



“Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it.”



Michael J. “Mike” Brandt (right) has been named the Calhoun Falls Personality of the Year for 2020. He was presented with a plaque by Calhoun Falls Mayor Chris Cowan (left). Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Brandt Calhoun Falls Personality of the Year

By Henry E. Green

Micheal J. “Mike” Brandt has been named the Calhoun Falls Personality of the Year for 2020.

The commander of American Legion Post 72 was nominated by Robert and Lynne Hester of Calhoun Falls.

The Personality of the Year program is presented every year by The Press and Banner to recognize an outstanding resident of the Calhoun Falls community, in a tradition which goes back to the early 1960s.

Brandt is receiving a plaque honoring his community service for calendar year 2020.

The presentation is traditionally made during the Calhoun Falls Springtime in the Falls festival, during the Springtime in the Falls/ town-wide yard sale weekend in mid-May.

He was presented with a Personality of the Year plaque this past Thursday night at the American Legion building in downtown Calhoun Falls.

The letter of nomination from the Hesters painted

a picture of a man who gives much to his adopted community.

Originally from Queens, New York, Brandt, a Vietnam veteran, moved with his family from Greenwood to Calhoun Falls in 1999.

Married to Faith Rae Brant, he has three daughters—Amanda Dee Brandt, Rachel Sue Brown, and Becky Marie Brandt—and two grandchildren—Brooklyn Michelle Brown and Gabriel Corey Brown.

Robert and Lynne Hester praised Brandt for his work with the Calhoun Falls Charter School.

Mike worked as a janitor for the school for “pennies,” has driven buses for the school, and has served on its school board for six years.

The Hesters also praised Brandt for his work with veterans. The Commander for American Legion Post 72 in Calhoun Falls, Brandt helped launch the Calhoun Falls Veterans Day Parade, and is instrumental also in presenting the Memorial Day ceremony in Calhoun Falls.

Mike, along with other

veterans, places U.S. flags in several local cemeteries on “patriotic holidays,” they said.

According to the Hesters, he has also taken on the responsibility for raising and lowering the flags at Town Hall, the police station, Cox Avenue, and the town’s war monument. A member of the Calhoun Falls Fire Department, Brandt is a certified paramedic.

Brandt, who attends Sanctuary of Praise Church in Anderson, also helps with the food pantry in Calhoun Falls and the Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition.

“Mr. Brandt has a quiet demeanor and has never sought the spotlight for his acts of service,” the Hesters wrote. “No doubt, there are many unrecognized civic and community actions which he has performed. This gentleman from Calhoun Falls is an example to our youth and everyone to emulate. Calhoun Falls is a much better town with Mike Brandt.”

\$2 million bond issue passed by County

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County Council unanimously voted Monday night to pass on third and final reading a bond issue of up to \$2 million to provide for public safety enhancement.

The bond issue is expected to take in the purchase of patrol cars for the Sheriff’s Office, and self contained breathing apparatus.

Council passed the measure upon a motion by City Council member James McCord and a second by Council member Rick Campbell. Council members Drew Simpson and Jason Bonds were not “in person” for the meeting, but joined electronically.

Abbeville County Director David Garner described

how the bond money would be used.

The bond issue will allow the County to borrow money to purchase 20 patrol vehicles for the Abbeville County Sheriff’s Office over the next three years, and at least 140 items of self contained breathing apparatus equipment for County firefighters, as well as the replacement of the camera system at the Abbeville County detention center, and three vehicles which will replace older vehicles for the building codes, mechanic, and building maintenance departments.

The vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office will be replacing aging vehicles.

County Council chairman Billy Norris said that the equipment for firefighters

is vital.

“It’s something that’s really needed,” he said. “I feel like that’s our job.”

Meanwhile, Garner provided some news on the \$4.7 million package in federal stimulus money which Abbeville County is slated to receive.

This stimulus money may be used to pay for planned purchases impacted due to a decrease in revenue due to COVID.

The County has three and one half years to use these funds—by December 2024.

The County has not received the money yet, Garner said Monday.

The purchases to be made with the bond issue could not be made with the stimulus money, he indicated.



These folks are listening to the Dead String Band of Elbert County, Georgia, which performed recently during the Springtime in the Falls festival in Calhoun Falls. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Out and about Calhoun Falls has Springtime in the Falls festival, town-wide yard sale

By Henry E. Green

Calhoun Falls held its annual Springtime in the Falls festival and town-wide yard-sale this past weekend, providing joy for lovers of music, bargains—and all around good times.

Presented by the Calhoun Falls Chamber of Commerce, the annual event featured a street dance Friday night by the Dead String Band of Elbert County, GA.

