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GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

EARLY VOTING: OCT. 19–31

Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. | Closed Sun., Oct. 25

Clarendon County Voter Registration & Elections Office

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2025 South Carolina Press Association AWARD WINNER

The Manning Times



FALL: Members of the Azalea Garden Club of Manning gather with the fall decorations they created for Manning's town clock in September. The seasonal display featured autumn leaves made by Kembo Richardson and painted by Jo Gamble. The club, which is affiliated with The Garden Club of South Carolina, supports community beautification through seasonal displays, floral arrangements and gardening education.

(PROVIDED/AZALEA GARDEN CLUB OF MANNING)

MANNING OFFICER TERMINATED AMID DOUBLE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

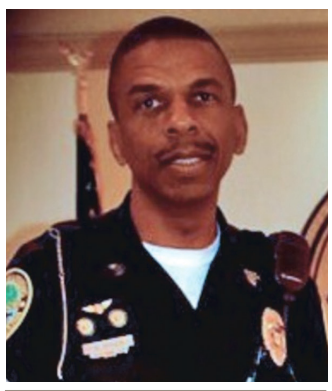
BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsceditor@gmail.com

A Manning police officer was fired Wednesday, Oct. 21, amid an investigation by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division involving his son, who is charged with killing two men during an alleged armed robbery in Sumter County earlier this month.

Manning Police Chief Sean Briley confirmed the termination of Officer Alexander Dukes in a statement provided to The Manning Times.

"Upon being notified of the investigation by outside law enforcement agencies, the City of Manning Police Department immediately placed Officer Dukes on administrative leave pending further investigation," Briley said. "After receiving additional information from the investigating agency, the department terminated the officer's employment."

Dukes is the father of Antwone Dukes, who faces two counts of murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime in connection with the Oct. 6 shooting deaths of Keywaun Clark, 20, and Derek Parson, 19, at a Dollar General on Race Track Road



ALEXANDER DUKES



ANTWONE DUKES

See OFFICER | **9A**

ONE DEAD IN PINEWOOD RESIDENTIAL FIRE, INVESTIGATION ONGOING

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsceditor@gmail.com

One person died in a residential fire Saturday, Oct. 24, in the Pinewood area of Clarendon County, where investigators are working to determine the circumstances surrounding the fire and death.

Clarendon County Fire Rescue responded to the 3000 block of Bomar Trail at approximately 10:30 a.m. after receiving a report of a structure fire. According to Fire Rescue, the initial dispatch indicated the structure was already on the ground when the call was received.

A caretaker at the scene told firefighters that someone was inside the residence. Crews searched the remains of the structure and located an electric wheelchair that the caretaker said was used by the occupant.

Human remains were subsequently discovered, prompting notification of the Clarendon County Coroner's Office. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division was also called to assist with the investigation, according to Fire Rescue.

In a separate news release issued Sunday, the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office confirmed that an individual was inside the residence at the time of the fire and did not survive.

The identity of the deceased has not been confirmed, and authorities have not released information about the cause of the fire or whether foul play is suspected.

The Sheriff's Office said the circumstances surrounding the fire and death remain under investigation, with assistance from

See FIRE | **12A**

One killed, two injured in shooting outside Gable business

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsceditor@gmail.com

A Saturday night shooting outside a business in the Gable community left one man dead and two others injured after an argument between two groups escalated into gunfire, according to the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to Big Daddy's Lounge in the 12000 block of U.S. 301 at approximately 11:34 p.m. Oct. 24 following reports of a shooting.

When deputies arrived, they found two men suffering from gunshot wounds.

Noah Wheeler, 21, of Kingstree, was transported to McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, where he was pronounced dead.

A second victim, Malik Wheeler, 29, also of Kingstree, was transported to McLeod Health Clarendon in Manning, where he was treated and released.

A third victim, Moses McClinton, 36, of Sumter, called 911 to report that he had also been shot and was driving himself to the hospital in Manning. He was treated and released.

According to the Sheriff's Office, preliminary findings indicate an argument between two groups of men escalated into gunfire outside the business. Investigators are working to determine what led to the confrontation and identify everyone involved.

Authorities have not released information about the relationship between the victims or whether any suspects have been identified. No arrests were announced in the Oct. 25 release.

The investigation remains active as deputies continue interviewing potential witnesses and gathering information about the shooting.

The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that could assist investigators to call 803-435-4414 or the department's tip line at 803-433-8477.

Additional details will be released as the investigation allows, according to the Sheriff's Office.



SHOOTING: Big Daddy's Lounge, located along U.S. 301 in the Gable community, was the scene of an Oct. 24 shooting that left one man dead and two others injured.

(COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS STREET VIEW)

Clarendon early voting tops 4,300 as SC breaks gubernatorial election record

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsceditor@gmail.com

More than 4,300 Clarendon County voters have cast ballots ahead of the Nov. 3 general election, contributing to a statewide turnout that has already broken South Carolina's record for early voting in a gubernatorial election.

According to figures from the South Carolina State Election Commission available as of Tuesday, Oct. 27, Clarendon County recorded 4,347 early votes through Monday, Oct. 26, with five days of early voting remaining before Election Day.

Statewide, 587,285 ballots had been cast through Monday, surpassing the previous gubernatorial election record of 561,563 early votes set in 2022.

In Clarendon County, early voting began Monday, Oct. 19, with 813 ballots cast, the highest single-day total during the first week. Another 733 voters participated Tuesday, followed by 726 Wednesday, 607 Thursday and 592 Friday.

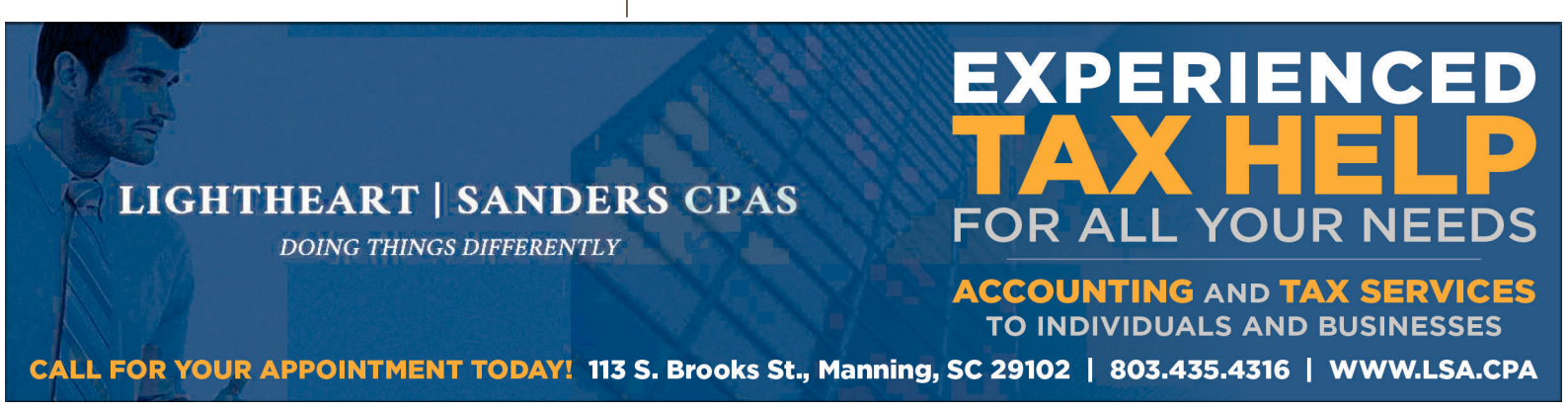
Saturday recorded the lowest turnout of the first week, with 279 ballots cast. Voting resumed Monday, Oct. 26, when another 597 Clarendon County residents cast their ballots.

In addition to early in-person voting, absentee voting is underway. State Election Commission figures dated Oct. 27 show that 289 absentee ballots had been issued in Clarendon County, with 181 returned.

Although South Carolina has surpassed its previous gubernatorial election record, the state's overall early voting record remains 1,471,663 ballots, set during



See VOTING | **8A**



DIGEST



NC MAN KILLED in I-95 tractor-trailer wreck | **2A**



CLARENDON HALL pulls 30-14 win over Lee Academy | **12A**



LMA 50/50 raffle raises over 350K for athletics | **4A**



CCFR HOSTS Community Safety Day at J.C. Britton park | **2A**

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THURSDAY'S FORECAST

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41° low

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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Community Safety Day brings families together at J.C. Britton Park

STAFF REPORT

Clarendon County Fire Rescue welcomed families to J.C. Britton Park in Manning on Saturday, Oct. 24, for its Community Safety Day, an afternoon of hands-on activities, educational opportunities and family-friendly fun.

The free event featured live demonstrations, fire prevention education, emergency preparedness information, food and candy. Local law enforcement agencies and community organizations also participated, giving visitors an opportunity to interact with first responders and learn more about public safety.

Following the event, Clarendon County Fire Rescue thanked its community partners, volunteers and local businesses for helping make the day possible. Special recognition went to TeeDee TeeDee for providing music, Piggly Wiggly of Manning for its donation, the Clarendon County Coroner's Office for providing chips, Journey Helping Others for donating drinks, Angela Holmes for her contribution and another local business for its support.

Organizers also expressed appreciation to the families who attended and the individuals and organizations whose generosity helped make the event a success













NC MAN KILLED IN I-95 TRACTOR-TRAILER WRECK IN CLARENDON

STAFF REPORT



FATALITY: Emergency crews respond to a fatal tractor-trailer wreck Monday, Oct. 26, along southbound Interstate 95 near mile marker 133 in Clarendon County.

(PROVIDED/CCFR)

A North Carolina man was killed Monday morning, Oct. 26, when the tractor-trailer he was driving ran off Interstate 95 and struck a tree in Clarendon County.

The Clarendon County Coroner's Office identified the driver as Alfred Odame, 32, of Charlotte, North Carolina.

According to South Carolina Highway Patrol Master Trooper William Bennett, the single-vehicle incident occurred around 9:35 a.m. near mile marker 133 in the southbound lanes of I-95.

Bennett said Odame was driving a 2021 Freightliner tractor-trailer southbound when the vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree.

Odame, who was the vehicle's only occupant, died at the scene from his injuries.

The Coroner's Office has scheduled an autopsy for Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Medical University of South Carolina.

The fatal collision remains under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

SCDOT seeks public input on Clarendon County bridge project

STAFF REPORT

An 80-year-old Clarendon County bridge is among 20 across South Carolina being considered for improvements under a $428.5 million statewide program, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation is seeking public input on the projects.

The U.S. 15 bridge over Sammy Swamp Creek, built in 1946, is included on SCDOT's 2026 Interstate and Primary Route Bridge Program list. It ranks seventh among 16 bridges in that category, with a priority score of 56.25.

SCDOT has not announced a construction timeline or specified whether the bridge would be replaced or rehabilitated.

The department released the list Oct. 22, inviting residents to review the projects and submit comments before it is presented to the SCDOT Commission at its December meeting.

