeting procedures and ballot security practices.

Gamble noted many current board members were not serving during the audit period and said the board has already implemented or begun implementing several recommended reforms.

“When I look back at where we were as a board a year ago, we are light years ahead when it comes to transparency and accountability,” Gamble said.

The board later approved multiple new and previously deferred poll manager and poll clerk applicants for the June primary and any potential runoff elections. Several incomplete applications were deferred pending additional information, though members later approved allowing board officers to finalize those applications without waiting for another full board meeting once completed.

The meeting concluded after additional public discussion regarding ballot handling procedures, electronic vote tabulation and public testing of election equipment.

REAVES
FROM PAGE 3A

play on a tablet at the table at a restaurant with no interaction with his family. I won’t soon forget the blank stare that young man had on his face as he looked up from the screen.

Back in the late ’60s and early ’70s, there was a renowned pediatrician named Dr. Spock that tried for years to change the parenting dynamic in child rearing, and it failed miserably.

He was blamed for the “bratty children” generation and started the downward spiral of respect and integrity we see today. Of course, they grew up and had children, further promoting this behavior.

Then the internet came on the scene and now AI. Where will it stop?

To wrap this up, please don’t think I think technology is bad, nor do I think that all parents are bad, because I don’t, but here are my concerns.

We are traveling down a road that will soon have no turnarounds. Culture is like a wire fence nailed to a tree. For a long time, you can still pull the staple out and remove the fence, but after a while, especially if you don’t keep a check on it, the tree grows around it and the only way to remove the fence is to heavily notch a portion out or cut the whole tree down. All of those approaches are drastic.

Are we at that point culturally? Are we dangerously close to having to cut the proverbial tree down?

Are we so far from living a natural life that we have to have our phones and computers to get us through?

Are we so far removed from the earth’s heartbeat that we can’t feel the blood coursing through its veins?

Here are some truths I leave with you:

God has been removed from everything that matters, and that will, if not already, become a problem because He is the cornerstone upon

ers, and cell phones?

The other evening, I watched a young child

which all life is anchored.

God never promised that you wouldn’t have storms in your life. But he did promise that he would be right there with you, beside you, to help you through it. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:5 that “I will never leave you or forsake you.” But he does tell you not to build your house upon the sand, for the outcome could be catastrophic. Sound advice from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Just because the internet says it and Madison Avenue sells it doesn’t mean it’s true or that we have to have it.

In the natural world, when a tree grows up “protected” from the elements, it grows so beautifully; a perfect specimen.

However, when the protection is gone, trees cut from around it, it withers and dies from its lack of protection and will probably fall over because it didn’t put its roots down deep, especially in the sand. It has become vulnerable from the very thing that protected it.

Have you put your roots down deep in the earth, the sand? Have you built your future on weak and shifting sand?

Do you have your head in the sand?

Folks, it’s time for us to realize that we are on this road of no turning back, but this cloud of gloom and despair hanging over us can be overcome. All we have to do is call upon the Lord, and with faith, all things are possible.

Let’s right this ship before we become shipwrecked and all hope is gone.

God is the answer; he loves us and is willing to help.

He can illuminate the dark places in our lives and will show us how to enjoy the existence he has planned for us.

It’s time for us to wake up and recognize the fact that in our world today, all that is evil is good and all that is good is evil, which will not bode well for us in the future, for we are basing more of our lives on that unstable sand.

Never forget, God loves you no matter what!

So take heed, folks, build your plans upon the rock and stay away from that unforgiving sand. May God bless you!

VOTING
FROM PAGE 1

finch, David Pascoe and David Stumbo

COMPTROLLER
GENERAL

Democratic: Tiffany Boozer and Bruce K. Cole

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Democratic: Lisa Ellis and Sylvia Wright

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Republican: Jeremy Cannon, Danny Ford, Cody Simpson and Fred West

U.S. SENATE

Republican: Calvin Cowen, Thomas Keith Dismukes, Lindsey Graham, Pat Herrmann, Mark Lynch and Darius Mitchell

Democratic: Annie Andrews, Brandon Brown and Kyle Freeman

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 6

Republican: John Peterson and Maurice Washington
Democratic: James E. “Jim” Clyburn and Frederick

Goodwin
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 64

Democratic: Michele Demery and Jack Spann
Voters with questions may contact the Clarendon County Election Office at 803-435-8215 or visit SC Votes to view sample ballots and voter information.

LUNCH
FROM PAGE 1A

story to this jury, to these 12 people, so they can understand.”

Drawing from high-profile court cases, personal experiences and years of trial work, Kent encouraged attendees to value human connection and communication in an increasingly digital world.

ry is law enforcement,” Kent said. “You have the ability to tell the

“We’ve lost the ability to communicate. We’ve lost the ability to tell stories,” Kent said. “Every single day as humans, we need to leave that day with something to tell, some story, some memory, so we’re not wasting time.”

Kimberly Johnson, speaking on behalf of Career Center Director Dr. Keisa Carr and district leadership, thanked the agencies and organizations that continue investing in students through mentorship and partnerships.

“Partnerships allow us to bridge gaps, provide support and ensure they feel seen, supported and empowered,” Johnson said. “We have witnessed firsthand how collaboration can open doors for students who simply needed someone willing to stand beside them.”

The event also included special recognitions voted on by law enforcement students. Lieutenant Thomas Huckaby of the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Office and Natasha Solomon of the Clarendon County Detention Center were both recognized as Work-Based Learning Supervisors of the Year.

Law Enforcement Instructor Ladell Grice was repeatedly praised throughout the program for her dedication to students and her work building relationships between the school and local agencies. Johnson joked that Grice “won’t sit down,” while acknowledging the constant work she pours into the program and community.

Grice later turned the spotlight back onto school leadership, recognizing Carr and Johnson for their support of the career center’s programs.

The luncheon also featured music from the Manning High School Jazz Ensemble, while the district nutrition staff and culinary arts students prepared the meal served during the event.

As the program closed, Carr thanked officers for choosing careers defined by service and sacrifice.

“Communities are safer and families sleep a little easier because you chose this path,” Carr said. “Your work is measured in the lives changed, hope restored, and futures protected.”



LUNCH: Dr. Keisa Carr, left, attorney Shaun Kent and Kimberly Johnson are pictured during a special presentation recognizing Kent at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon hosted by F.E. DuBose Career Center on May 14.

(MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY/THE MANNING TIMES)



LUNCH: Kimberly Johnson, left, and Ladell Grice, right, present Natasha Solomon of the Clarendon County Detention Center with the Work-Based Learning Supervisor of the Year award during the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon at F.E. DuBose Career Center on May 14

(MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY/THE MANNING TIMES)



LUNCH: Law enforcement officers, community members and school district staff gather for lunch during the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon hosted by F.E. DuBose Career Center on May 14 in recognition of National Police Week.

(MEESHA WITHERSPOON/CCSD)



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