Calhoun Falls Chamber executive director Rebeca McCaslan said that the Georgia band was called upon after the originally-scheduled band canceled.

The Elbert County group, performing from a stage set up at the intersection of Savannah Street and Cox Avenue in downtown Calhoun Falls, played a blend of country and rock’n’roll, covering everything from Marshall Tucker to that old blues standard that Cream made famous back in the late 1960s—“Crossroads.”

The next day, of course, was yard sale day, with tables set up all along Savannah Street. People strolled down the main thoroughfare of Calhoun Falls to look for bargains from vendors selling, in the words of Glenn Jones of Calhoun Falls “anything and everything.”

One of the bargain hunters was Karen Ashley of Calhoun Falls, who was “just buying and socializing—seeing people you haven’t seen in forever. It’s fun.”

On the other side were vendors such as Cherry Brown of McCormick, who was selling a variety of clothing, jewelry, shoes and books and boys.

For the Mary Kay consultant, this was her first year of being a vendor at the yard-sale.

The opportunity to get out and see people was especially nice in view of the pandemic and the limitations it placed on social interaction.

“I enjoy people,” she said. Rickey Holland, meanwhile, is a former resident of Calhoun Falls who now lives in Gainesville, GA.

The former member of Calhoun Falls Town Council was selling watermelons and “enjoying the atmosphere—back at home.”

Not everyone was a vendor or a buyer. Adrienne Wells, a 4K instructor at John C. Calhoun Elementary, had a table set up where she was working to sign up kids for the 4K program at JCCE.

Saturday evening was slated to provide the close for the weekend of fun, with a DJ playing music in downtown Calhoun Falls.

People seemed to enjoy getting out—especially after last year’s Springtime weekend was canceled because of COVID.

It all seemed to show that if you want a good time in the Falls, it’s not hard to find.



Calhoun Falls hosted its annual town-wide yard sale recently. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



Ed Strickland of Abbeville teaches a course that is designed to quality students for a South Carolina concealed weapons permit, and he spoke recently to Abbeville Rotarians about it. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Proposal would curb loitering in City

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council met Wednesday night, and narrowly passed first reading on an ordinance which would regulate loitering in the City of Abbeville.

The proposed ordinance only passed first reading 5-4, with Council members J.J. Jackson, Chris Crawford, Faye Thomas and Jason Edwards voting in opposition.

The ordinance establishes loitering and “failure to stop” regulations to encourage effective policing within the City of Abbeville.

According to the ordinance, officers need to have the ability to lawfully stop persons of interest on foot and clear out chronic loitering throughout the City.

Additional measures need to be taken to address chronic loitering throughout the City of Abbeville that have the potential to escalate into dangerous situations.

In the past, persons of interest have refused to follow police direction and fled the scene, which has hampered multiple investigations and established a precedent of

fleeing from the police at any point of contact on foot within the City.

This ordinance will help reduce persons of interest fleeing from officers in the future as well as issues of chronic loitering and will expedite investigations.

The proposed ordinance states, “It shall be unlawful for any person in the city to willfully and knowingly fail or refuse to stop when signaled, hailed, or commanded to stop by a police officer or other city officer; provided that the officer has reasonable suspicions that the person is involved in criminal activity.”

Concerning loitering, the ordinance states, “No person shall loiter or prowl in a place, at a time or in a manner not usual for law abiding individuals under circumstances that warrant alarm for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity.”

The proposed ordinance generated considerable discussion. Was there a law already in place to cover these concerns? Was the proposed ordinance specific enough?

City Police Chief Ron Bosler assured Council, “We’re not going to use this to deter anyone from having a good time.”

In other matters Wednesday night, Council passed second reading on an ordinance amending Ordinance 10-2018 to update language regarding the Economic Incentive Program.

Council passed second reading on an Ordinance amending Chapter 19, Article V, Division 3, Sewer Use Regulations to remain in compliance with state and federal standards.

Council listened to updates on the Spring Festival, McGowan water line project, and the Abbeville Community Performing Arts Foundation. (See related stories).

Under new business, Council member Chris Crawford brought up a discussion of the Spring Festival.

Crawford commended the City personnel for the good job they did in presenting the recent Abbeville Spring Festival.

Pulling the trigger

Ed Strickland of Abbeville talks to Rotarians about firearms

By Henry E. Green

Guns.

They’re something with which Ed Strickland is well acquainted, and he displayed his knowledge of firearms in a recent talk to Abbeville Rotarians.

“The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun,” he said.

Gun violence has even reared its ugly head in Abbeville, said Strickland.

“Don’t think you’re immune to it because you live in a one horse town, because you’re not,” he told Rotarians.