The South Carolina General Assembly allocated an additional $189.5 million in one-time funding for bridge work this year. Combined with the existing $239 million program, the funding brings the total to $428.5 million for replacements and rehabilitation projects in the coming year.

According to SCDOT, the additional funding will help advance projects identified through its Strategic 10-Year Plan, which has already resulted in 550 bridge projects completed or under construction statewide.

The 2026 list includes 16 bridges on interstate and primary routes and four on sec-

See BRIDGE | 13A

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PERSPECTIVES

Financial Focus

THE FAMILY CONVERSATION YOUR ESTATE PLAN IS WAITING FOR

SUBMITTED BY: JESSE SURETTE, FINANCIAL ADVISOR



JESSE SURETTE
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Finishing your estate plan is a big step, but failing to notify the people involved can lead to confusion and complications when it's time to use it. Since the events that bring those plans into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come with a warning, talking with your family about your estate plan before a crisis occurs can provide clarity and help reduce uncertainty, conflict and stress later

Would your loved ones know what to do?

About half of Americans turning 65 today will need some form of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you became unable to make medical or financial decisions, documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives can help ensure someone you trust can step in. Just as important is making sure your loved ones know those documents exist and where to find them. Without access to them, even close family members may be unable to access bank accounts, pay bills or make medical decisions on your behalf without going through a court.

Who should be included in an estate plan conversation?

When you're ready to talk with loved ones, start with anyone named in a formal role in your estate plan, such as a financial power of attorney, health care proxy, trustee or executor. You may also want to include family members who are likely to be involved in your care or inherit assets.

Think about the dynamics of your family as you plan the conversation. Some families are comfortable discussing everything together, while others communicate more effectively through smaller group discussions or one-on-one conversations.

What should your family know about your estate plan?

Start with your values and the goals behind your decisions. Explaining what matters most to you can help family members better understand your wishes.

From there, review practical details, including who serves in key roles, where important documents are stored and how to contact your estate-planning attorney. You may also want to discuss your care preferences if you were to lose independence and any decisions that family members might find surprising. For example, if inheritances will not be divided equally, sharing your reasoning now may help prevent misunderstandings later.

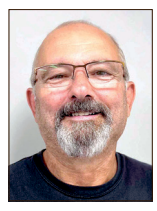
Most importantly, leave time for questions. The goal is not to

See FOCUS | **8A**

Life in the Palmetto State

THE GRATITUDE ATTITUDE

BY LEE REAVES



LEE REAVES
COLUMNIST

When is the last time you thanked the Good Lord for something?

I don't mean casually, but like you meant it and were truly thankful?

Was it this morning, yesterday or last week? Can you even remember?

If you can't, it's okay, you're not in trouble. You are only human.

Statistics say 60% of people feel thankful at least once a day, and a minuscule amount of 28% say they feel thankful multiple times a day.

In my opinion, that's pretty minimal considering all He does for us.

Have you ever stopped to think that God is the true source that gets us through our day? Without Him, we would be a wreck.

So if I had to say, I would think that it's all about our attitude. After all, attitude is the way we behave toward a person, object, concept or situation.

Let me tell you about two stories that are directly related to my topic.

In the late eighties, after I graduated from college, I took a job with an underground contractor where we installed water and sewer utilities.

We were home-based out of Sumter and were working in a nearby town not far away.

I had not been there very long, and on this particular morning, our planning meeting was interrupted by the most bloodcurdling sound I think I have ever heard. To this day, that scream is indelibly etched in my mind.

My boss and I ran in the direction of this horrifying sound to realize our worst nightmare. The trench we were digging to install this sewer line had caved in on one of our workers, and he was buried over his head in this 15-foot-plus cut.

I have never seen fear like that on the faces of our crew that morning.

In fact, the trackhoe operator was so scared, he started to tear off his clothes. This was fear of biblical proportions.

When we all came to and realized the task at hand of saving his life, all of the other trades shut down and came running over to see if they could help.

The only way we could locate this worker was to listen for his muffled moans under tons of dirt.

It just so happened that the trackhoe operator, before he went berserk, committed the cardinal sin and raked one more scoop of dirt off the top of him, but that was probably what saved his life, for that shortened the depth we had to dig through with our hands and some shovel work.

His entrapment was not our only concern. One of our older workers nearly went into cardiac arrest, and the brother of the covered-up worker ran down in the ditch and knocked the ladder over. Falling on the top of his head, he was gashed open, bleeding everywhere.

Well, someone had called

See REAVES | **12A**



Building a stronger, more resilient water system for SC

BY CRAIG SORENSEN, SCDAILYGAZETTE.COM

South Carolina's communities depend on water systems that are reliable, resilient, and financially sustainable.

Whether it's a family turning on the tap or a business opening its doors, reliable water service is something many of us rarely have to think about, even though it underpins nearly every aspect of daily life.

As our state continues to grow, maintaining that reliability requires more than simply responding to today's needs. It requires long-term planning, responsible infrastructure investment, and experienced professionals managing increasingly complex water and wastewater systems.

New homes, businesses and economic development all depend on the capacity of those systems, which means the infrastructure needed to serve growing communities often must be planned and invested in well before the demand arrives.

On July 1, South Carolina Water Utilities formally consolidated the systems previously operated by Blue Granite Water Company under the SCWU name.

The consolidation represents an important milestone in work that began when SCWU took over management of these systems in 2024, bringing our South Carolina operations together as one coordinated utility.

Since 2024, our focus has been straightforward: strengthen reliability, modernize infrastructure, and improve operational performance.

The results are meaningful. Boil water advisories have decreased by more than 80%, and customer satisfaction has steadily improved.

Those successful outcomes reflect the work happening every day across our systems: stronger maintenance programs, reorganized operations, updated oversight, and continued investment in the fundamentals that keep water and wastewater service safe and reliable.

Professional utility management is largely a labor that customers never see.

It means monitoring systems and water quality, maintaining infrastructure before problems arise, planning for future capacity needs and ensuring trained operators and technical experts are available when conditions

See WATER | **12A**



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

CONTACT US:
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Simpson Hardware celebrates grand reopening



RIBBON CUTTING: Simpson ACE Hardware & Sports in Manning celebrated its grand reopening Friday, Oct. 23, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce. The celebration continued Saturday, highlighting the store's new layout and expanded clothing and shoe departments. Located at 110 N. Brooks St., the store now offers an expanded selection of apparel and footwear from brands including Columbia, HOKA, Brooks, XTRATUF, Georgia Boot and Wolverine. The two-day celebration featured storewide specials, Traeger food samples and fresh popcorn, giving customers an opportunity to explore the updated store. For additional store information, visit the Simpson Manning Hardware store page at acehardware.com.

(PRVOVIDED/CLARENDON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

Clarendon County 4-H hosts third annual livestock show clinic

SUBMITTED



The Clarendon County 4-H Livestock Club welcomed 38 young participants from across South Carolina for its third annual Rabbit, Poultry and Dairy Goat Show Clinic, held Sept. 26 behind the Clarendon County Clemson Extension office in Manning.

Youth from the Pee Dee and Savannah Valley 4-H regions gathered to practice their showmanship skills, while fellow 4-H members and volunteers helped organize and oversee the event.

The clinic originated from an idea by Clarendon County 4-H member Blake Proffit, who has played an important role in its development. After serving as a livestock judge in previous years, Proffit took on hosting duties this year and recruited fellow 4-H members to serve as judges.





Among those stepping into judging roles were Seraphina McCoon of Clarendon County, now a freshman at the University of South Carolina, and Arden Epps of Dorchester County. McCoon partnered with 4-H agent Dawn Stuckey to judge poultry showmanship, while Epps and her mother judged rabbit showmanship.

Beyond the competitions, several 4-H members took on leadership roles throughout the day. A local Wildlife Habitat Education team captain and members of the Livestock Club staffed informational tables to promote their programs and encourage participation in 4-H activities.

Students from the Governor's School of Agriculture at John de la Howe also assisted with registration and provided support wherever needed during the event.

This year's clinic featured several changes, including a new location in downtown Manning and the addition of vendors. Organizers said the vendors were supportive of both the young participants and the Livestock Club, helping make the expanded event a success.

The annual clinic provides young 4-H members an opportunity to develop their livestock handling and showmanship skills while gaining experience in leadership, teamwork and event organization.

LMA 50/50 raffle raises more than $350,000 for athletics

STAFF REPORT

Laurence Manning Academy's 50/50 Booster Club Raffle raised $350,530 this year, with half of the proceeds going to four prize winners and the remaining half supporting the school's athletic programs and facilities.

The fundraiser, which began in September, offered $10 tickets and the opportunity to win a first-place prize of up to $80,000. As ticket sales increased, additional prizes were added, bringing the total payout to $175,265.

Mike Fletcher claimed the $80,000 grand prize, while Kelly Galloway received $55,000, Terry Durr won $25,000 and Troy Mims took home $15,265.

The students who sold the winning tickets were Hallie Smith, Conlee Galloway, Whit Stukes and Weston Mims, respectively.

Four additional students, Jackson Evans, Hampton Shuey, Grayson Stone and Avery Bryant, each received $444 during a student drawing held at a school pep rally.

The raffle was organized to support LMA Athletics, including improvements and additions to the school's athletic facilities. Under the 50/50 format, half of the money raised was designated for prizes, while the other half went toward supporting student-athletes and athletic programs.

The school initially announced the fundraiser Sept. 9, encouraging families and supporters to purchase tickets and help strengthen its athletic programs. The raffle ultimately exceeded its initial $160,000 ticket sales target for awarding the $80,000 grand prize.

In announcing the final results, LMA thanked the families, students and community members who purchased and sold tickets, recognizing their contributions to the fundraiser's success and the continued development of the school's athletic programs.

RAFFLE: (BELOW) Laurence Manning Academy cheerleaders display a banner announcing the $175,265 total prize payout from the school's 2026 50/50 Booster Club Raffle. (BOTTOM) Laurence Manning Academy Headmaster Alan Kirby draws winning tickets during the school's 50/50 Booster Club Raffle.

(ANNA SURETTE/LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY)









The Manning Times

Serving Clarendon County's Residents Since 1882

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HOURS OF OPERATION:
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DEADLINES:
Classified, Classified Display and Legal Advertising:
Noon on Mondays

Display Advertising, Stories and Public Service Announcements:
5:00 p.m. on Fridays

The Manning Times is published by Times Publishing Company Inc., weekly at 230 E. Boyce St., Manning, SC 29102.

publisher: LEIGH ANN MAYNARD
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design : MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
office manager: ALEX FEAGIN
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Candidates make final push ahead of general election

STAFF REPORT

With Election Day just around the corner, candidates from both parties have been making their final appeals to voters across Clarendon County and South Carolina through campaign rallies, community events and stops along the campaign trail.

Republican candidates Rep. Fawn Pedalino, Clarendon County auditor candidate Kimberly Herbert and County Council District 2 candidate Matthew Chapman gathered for a barbecue and get-out-the-vote event in Manning on Oct. 24.

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Dr. Annie Andrews visited Manning on Oct. 25, addressing supporters on health care, affordability, education and other issues. Manning Mayor Julia Nelson and local Democratic leaders joined the event, encouraging residents to cast their ballots.

The campaign trail also brought Democratic U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna of California to Manning on Oct. 26 for a community food distribution with Vision by Design and the City of Manning, followed by a press conference focused on the economic challenges facing working families.

Elsewhere across the state, candidates continued campaigning, including Republican agriculture commissioner candidate Cody Simpson, who joined elected officials at a Grand Strand rally, while Democratic agriculture commissioner candidate DeShawn Blanding encouraged voters through social media after casting his ballot in Clarendon County.

The flurry of campaign activity comes as voters across Clarendon County prepare to make their choices in the Nov. 3 general election.

















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Happy Thanksgiving

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Happy Thanksgiving

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- The Shoppe on Brooks
- Johnson James State Farm
- First Baptist Church of Manning
- The Manning City Fire Department
- The Manning Times, Mannin
- United Methodist Church
- Clarendon Behavioral Health Services
- Hand in Hand & Harvest Market,
- John's Place
- First Baptist Fellowship Hall

Contact:
tjgjlbfoundation@outlook.com
803-433-1252

MANNINGLIVE.COM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

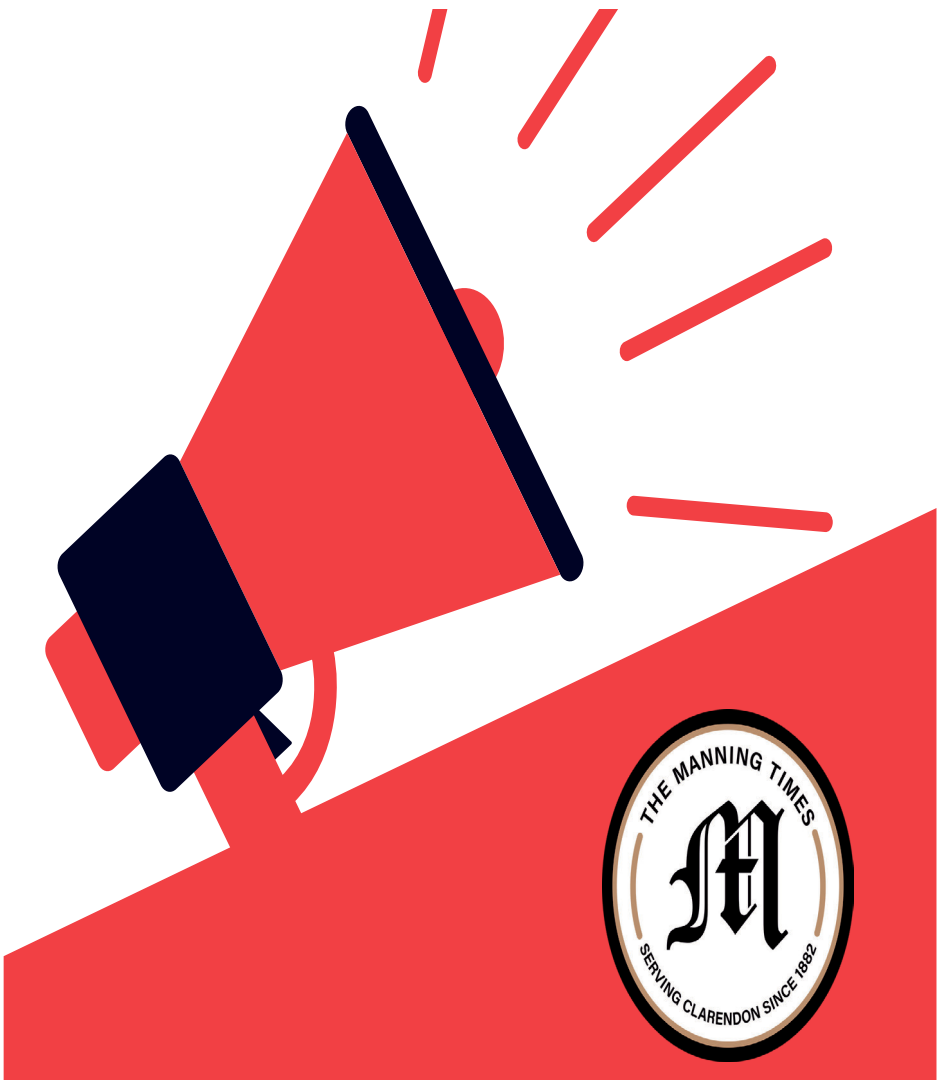
RECOVERY SUPPORT – JOHN'S PLACE
16 North Brooks Street
John's Place is a Recovery Resource Center. All are welcome!
Meetings & Support:
Alcoholics Anonymous: Wed & Fri, 5:30 PM (back door)
Narcotics Anonymous: Tues & Thur, 7:30-9:30 PM Al-Anon: Sat, 1:30 PM
Abundant Acorns (Faith-based family support, ages 18+):
3rd Mon monthly, 6:30-7:30 PM
Staff available Mon-Thurs, 10-4.
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For treatment needs:
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or 911 for emergencies.
To host a meeting:Call 803-433-1252

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Thanh Nguyen intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow for the sale and off premises consumption of beer, wine at 6181 Alex Harvin HWY, Manning, SC 29102 . To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by Nov 16th, 2026. Submit the ABL-20 online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov

(10/22, 10/29, 11/5)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Amita Management LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow for the sale and on premises consumption of beer, wine at 9708 HWY 260, Manning, SC 29102 . To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by Nov 16th, 2026. Submit the ABL-20 online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov

(10/22, 10/29, 11/5)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Big Daddy's Lounge, Inc intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow for the sale and on premises consumption of beer, liquor at 12390 HWY 301, gable SC 29051 . To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by Nov 16th, 2026. Submit the ABL-20 online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov

(10/22, 10/29, 11/5)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Thanh Nguyen intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow for the sale and on premises consumption of liquor at 9708 HWY 260, Manning, SC 29102 . To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, submit an ABL-20 protest form by Nov 16th, 2026. Submit the ABL-20 online at MyDORWAY.dor.sc.gov or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov

(10/22, 10/29, 11/5)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the South Carolina State Housing Finance & Development Authority (SC Housing) will hold a public hearing to: Provide an opportunity for members of the community to share comments regarding the following development: Peaks of Manning II (121 Kennedy Lane, Manning, SC). This development is proposed Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties seeking State Tax Credits to provide additional affordable housing opportunities for residents. The public hearing will be Thursday, November 5, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Clarendon County Administration Building, 411 Sunset Blvd., Manning, SC 29102. Additional information about the development will be available at the public hearing or can be found online at https://schousing.com/Home/HousingTaxCredits. Written comments should be submitted to the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority, Attention: LIHTC Manager, 300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina, 29210, faxed to 803.551.4991, or emailed to LowIncomeHousingTaxCreditProgram@schousing.com by November 15, 2026. The State does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally-assisted programs or activities.

(10/22-10/29)

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF SOCORRO
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
RED STICK LAND HOLDINGS, LLC, Plaintiff, v. Case No. D-725-CV-2026-00057 ALLIED ACCEPTANCE CO., A NEW MEXICO CORPORATION THAT HAS MERGED OUT OF EXISTENCE, AS SUCCESSOR TO COMPASS LAND CO.; PHILLIP K. FOLKERS; LISA F. KEE; TONYA R. ALEXANDER; VICKI B. PREAST; ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RUTH B. FOLKERS (DECEASED); ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRIETTE MEDLIN FOLKERS (DECEASED); AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO MAY CLAIM ANY LIEN, INTEREST, OR TITLE ADVERSE TO THE PLAINTIFF, Defendants. NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED DEFENDANTS: the unknown heirs, devisees, successors, administrators, executors, and assigns of RUTH B. FOLKERS and HARRIETTE MEDLIN FOLKERS, and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO MAY CLAIM ANY LIEN, INTEREST, OR TITLE ADVERSE TO THE PLAINTIFF in the following real property in Socorro County, New Mexico: Lot three (3), Block three A (3A), Ranchos de Bernardo, Unit #2, a subdivision in Socorro County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on the Plat of said Subdivision, filed in the office of the County Clerk of Socorro County, New Mexico, on December 13, 1960. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, pursuant to Rule 1-004(J) and (K) NMRA and by Order of the Court, Plaintiff RED STICK LAND HOLDINGS, LLC has filed a Complaint to Quiet Title (the "Complaint") against you in the above-captioned cause, the general object of which is to quiet title to the real property described above. This action is pending in the Seventh Judicial District Court, County of Socorro, State of New Mexico, 200 Church St., Socorro, NM 87801. Plaintiff's attorneys are Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, P.A. (Spencer L. Edelman and Santiago Piza Cossio), P.O. Box 2168, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2168, (505) 848-1800. Unless you enter an appearance or file a responsive pleading or motion in response to the Complaint within thirty (30) days after the last publication date of this notice, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.
MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, P.A.
By: /s/ Santiago Piza Cossio
Spencer L. Edelman
Santiago Piza Cossio
P.O. Box 2168
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2168
Telephone: 505.848.1800
spencer.edelman@modrall.com
santiago.pizacossio@modrall.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

(10/22-11/5)

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice 803 Storage located at 1605 N Pike E Sumter SC 29153 intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.lockerfox.com on 11/12/2026 at 11:30 AM. This sale is pursuant to the assertion of lien for rental at the self-storage facility. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Shaniya Moses; Janielle Samuel; Tuesday Yarbrough. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

(10/29-11/5)

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Elizabeth "Beth" Ann Holladay Stokes



MANNING – Elizabeth Ann Holladay "Beth" Stokes, 57, passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at Bennettsville Health and Rehabilitation.

Born August 31, 1969, in Manning, she was the daughter of James Nelson Holladay, Jr. and Rebecca Hill Chillcott.

She is survived by her father and stepmother, Harriet, of Manning; her mother and stepfather, Barry, of Charlotte, NC; two children, Robert James Stokes of Manning and Meghan Kinard of North Carolina; two grandchildren, Kennan Stokes and Grayson Stokes; her longtime companion, James Mastrangelo, Sr. of Manning; six sisters, Kimberly Matthews, Nicole Holladay Mims (Robert), Marcy Holladay Ward (Joey), Linsy Holladay Wells (Glenn), Barbara Chillcott and Brenda Helms (Chris); a brother, Bill Chillcott; and several nieces and nephews.

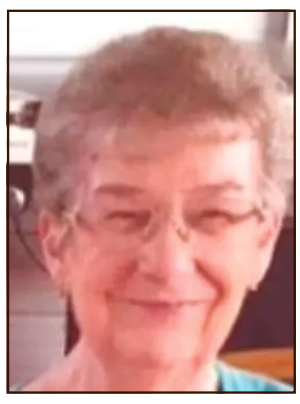
A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Wilson Community Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. David D. McManus, Jr. officiating.

The family received friends immediately following the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Union Community Christian Church, c/o Dora Holladay, 1980 Lazy Daisy Road, Manning, SC 29102, or to Wilson Community Cemetery at Union Community Christian Church, c/o Lionel M. Holladay III, 7332 Greeleyville Highway, Manning, SC 29102.