“Nobody wants to be a victim,” he said.

According to Strickland, the good guys could have stopped a number of shootings if they simply had had guns.

“An armed society is a polite society,” he said.

Strickland, a retired Probation, Parole and Pardon

services agent who is also a City of Abbeville municipal judge, teaches a concealed weapons course at his home on the Highway 28 Bypass on the outskirts of Abbeville.

(The course is designed to qualify students for a South Carolina concealed weapons permit, according to Facebook.)

Many women take the course, in which Strickland literally teaches people how to shoot. He also teaches his students about the different kinds of firearms, how to carry a firearm, elements of self-defense, and ways to be safe--the last is something one could characterize as “situational awareness.”

His students have included the Mayor of Columbia, and age does not appear to be a barrier--one of his students was 92 years old.

“I’ve had a few people who never touched a gun in their life,” he said.

Strickland also discussed

the open carry law which the General Assembly recently passed, and which the Governor is expected to sign.

When and if the Governor signs the law, South Carolina will join North Carolina and Georgia in having such an open carry measure.

(Since Strickland spoke, the Governor has signed the measure.)

Strickland himself has reservations about the measure, which, he indicated, could heighten tensions in situations where guns are at play, such as those involving gangs.

“I like carrying it concealed,” he said. “That’s my ace in the hole.”

About his course, he was philosophical.

“It’s not for everybody, but if they take the time, it can save your life,” he said.

For further information, one may call Strickland at 379-1779.

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Dive team boat

County seeks City help for new motor

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville County is asking for the City of Abbeville to make a contribution toward a new boat for the Abbeville County dive team, Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone told City Council at the May 10 City Council meeting.
The County has a dive team, and it serves the entire county, including Lake Secession, which the City owns, said Abbeville County Director David Garner Monday.
The current boat has a motor which is malfunction-

ing and nearly inoperable, according to the County Director.
“It won’t last much longer,” said Garner. “The boat itself is good. It just needs a new motor.”
The County would like the City to help with the purchase of a new motor. Garner said that he had already spoken with Stone about the matter, and the potential to work together on it.
City Council wanted more information, including budget related information from

the County, to help them make a decision.
“The discussion has been a 50-50 split,” he said. “But that’s not necessarily set in stone,” he said.
County Council is expected to discuss the matter in June.
A new motor could cost as much as \$15,000, Garner said.
The boat stays in Abbeville, in a place that is centrally located—ideal for the boat to serve the surrounding area, the County Director continued.



Former Calhoun Falls resident Rickey Holland now lives in Gainesville, GA, but he returned to Calhoun Falls for the community’s town-wide yard sale recently and he was selling watermelons. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Board OKs contract

By Henry E. Green
The Abbeville County School District Board of Trustees, in a special called meeting Thursday night, approved a contract to build athletic buildings, restrooms, and concessions facilities at the Abbeville and Dixie stadiums.
The board took the action following an executive session to discuss the athletic building contract, as well as personnel matters.
Following an executive session of approximately 55 minutes, the school board came back into open session and approved a contract with Cely Construction Company not to exceed \$1.84 million to build press

boxes, concessions facilities and restrooms at the Abbeville and Dixie High school stadiums.
Cely Construction is based in Greenville, according to the School District.
The expectation is that the work will be completed by the beginning of this year’s football season.
The board also agreed to follow the administration’s recommendation and approve 10 continuing teacher contracts.
Board member James B. Tisdale, Jr., abstained on the teacher contract vote.
School board members Tim Rhodes and David Brooks were absent from the meeting.

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Peach Apple Crisp

1 can peaches, in light syrup, drained, sliced (15 ounces)
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1/4 teaspoon cinnamon (ground)
3/4 cup flour
1/4 cup brown sugar (packed)
3 tablespoon margarine (chilled)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease 9x9x2 inch casserole dish. Combine peaches, apples, vanilla, and cinnamon in a bowl. Toss well and spread evenly in a greased casserole dish. Combine flour and sugar in a small bowl. Cut in margarine with two knives until the mixture resembles a coarse meal. Sprinkle flour mixture evenly over fruit. Bake until lightly browned and bubbly, about 20 minutes

Twisters, gas, COVID

LEPC discusses recent emergencies

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville County LEPC met Wednesday, discussing the recent tornado that touched down in Abbeville County, COVID, and the gas shortage.

The tornado of May 3 produced winds of up to 125 miles per hour, and damaged 10 to 15 houses, and one house was destroyed, Abbeville County emergency services Will Blackwell told the committee.