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

Alice Ellen Hall Larkin



SUMMERTON – Alice Ellen Hall Larkin, 91, widow of George Edward Larkin, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Lake Marion Nursing Facility.

Born January 29, 1935, in Flemington, NJ, she was the daughter of the late Dennis Samuel Hall and the late Alice Williamson Hall. She was a retired visiting home health aide with 20 years of service and was a member of Summerton Presbyterian Church.

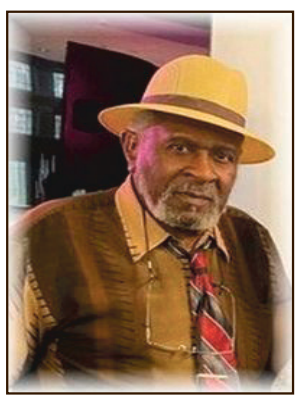
She is survived by a son, Keith Edward Larkin (Susan) of Summerton; six grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Alicia Scudder; and two brothers, Dennis Hall and Harry Hall.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

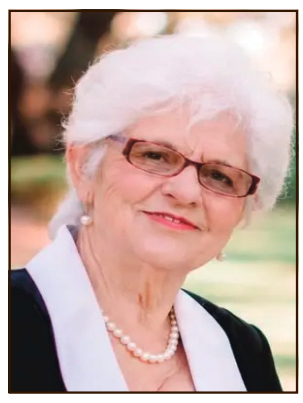
Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church Street, Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

George Fordham, Sr



Manning – George Fordham, Sr., 84, died Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at McLeod Hospice House, Florence, SC. He was born May 8, 1942 in Manning, SC. A son of the late James Conyers and Mary Fordham.

Carolyn Elizbeth Simerly Sain



Carolyn Elizabeth Simerly Sain, 82, affectionately known as Carole, was called to her heavenly home on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, NC with her family, and Jesus, at her side.

Born in Elizabethton, Tennessee, she grew up on Tiger Creek and was the daughter of the late James William and Ada Roberts Simerly.

Carole was a true believer in her Lord and Savior and was known for preaching the gospel to any and to all, whether they wanted to hear it or not! Many friends called her messages, "Carole's Sermonettes." She loved teaching Sunday School at her church, Hulls Grove Baptist Church. She was married to the late George Ervin Sain and spent most of her adult life in Vale, NC, where she was a public-school teacher for twenty-five years. Her love of antiques was known to all, especially the thrill of finding a hidden gem. Carole had a gift for fashion and loved to dress up for church, where she was known for her stylish hats and suits. After her early years of working at a sewing plant, she could create just about anything, including draperies, quilts, and even her young daughter's school clothes.

Carole leaves behind two children, Stephanie (Jeff) Black of Columbia, SC and George Ervin (Chip) Sain, II (Camille) of Vale; sisters Betty DeLoach, Linda Powell (Ty) and June Honeycutt (Marvin); four grandchildren, Tera (Joe) Alcala; Elizabeth (Steelman) Ketchum, Ike and Beatrix Sain; four great-grandchildren, John and Eli Alcala and Gia and Clark Ketchum; several nieces and nephews and special friend, Kenneth Weehunt.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased in death by her brother, Jack Edward Simerly; and her grandsons, Bryan Shepherd and John Landon Black.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at Hulls Grove Baptist Church, 6670 NC-27 in Vale, with the Reverend Bobby Farmer officiating. Visitation will be at 1pm, followed by the funeral at 2pm.

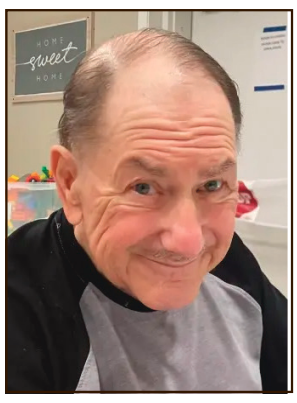
After a long battle with diabetes and dementia, Carole suffers no more. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of The Palmettos at Parklane, Terra Bella Newton, Via Hospice and Catawba Valley Medical Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that tax-deductible memorials be made to the John Landon Black Foundation, PO Box 1234, Manning, SC 29102.

Catawba Memorial Park Funeral Home in Hickory, NC has assisted with the arrangements.

Courtesy announcement by Stephens Funeral Home.

Stanley Albert White



MANNING – Stanley Albert White, 76, husband of Barbara Gamble White, passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at MUSC Health Orangeburg.

Born on October 2, 1950, in Libya, Africa, he was a son of the late Henry Albert White and the late Kathryn Gladys Sumner White. He was a US Navy veteran and a member of Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

He is survived by his wife of Manning; two daughters, Tracy Cox of Manning and Jessica DeBerry (Steven) of Pamplico; two granddaughters, Kathryn DeBerry and Josie DeBerry; a brother, Phillip White of Hopkins; and a sister, Robin Christian of FL.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Greg White and a sister, Kathy Myers.

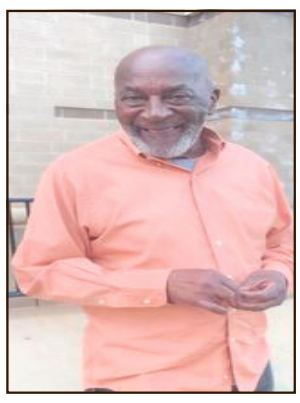
Funeral service will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Grace Christian Fellowship Church with the Rev. Mike Murdoch officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, October 31, 2026, 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

James Bass



Simpsonville – James Bass, 76, died Saturday, October 24, 2026 at Greenville Memorial Hospital, Greenville, SC. He was born December 23, 1949 in Starke, FL. A son of the late Cornelious Bass, Jr. and Margaret Kelly Bass.

Pastor Oceal Jones Jefferson

Lake City – Pastor Oceal Jones Jefferson, 85, died Saturday, October 24, 2026 at her residence in Lake City, SC. She was born March 25, 1941 in Estill, SC. A daughter of the late Jim and Curlee Wallace Jones.

Ronald Rose

Olanta – Ronald Rose,67, died Saturday, October 24, 2026 at MUSC Health Florence, SC. He was born November 12, 1958 in Sumter, SC. A son of the late Keith and Mozell Rush Rose.

FOCUS
FROM PAGE 3A

cover every possible scenario in a single meeting. It's to create understanding and give loved ones confidence about what matters to you.

If a single conversation feels overwhelming, consider breaking it into a few shorter discussions over time.

Need help starting the conversation?

Many people worry about how family members will react or feel unsure about where to begin. A financial advisor can help you prepare for the conversation and, in some cases, facilitate it. Having a neutral third party involved can help keep discussions productive and ensure everyone leaves with greater clarity about your wishes.

VOTING
FROM PAGE 1A

the 2024 presidential election.

Early voting continues through Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Clarendon County voters can cast their ballots at the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections Office, located at 3 S. Church St. in Manning. Voters must present an acceptable photo ID when checking in.

The State Election Commission encourages voters to review their sample ballots, confirm voting locations and familiarize themselves with the candidates and races before heading to the polls.

Voters can find sample ballots, acceptable forms of identification and other election information at scVOTES.gov.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

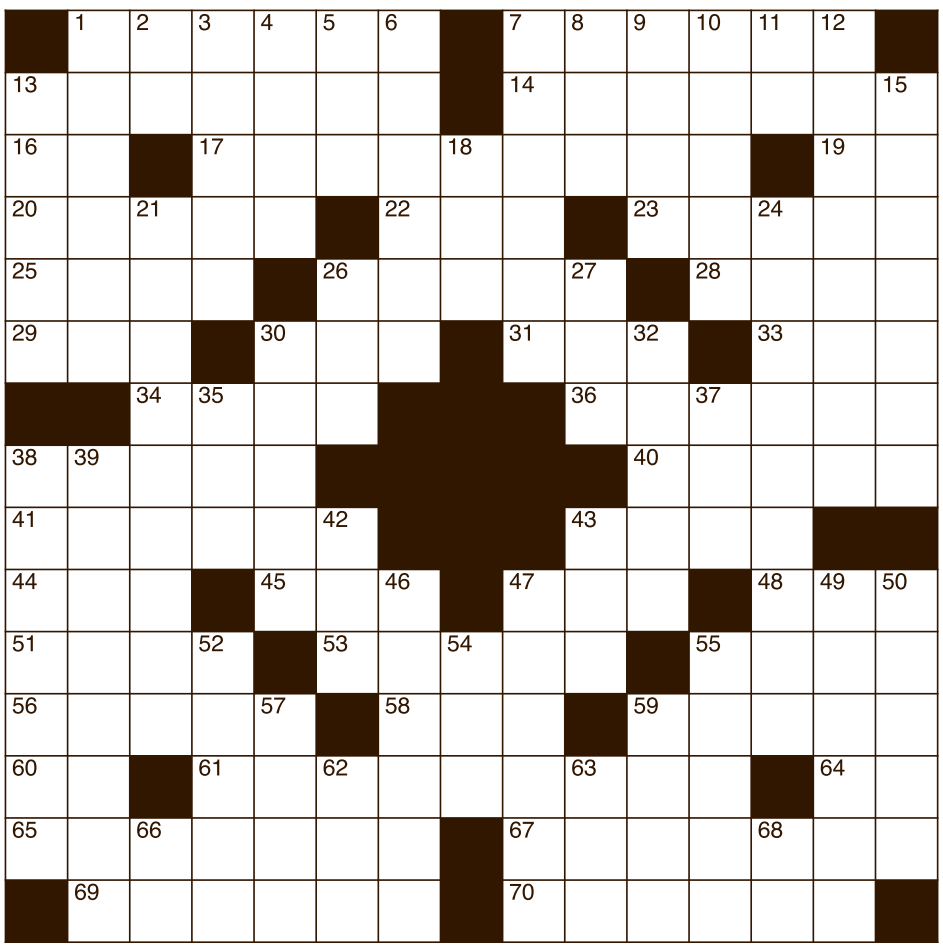








GAMEZONE



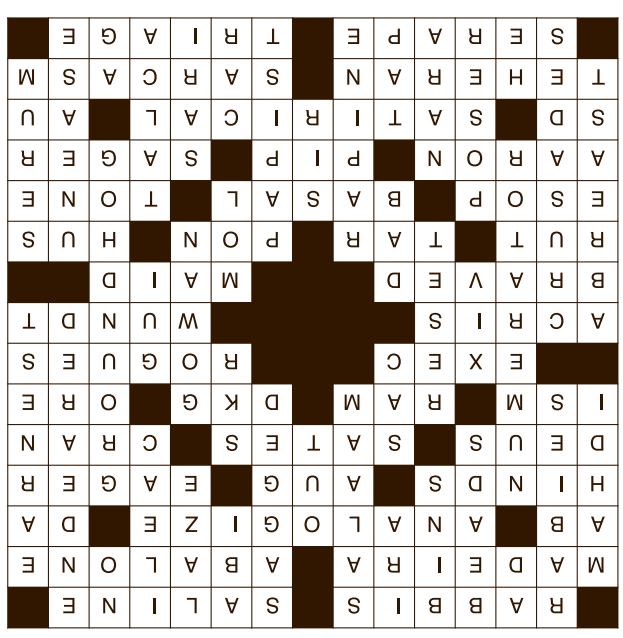
CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

▼ ▼ ▼ THIS WEEK'S ANSWER KEY ▼ ▼ ▼



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

Level: Intermediate

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

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

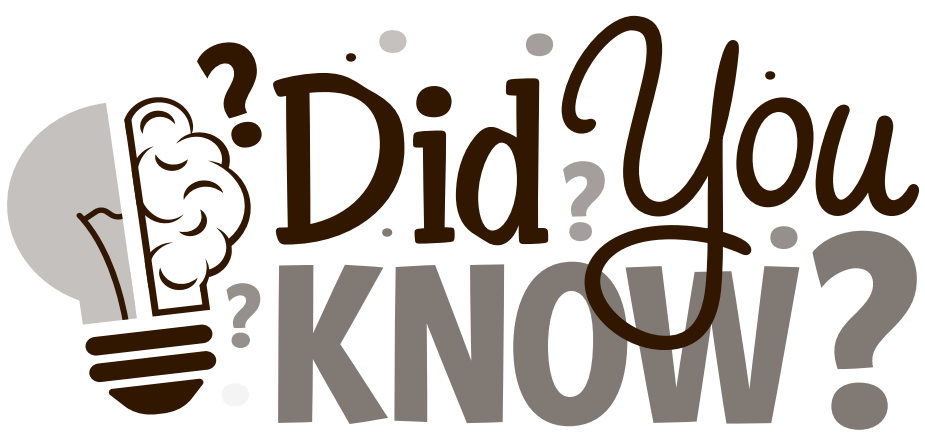
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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 an actor born in New York on November 2, 1966. However, I was raised in Los Angeles. I studied theater at Northwestern University. I became a household name in the mid-1990s while starring on a very popular TV show about a group of young people living in New York City.

Answer: David Schwimmer



A new record was set for the heaviest pumpkin in October 2026, when Ron Wallace presented a pumpkin weighing 3,156 lb. It was the first ever pumpkin (and indeed any fruit) to weigh in over the 3,000-lb mark.

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

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

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

Clarendon elections board welcomes new director ahead of general election

BY MELISSA FOUST-MCCOY
mtsceditor@gmail.com

With the Nov. 3 general election just days away, the Clarendon County Board of Voter Registration and Elections has named Susan Thomas its new executive director, filling a position left vacant following the termination of Robert Adams in August.

Thomas, who previously worked in the county's voter registration office and served as assistant director of Clarendon County Emergency Management, was scheduled to begin her new role Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Board Chairman Edward Gamble III welcomed Thomas during the board's regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Oct. 26, saying her experience in emergency management would be an asset to the elections office.

Gamble also said the South Carolina Election Commission had assured the board it would assist Thomas with the training necessary to carry out her responsibilities as director.

In a statement announcing the appointment, Gamble praised Thomas' professional background and expressed confidence in her ability to help the office move forward.

"Susan's integrity, strong work ethic, commitment to public service, and organizational skills will further strengthen the Board's mission of ensuring transparency and accuracy in the election process while bringing stability to the office," Gamble said.

Thomas brings six months of previous experience with Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections and four and a half years as assistant director of Clarendon County Emergency Management. She is also a certified South Carolina emergency manager.

Originally from Mumbai, India, Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a certificate in business management from the University of Mumbai. Before entering public service, she taught English and economics to high school and college students in India.

After relocating to Clarendon County from Atlanta, Thomas taught high school students for a year at Clarendon Christian Learning Center and volunteered at McLeod Health Clarendon in Manning over a five-year period.

She and her husband, Praveen, have lived in Clarendon County for the past 10 years.

Thomas takes over an office that has experienced repeated leadership changes in recent years, including the termination of two executive directors in less than a year.

Adams, who began work Feb. 16, was terminated Aug. 31 following a 7-1 board vote. The motion cited dereliction of duty, failure to follow board and county policies and concerns involving planning, organization, delegation and time management.

His predecessor, Princess Lang, was unanimously appointed in July 2025 and began work Aug. 18 of that year. She was terminated Sept. 29, 2025, after serving a little more than a month.

Both Adams and Lang had spoken about the importance of bringing stability to an office that had experienced one of the highest director turnover rates in South Carolina.

Thomas' appointment comes as the office is conducting early voting and making final preparations for Election Day.

During Monday's meeting, Gamble reported that 597 votes had been cast that day and reminded residents that early voting would continue through Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The board also approved five applicants to serve as poll managers or poll clerks for the remainder of 2026, while deferring consideration of a sixth applicant. The motion passed unanimously.

The action follows the board's September approval of 13 additional poll workers and a temporary measure allowing a majority of board officers to approve additional applicants between regular meetings.

Members also reviewed the office's financial statement. Gamble said he had met with Clarendon County Finance Director Nelson Gibbons to discuss adding budget line items that would provide a clearer picture of election-related expenses.

He explained that the changes would not add money to the budget but would allow funds to be transferred between existing categories, subject to approval by the county administrator.

The board later entered executive session to discuss personnel matters, attorney-client privileged matters and security issues related to personnel and the election process. Members returned to public session without taking additional action.

Gamble concluded the meeting by welcoming Thomas and encouraging residents who had not yet voted to participate before early voting ends or cast their ballots on Election Day.

SAFE Federal Credit Union announces move to downtown Sumter location

SUBMITTED

SAFE Federal Credit Union will relocate its downtown Sumter branch to a larger location on North Main Street, with the new facility expected to open in spring 2027.

The credit union announced Oct. 5 that it has signed a commercial lease for 40 N. Main St. The location will replace SAFE's existing branch in the Liberty Center at 12 W. Liberty St.

According to SAFE, the new branch will provide additional space, greater street-level visibility and improved access for members.

"This new location will provide advantages to our members and nearby businesses alike," SAFE President and CEO Michael Baker said. "We're also excited to add to downtown Sumter's growing role as a business center for the community."

Renovations at the North Main Street property are expected to begin in early 2027. The Liberty Center branch will remain open and fully operational until the new location formally opens, which is anticipated in the spring.

"The relocation to North Main Street is another example of SAFE's commitment to downtown Sumter and our desire to keep bringing improvements to our members," SAFE Board Chair Dr. Kay Oldhouser Davis said.

The Sumter relocation is one of two branch projects planned by the credit union. SAFE also plans to begin renovations in November at its St. Andrews branch in Columbia. The renovated Columbia branch is expected to reopen in late spring 2027.

Founded in 1955, SAFE Federal Credit Union has more

See SAFE | 13A

OFFICER

FROM PAGE 1A

in Sumter County.

According to South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy records obtained by WIS, Alexander Dukes was suspended Oct. 8 as investigators examined his actions following the shooting.

The records indicate Antwone Dukes drove himself and Parson, who had also been shot, to his father's home after the incident. Alexander Dukes allegedly applied a tourniquet to his son's injured leg and instructed him to go to the hospital but did not call 911, report the shooting or request emergency medical assistance.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office initially provided a different account of what happened after the shooting. During an Oct. 8 news conference, Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner said Antwone Dukes' brother drove him to the hospital, while how Parson arrived at the hospital remained under investigation.

The academy filings also describe text messages suggesting Alexander Dukes had previously shared information about law enforcement activity with his children, including roadblocks and traffic stops.

The records reference a failed polygraph examination and an ongoing SLED investigation into possible misconduct in office. They also raise concerns that Dukes' actions may have interfered with the criminal investigation and potentially delayed medical treatment for Parson.

Alexander Dukes had not been criminally charged as of Oct. 23.

Academy records indicate he previously worked for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office for nearly 15 years before being terminated in 2010. He joined the Manning Police Department approximately five months later.

The investigation stems from an alleged armed robbery involving illegal firearm conversion devices commonly known as gun switches, which can convert semiautomatic firearms into fully automatic weapons.

During the Oct. 8 news conference, Gardner said investigators believe Antwone Dukes arranged to meet Clark behind the Dollar General with the intention of robbing him of the devices.

Authorities allege Dukes shot both Clark and Parson during the encounter. Dukes also suffered a gunshot wound to his leg.

Clark was discovered after a passerby reported a vehicle that had crashed into a tree near the business. Investigators determined Clark had been shot while inside the vehicle, which subsequently rolled into the tree. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Parson was taken to Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, where he died from his injuries.

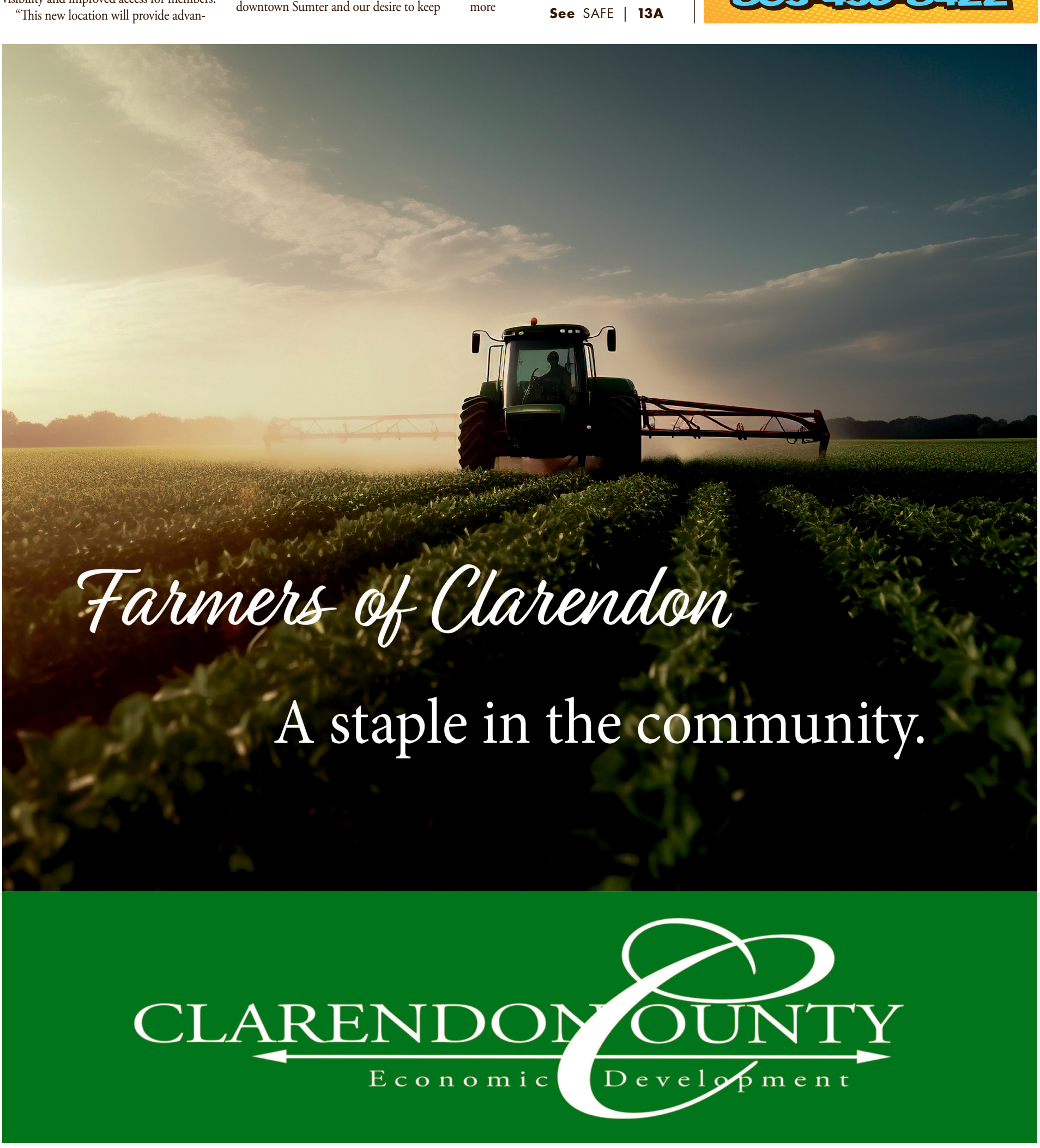
Antwone Dukes was arrested Oct. 7 and subsequently denied bond.