The storm traveled from County line to County line--from the western portion of the county, in the Lowndesville area, to the Stevenson Road area on the eastern outskirts of the city of Abbeville, he said.

The tornado, which he said was not really anticipated, drew an excellent response from County firefighters, and SCDOT. Little River Electric and Duke Energy were out in full force as well.

Attention turned to the gas shortage caused by the shutdown of a pipeline, and Blackwell noted that panic buying at the pump is largely the reason for the shortage. "We are causing the short-

age," he said.

Concerning COVID, it was noted at the meeting that many of the regulations designed to curb the pandemic have been relaxed.

"COVID is still here," he warned, noting that people still need to maintain safety precautions against the virus. India is a prime example of what can go terribly wrong when that does not happen, he indicated.

Ben Ross of DHEC noted that supplies of vaccine are outstripping demand.

"We gave out very few vaccines at the Spring Festival," he said, referring to a vaccine clinic held during that event.

One in three adults in South Carolina is fully vaccinated, but more people need to get the vaccine for the population to achieve herd immunity.

"The virus could become like the flu--something we simply have to live with," he said.

"Life is forever changed because of COVID," he said.

He went on to note that there are cases where people who are fully vaccinated

get COVID, but this is very rare, and if they get the virus, the chances that they will become seriously ill are small indeed.

Those in attendance at the meeting included representatives of area law enforcement, emergency medical services, firefighters, county government, Abbeville Area Medical Center, and DHEC.

People "panic purchasing" gasoline have been the driving force behind a recent gas shortage, and the panic purchasing was generated by the shutdown of the Colonial pipeline following a cyber-attack.

The Local Emergency Preparedness Committee includes representatives of law enforcement, emergency medical services, economic development, Abbeville Area Medical Center, and firefighters.

About 20 people were in attendance for Wednesday's meeting.

Wednesday's LEPC meeting was the first in person meeting since February 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for August.

Merchant expresses concern at meeting

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville City Council meeting last week was, at times, tumultuous.

During the public comment period of the May 12 City Council meeting, merchant Roger Welborn of Abbeville Hardware expressed reservations about the limitations which he said the City put on access to his store during the recent Spring Festival.

These limitations, he said, resulted in far few customers coming to his store during the festival. The store averages 175 to 200 customers a day, and during

the festival the number of customers went down to 25 to 30 a day, the merchant said.

The City put up four barriers to make more effective traffic flow during the Festival, and the barriers, according to Welborn, hampered access to his business.

"I have pictures of everything I'm telling you," he said Monday.

He and Mayor Trey Edwards had a lively discussion during the public comment period Wednesday.

Edwards read aloud at the outset of the public

comment period a prepared statement saying that no business had been unfairly targeted.

Welborn said that the City is not friendly to small businesses.

"You don't support them," he said.

"None of you all have come to talk to me," Welborn told Council. "I never get answers back when I talk to you all."

Abbeville Hardware is located on South Main, just south of Court Square in downtown Abbeville.

Vending machine bound for Opera House

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville City Council took a look during a recent City Council meeting at a request for a vending machine to be placed in the Abbeville Opera House.

City Manager Blake Stone explained that the City of Abbeville has been approached by a woman named Cassandra James about placing a vending machine on City property.

The agreement would be for one machine on municipal property with the vendor paying for upkeep and maintenance of the asset.

The City would retain 15 percent of gross revenue from the machine, which would provide food and drinks.

The vending machine would be placed inside the Opera House

City Council member Chris Crawford had questions about the plan, and wondered if it would be better to have the machine placed outside the building, to provide access for more people.

Council member Benji Greeson said that having it outdoors would not be in character with the aesthetics of downtown Abbeville, and Council member Jason Edwards said the machine could be vulnerable to vandals outdoors.

Council voted to allow the City to authorize further negotiations over the vending machine, with Crawford opposing.

"Ms. James operates a vending machine business and is looking to place a few machines at different locations in the City," said

City spokesman Mike Clary Friday.

In other matters, Council approved an appointment to fill the four year term of office of Jason Walker on the Planning Commission which expired on March 8, 2020.

Council appointed Jonathan Myers, who had been nominated by Greeson, to fill the position.

Council tabled an appointment to fill the four year term of office of Betty Simpson on the Planning Commission which expired on Feb. 14, 2021.

Greeson had nominated Tyler Goss, but Council tabled the appointment until June for further study, with Council member John Sutherland opposing.