Briley did not elaborate on the specific findings that prompted the termination but emphasized the department's commitment to accountability.

"The Manning Police Department remains committed to serving and protecting the citizens of Manning with integrity, accountability, and professionalism," Briley said.

The SLED investigation remains ongoing.

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Clarendon Hall pulls away from Lee Academy for 30-14 win

STAFF REPORT

Clarendon Hall celebrated senior night with a 30-14 victory over Lee Academy on Friday, Oct. 23, using a strong fourth-quarter performance to secure the region win and set up a showdown for the region championship.

The Saints improved to 4-5 on the season after breaking open a close game with two late touchdowns from Andrew Pritcher, who finished with 210 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries.

Clarendon Hall wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, opening the game with a 67-yard touchdown pass from Joey Hatchell to TJ Young on a double reverse. The successful two-point conversion gave the Saints an early 8-0 lead.

Lee Academy answered in the second quarter when Landen Olson scored on a 5-yard run, helping the Cavaliers tie the game at 8-8 heading into halftime.



The Saints regained the lead in the third quarter when Pritcher broke free for a 46-yard touchdown run. Olson responded with his second rushing touchdown of the night, but Lee Academy failed on its two-point conversion attempt, leaving Clarendon Hall ahead 16-14.

With the game still within reach entering the fourth quarter, Clarendon Hall turned to Pritcher to put the contest away. The senior running back added two touchdowns in the final period, helping the Saints pull away for the 16-point victory.

Clarendon Hall also delivered a strong defensive performance, forcing several turnovers to keep Lee Academy from gaining momentum.

Hatchell and Young each recorded an interception, while Jacob Morris forced and recovered a fumble. Pritcher contributed six tackles, adding to his offensive production.

Wyatt Simpson and Caleb Poplin led the Saints with nine tackles apiece, while Poplin also recorded a tackle for loss.

Lee Academy's Olson led the Cavaliers with 193 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries. He also completed one of five passes for 11 yards. The Cavaliers fell to 2-7 with the loss.

The victory gives Clarendon Hall an opportunity to close the regular season with a region championship when the Saints travel to face Dillon Christian on Friday, Oct. 30.

The Warriors enter the matchup with a 7-2 record following a 56-6 victory over Carolina Academy.

Clarendon Hall will look to carry its momentum from senior night into the regular-season finale, with the SCISA 1A Region I title on the line.

HOPEHEALTH GOLF CLASSIC SET FOR NOV. 19 AT WYBOO GOLF CLUB

STAFF REPORT

The 10th annual HopeHealth Golf Classic will bring golfers together at Wyboo Golf Club in Manning on Thursday, Nov. 19, for a day of competition and fundraising to benefit patients facing financial challenges.

The one-day tournament will feature a four-person captain's choice format, with proceeds benefiting the HopeHealth Compassionate Care Fund. The fund assists patients with care-related needs that cannot be met directly by HopeHealth providers.

The event will include 18 holes of golf, brunch, golf carts, longest-drive and closest-to-the-pin contests, and awards. Mulligan packages will also be available for purchase.

Brunch will be served from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 11:45 a.m. Tournament play is scheduled from noon to 5 p.m., with awards presented at 5 p.m.

Several sponsorship opportunities are available, ranging from $400 hole sponsorships to a $5,000 presenting sponsorship. Additional options include supporting sponsorships for $2,500, gift bag sponsorships for $2,000, partner sponsorships for $1,500 and beverage cart sponsorships for $600.

The deadline to register for the tournament is Friday, Nov. 6.

The event will be held at Wyboo Golf Club, 2565 Players Course Drive in Manning.

For more information about registration or sponsorship opportunities, contact Cindy Averitt, HopeHealth external affairs and volunteer programs, at 843-432-2942 or caveritt@hope-health.org. Additional information is available at hope-health.org/events.



SPORTS SHORTS



FOOTBALL

Manning v. Waccamaw
Oct. 23

Manning earned a 20-14 victory over Waccamaw on Friday in a Region 6 matchup.

The win improved the Monarchs to 5-4, while Waccamaw fell to 3-6.

Manning will travel to undefeated Marlboro County for a 7:30 p.m. matchup Friday. The Bulldogs enter the game at 8-1 after suffering their first loss of the season, falling 17-14 to Dillon.

Waccamaw will host Lake City on Friday. The Panthers enter the matchup at 2-7 following a 31-0 loss to East Clarendon.

East Clarendon v. Lake City
Oct. 23

East Clarendon recorded a 31-0 shutout victory over Lake City on Friday in a Region 6 matchup.

The win improved the Wolverines to 4-5, while Lake City fell to 2-7.

East Clarendon will travel to Dillon for a 7:30 p.m. matchup Friday. The Wildcats enter the game at 7-1 following a 17-14 victory over previously undefeated Marlboro County.

Lake City will host Waccamaw on Friday. The Warriors enter the matchup at 3-6 following a 20-14 loss to Manning.

Scott's Branch v. Bamberg-Ehrhardt
Oct. 23

Scott's Branch fell 39-0 to Bamberg-Ehrhardt on Friday in a Region 6 matchup, snapping the Eagles' six-game winning streak.

The loss dropped Scott's Branch to 6-3, while Bamberg-Ehrhardt improved to 8-1.

Scott's Branch will travel to Edisto for a 7:30 p.m. matchup Friday. The Cougars enter the game at 2-7 following a 24-8 victory over Bethune-Bowman.

Bamberg-Ehrhardt will host Denmark-Olar on Friday. The Vikings enter the matchup at 5-4 following a 15-0 loss to Branchville.

Laurence Manning v. Pinewood Prep
Oct. 23

Laurence Manning fell 35-28 to Pinewood Prep on Friday in a SCISA Class 4A Region II matchup.

The loss dropped the Swampcats to 6-2, while Pinewood Prep improved to 8-1.

Laurence Manning will travel to Northwood Academy for a 7:30 p.m. matchup Friday. The Chargers enter the game at 7-2 following a 21-20 victory over Porter-Gaud.

Pinewood Prep will host Porter-Gaud on Friday. The Cyclones enter the matchup at 5-4.

VOLLEYBALL

East Clarendon v. Orangeburg-Wilkinson
Oct. 21

East Clarendon's postseason run ended Wednesday with a 3-1 loss to Orangeburg-Wilkinson in the playoffs.

The Wolverines won the opening set 25-22 before the Bruins rallied to take the next three, 25-21, 25-10 and 25-11.

The loss marked East Clarendon's second consecutive defeat.

Neither team had another match scheduled at the time of the report.

Laurence Manning v. Cardinal Newman
Oct. 23

Laurence Manning fell 2-0 to Cardinal Newman on Friday in postseason volleyball action, extending the Swampcats' losing streak to four matches.

Cardinal Newman's Lauren Rivers recorded 10 assists, six digs and five aces. Caroline Grimes added four digs and three aces.

The Swampcats had no additional matches scheduled at the time of the report.

Cardinal Newman also recorded a 2-0 victory over Wilson Hall on Oct. 23.

Bear hunting season closes early in five South Carolina counties

STAFF REPORT

South Carolina wildlife officials have closed bear hunting season in five counties after hunters reached the state's harvest quota, bringing an early end to the season in Game Zone 4.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources announced that the season officially closed one hour after sunset Tuesday, Oct. 27, affecting private property and designated wildlife management areas in Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Williamsburg counties.

The closure came after the number of bears harvested reached the limit established for the hunting season. Anyone hunting bears in the affected counties after the deadline could face charges for hunting during a closed season, according to SCDNR.

Although Clarendon County is part of Game Zone 4, the early closure applies only to bear hunting in Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion and Williamsburg counties.

Under state regulations, Game Zone 4 has a combined harvest quota of 40 bears across the five counties. The season was originally scheduled to run from Oct. 17-30, but regulations require an early closure when the quota is reached. Hunters must be given at least 24 hours' notice before the season ends.

The closure also applies to several wildlife management areas, including Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve, Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve, Little Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve Complex, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve and Wee Tee.

Bear hunting season in Game Zone 1 remains open through Oct. 30 for permitted dog hunts. The harvest quota in Game Zone 2 has not been reached, allowing hunting to continue there as well, according to SCDNR.

State regulations limit hunters to one bear per season, regardless of the game zone. Hunters are prohibited from harvesting female bears accompanied by cubs or bears weighing 100 pounds or less.

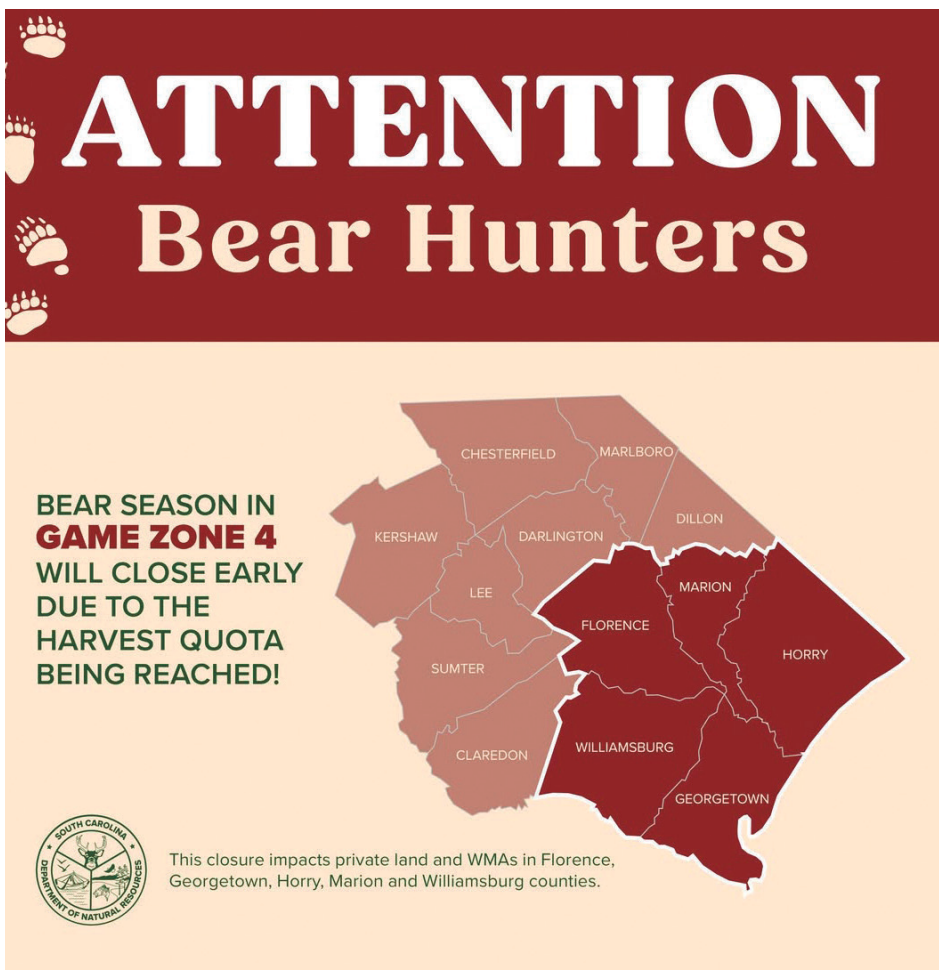
Hunters must also possess a valid hunting license, big game permit and bear tag. Tags cost $25 for South Carolina residents and $100 for nonresidents, while hunters younger than 16 can obtain a youth bear tag at no charge.

Although Game Zone 4 is now closed, hunters who legally harvested bears before the deadline are still required to report them to SCDNR. All harvested bears must be reported by midnight on the day of harvest through the state's SC Game Check system.

Reports can be submitted through the Go Outdoors SC mobile app, online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com, by texting "Harvest" to 1-833-472-4263 or by calling the same number.

SCDNR reminds hunters that harvest quotas can result in early closures and encourages them to monitor official announcements before hunting.

Additional information about bear hunting regulations and season closures is available at dnr.sc.gov/bearhunting.



WATER
FROM PAGE 3A

change.

As South Carolina continues to add new residents, homes and businesses, that responsibility becomes even more important.

Reliable water and wastewater infrastructure is not simply a response to growth; it is part of what makes sustainable growth possible.

Drought conditions seen this year across South Carolina and the Southeast offer a timely reminder of why those fundamentals matter.

Rainfall plays an essential role in replenishing the surface and groundwater supplies our communities depend on, and extended dry periods can place added pressure on water systems.

Conditions like this underscore the importance of planning ahead and ensuring utilities have the infrastructure, resources and professional expertise to adapt to changing conditions.

With the consolidation now complete, more than 70,000 equivalent residential connections across the Midlands and Upstate are part of a single, coordinated utility.

Bringing these systems together allows administrative, regulatory, technical and infrastructure-planning resources to be shared more efficiently while giving local teams access to broader statewide capabilities.

That scale matters beyond administrative efficiency.

It gives local systems access to a larger network of operators, engineers, and technical resources, while enabling better coordination of maintenance practices, infrastructure planning, and investments across the organization.

Local teams remain focused on the communities they serve, but they now have greater resources at their disposal when challenges arise.

We are already seeing the benefits of that approach.

Through targeted operational improvements — including closing high-cost facilities and reorganizing field operations — South Carolina Water Utilities has reduced former Blue Granite annual expenses by more than $500,000.

Those efficiencies help strengthen long-term system reliability and support continued infrastructure investment.

The July consolidation is an important milestone, but our work continues.

It provides a stronger foundation to continue improving the systems our customers rely on every day while preparing for the demands of a growing state, aging infrastructure and fluctuating weather conditions.

Ultimately, customers should be able to trust that when they turn on the tap, the water will be there and the system behind it is being responsibly managed for the long term.

That is the standard we are working every day to deliver for the communities we serve.

Craig Sorensen is president of South Carolina Water Utilities and senior vice president of Nexus Water Group. A registered professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry, he oversees utility operations across South Carolina. Sorensen also serves on Gov. Henry McMaster's WaterSC Working Group, helping inform the state's long-term water resource planning efforts. He lives in Columbia.

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REAVES
FROM PAGE 3A

the EMTs, and they were standing by ready to assist.

After they addressed our ancillary problems, we were able to reach the entrapped worker and got him out of the ditch and into the ambulance.

They rushed him, and I followed them to the local hospital, where he was checked out and found to be just scared and, other than some bruises, was going to be fine. The truth to be known was when the dirt caved in on him, it knocked his hard hat down over his face and gave him just enough air for us to have time to get him out.

However, I will never forget his mouth and the foul language he was saying.

Instead of him being thankful and showing gratitude to our Lord and Savior who spared his life from a dirty tomb of death, he was cussin' everything he could think of, including God.

At that point, I am not sure what I found more troubling: the traumatic event I had just witnessed or his tirade of filthy expletives.

Whatever the case, I will never forget that day as long as I live, even though it has been almost 40 years since it happened.

The second story takes us way back to the late '60s, where we find a lovely and vibrant 17-year-old girl growing up in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the youngest of four daughters and was leading a carefree life of hiking, swimming, tennis, horseback riding and any other sort of sport she could participate in, especially due to the fact that she grew up in a very athletic family.

Well, on one fateful day in July of 1967, Joni dove into what turned out to be a very shallow part of the Chesapeake Bay and severed her spinal cord, doomed to be a paraplegic for the rest of her life.

After intensive emotional and physical therapy, Joni Eareckson got her life back on track and became an accomplished painter and author (all with her teeth) and used this tragedy as a catalyst for her life and testimony of how the Good Lord used her life-changing experience for good.

Now, what is the difference in the two people in these stories?

The guy in the first story was not hurt, yet extremely bitter. His attitude of "why me" radiated through his whole life.

Not sure what or where he is now, for he quit the company soon after his scare.

Ms. Eareckson Tada, seemingly, has the attitude of "why not me."

She has been such an inspiration. I actually saw her movie when it came out when I was in high school. I remember it being so emotional. I cried as her story was put out on the big screen.

The takeaway is this.

Our approach to life is our choice.

We can either be sad and think everything is out to get us, or we can look at it as a way to be thankful that it brings us closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Folks, as hard as it may be, give thanks for all things and remember James 1:2-4.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance."

And James 1:12: "Blessed is the one that perseveres under trial, because having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

It is all up to us.

We can either be miserable in our own skin or thank God for all things, good and bad, and live a peaceful life.

Pain is not to be denied, just not dwelled on. There is purpose in the pain.

How is your Gratitude Attitude?

May God bless you!

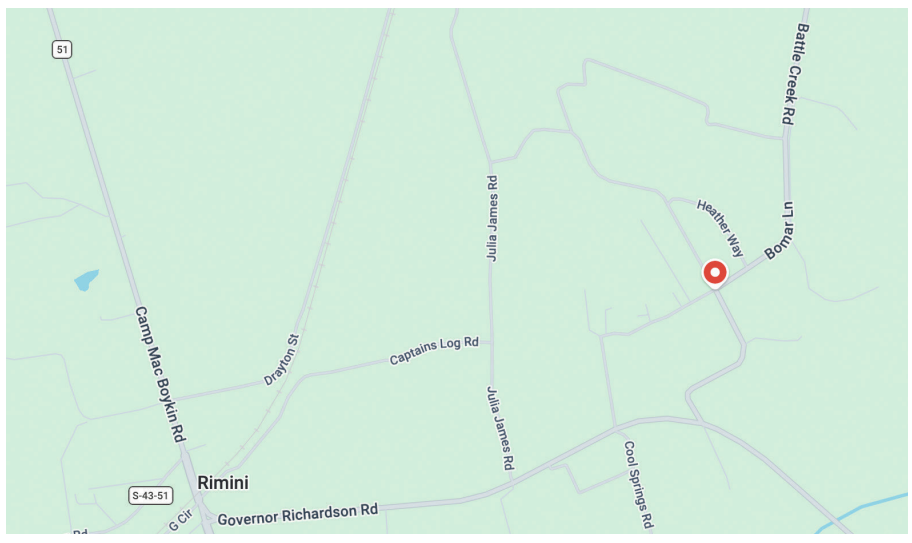
FIRE
FROM PAGE 1A

Clarendon County Fire Rescue and SLED.

The Manning Times has requested additional information about the deceased from the Clarendon County Coroner's Office and is awaiting a response.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that could assist investigators is asked to contact the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office at 803-435-4414 or its tip line at 803-433-8477.

Authorities said additional information will be released as the investigation permits.



FIRE: A map shows the area of Bomar Trail near Rimini where a residential fire claimed one life Saturday, Oct. 24. The cause of the fire and circumstances surrounding the death remain under investigation.

(COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS)

SC NEWSPAPERS DELIVER HIGHLY ENGAGED CITIZENS

88%

of SC newspaper readers vote in local elections.

Source: 2023 South Carolina State Study conducted by Coda Ventures

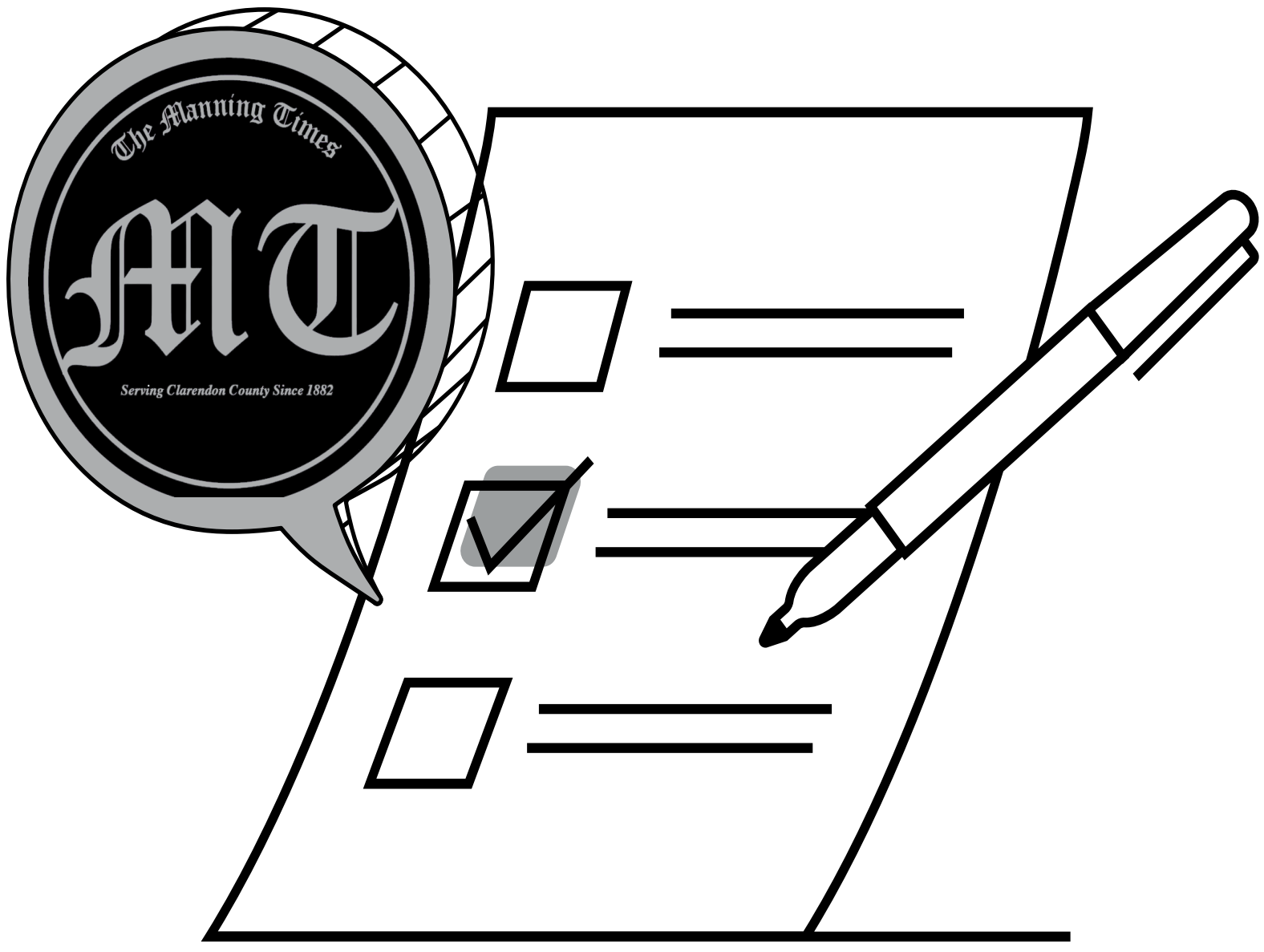


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Election Day is Nov. 3!

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VOTES ARE IN. WHAT'S NEXT?

Follow The Manning Times on Facebook for live Election Night updates, local race results and coverage from across Clarendon County.

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BRIDGE
FROM PAGE 12A

ondary roads. In addition to Clarendon County, the primary route projects are located in York, Georgetown, Oconee, Aiken, Greenville, Pickens, Spartanburg, Richland, Colleton and Marlboro counties.

The secondary route projects are in Richland, Oconee, Spartanburg and Greenwood counties.

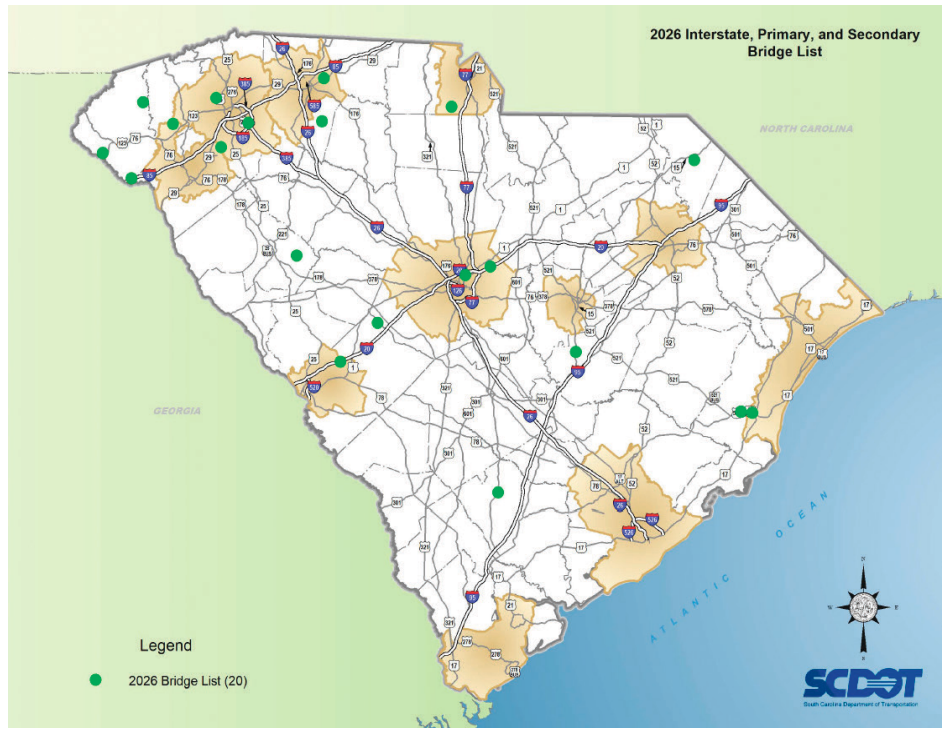
Residents have until Wednesday, Nov. 11, to submit comments on the list.

Comments may be submitted through the STIP Comment Notices section of SCDOT's public comment webpage or emailed to SCDOTpubliccomment@scdot.gov.

Written comments may also be mailed to the Public Involvement Director, SCDOT Public Engagement Office, 955 Park St., P.O. Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202.

For residents without internet access, printed copies of the project list and supporting materials are available at SCDOT district offices.

SCDOT advises that information submitted during the public comment process, including names and addresses, may be subject to disclosure under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.



BRIDGE: A map from the South Carolina Department of Transportation shows the locations of 20 bridges proposed for improvements statewide in 2026, including the U.S. 15 bridge over Sammy Swamp Creek in Clarendon County.

(COURTESY OF SCDOT)

SAFE
FROM PAGE 11A

than $1.9 billion in assets, more than 141,000 members and 19 branches.

Membership is available to people who live, work, worship or attend school in Sumter, Lee, Kershaw, Clarendon and Florence counties, as well as portions of Richland and Lexington counties. Employees of more than 400 companies throughout the Midlands and relatives of those eligible to join may also qualify for membership.

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Halloween.

THICW

OSHTG

DCYAN

IKRTC








CITY OF MANNING
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
HERE TO SERVE YOU
CITY OF MANNING
Manning
POLICE
SOUTH CAROLINA
Manning
TRICK OR TREAT
POLICE
MANNING
HALLOWEEN
SAFETY TIPS
TRICK-OR-TREAT IN GROUPS
Stay with friends and family. Look out for one another.
USE LIGHTS
Carry a flashlight and wear bright or reflective clothing.
CHECK YOUR CANDY
Only eat sealed treats. When in doubt, throw it out.
DRIVE SAFELY
Watch for trick-or-treaters, use extra caution in residential areas.
BE AWARE
Keep an eye on your surroundings and report suspicious activity.
Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!


TRICK
OR
TREAT


CLARENDON COUNTY
Economic Development
HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!


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🇲🇽🕯️ WHAT IS DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS? 💀🌼

Have you ever heard of Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead? ❤️

It's a beautiful Mexican tradition celebrated on November 1st and 2nd to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away.

Unlike what some people may think, this celebration is not about being afraid of death. It's about love, family, memories, and keeping the spirits of our loved ones alive in our hearts.

🌼 Marigold flowers symbolize a connection to loved ones who have passed.

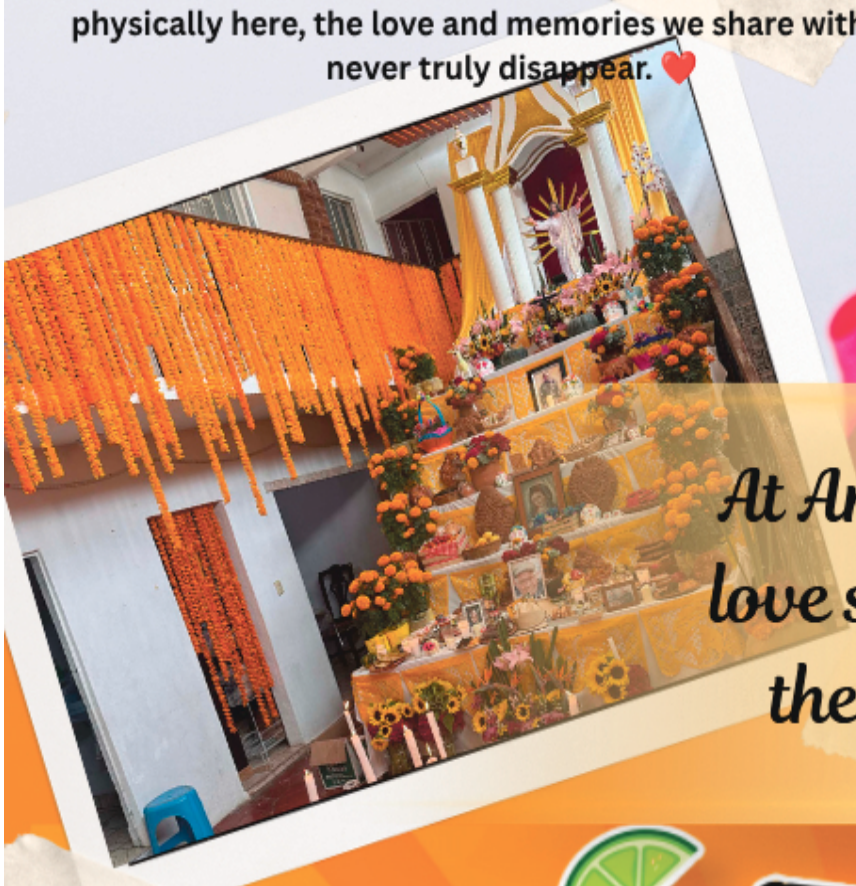
🕯️ Candles help guide and welcome their spirits.

🖼️ Photographs honor the people families remember.

🍞 Pan de muerto, a traditional Mexican bread, is prepared and shared during this special time.

🌼 Ofrendas, or altars, are created with photographs, favorite foods, flowers, and meaningful objects to honor those who are no longer with us.

One of the most beautiful parts of this tradition is the belief that even though our loved ones are no longer physically here, the love and memories we share with them never truly disappear. ❤️



At Armando's Mexican Restaurant, we love sharing not only our food, but also the culture and traditions behind it!

ARMANDO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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	Beef/Chicken		Sex on the Beach	
			Blue Motorcycle	
			Liquid Marijuana	

Happy Hour

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Taste of Williamsburg combines local flavors, community support

STAFF REPORT

Williamsburg Technical College hosted its annual Taste of Williamsburg on Oct. 22, bringing community members together for an evening of food, entertainment and fellowship in support of the Williamsburg Technical College Foundation.

Held in the college courtyard from 6 to 8:30 p.m., the event featured local flavors and entertainment while raising support for the foundation's mission to benefit students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community.

College officials thanked the sponsors, donors, cooks and attendees who helped make the event possible. Gold sponsors included DCC Metal Recycling, DSM-Firmenich, Palmetto Synthetics, the Williamsburg County Tourism Board and Woodmen Life.

The annual fundraiser continues to bring the community together while supporting educational opportunities and the college's mission.























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