CFC Track Team had stellar Upperstate Track Meet

Submitted by Mr. Rogers

Calhoun Falls Charter School Track Team had some stellar performances at the Class A Upperstate Track Meet held at Lower Richland High School. The boys team finished 3rd out of 16 schools while the girls team finished 5th out of 16 schools. The Blue Flashes track team had two upper state champions on Saturday. Quade Lindler finished 1st in the 800m run and Camden Durant finished 1st in the Javelin. "I am proud of this

team and their ability to push through and overcome adversity. We had a pretty good day on the track overall with a few minor hiccups but we learned from the mistake and moved on. We took 4 girls to upper state and finished 5th. That's amazing and talented for that group of girls which 3 are in 8th grade and 1 is a sophomore." The track team will head to Lower Richland on 05/22/2021 to compete at the state meet starting at 9:00 am. "Saturday is the day we #ShockTheState. Our goal is

to PR and come out on top." CF qualified 13 athletes total combined.

Girls: Alexis Sanders: 100m, 200m, 400mH; Raynias Williams: 400mH; Cournazhia Sanders: 100mH; Kortasia Tillman: 400m

Boys: Boys 4x800 Relay (Cam Durant, Ty Turman, Quade Lindler, and Jay Jones); Marquice Turman: 110mH and 400mH; Ja'Marri Norman: 110H; Quade Lindler: 800m and 1600m; Cam Durant: Javelin; Ty Moon: Javelin; Ja'Quavius Bryant: Shot Put.



Following the recent Abbeville County LEPC meeting, Due West Police Chief David Maxwell (left) conversed with Will Blackwell, Director of Abbeville County Emergency Services. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Stone provides update on 2021 Festival

By Henry E. Green

This year's Abbeville Spring Festival got another favorable review last week from City Manager Blake Stone.

The Spring Festival had between 12,000 and 13,000 attendees for 2021, and ride ticket sales were up from \$68,000 in 2018 to \$91,000 in 2021, Blake told Council in a City Manager's report.

A complete economic study will follow in the coming months, and the City will look at more handicapped parking options and transportation for future festivals.

The City is considering a shuttle system to enhance

transportation for people attending the festival.

The City is looking at additional lighting at port-a-john sites for safety purposes.

Next year, Stone added, will mark the 40th anniversary of the Spring Festival.

Stone's report came days after the 2021 Festival, which was held April 29-May 1. Last year's festival was canceled due to COVID.

Blake followed up later in the meeting with a discussion, under the "new business" segment, of possibly moving the Festival from a Thursday-through-Saturday event to one that would follow a Friday-through-Sun-

day format.

Stone suggested that "kids night" could be moved from Thursday night to Sunday.

Council member Chris Crawford suggested that the City would need to reach out to the churches to see how they would feel about Festival-related street closures on Sundays.

City Council member Matt Gambrell said a number of Spring Festival vendors would probably not want to work on a Sunday.

Council took no action on the matter, which is still under study.



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Academic Awards Ceremony

Lauren Driggers AHS Star Student for 20-21

By Henry E. Green

Abbeville High School held last week its annual academic banquet, with Lauren Taite Driggers named the Star Student, who then chose Daniel Huggins as the Star Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

Driggers, who is planning to attend Presbyterian College, praised Driggers as a teacher who keeps his students engaged.

The Star Student scholarship is sponsored this year by West Carolina Tel. The Star Student is chosen based on Grade Point Ratio, SAT or ACT scores, and school activities with leadership roles, and the Star Teacher is then chosen by the Star Student, according to information supplied by AHS.

Students who had excelled academically during the current school year were recognized, and the three honor speakers in this year's graduating class were announced.

This three honor speakers will speak at the AHS graduation in late May.

Each year Abbeville High School bestows awards on the top three seniors who have achieved the highest academic averages for four years of schoolwork and who have been designated honor speakers for their class at graduation.

This year AHS presented Highly Distinguished medals to valedictorian Matthew Blake Hughes, salutatorian Anna Eliza-

beth Smith, and third honor student Caroline Alena Scott.

Students who maintained an A average for the three quarters during the 2020-2021 school year were recognized.

In addition, each year AHS recognizes the students who have achieved the highest grade point average for the school year.

This year's freshman with the highest grade point average is Emma Leigh Harper.

This year's sophomore with the highest GPA is Kyla Shanicia Brown.

This year's junior with the highest GPA is Sydney Jeanne Dawson.

Also, each year the top four students in the junior class are designated Junior Marshals. Marshals are based on class rank and are invited to participate in graduation exercises.

This year's marshals include Sydney Jeanne Dawson, LizziAnna Price, Cameron Drew Beauford, and Hannah Elizabeth Hedden.

AHS Junior Ushers are also based on class rank and are invited to participate in graduation.

This year's ushers include Ty'Brea Aureana Johnson, Jenny Trieu Le, Harbor Sidney Brady, Carsen Faith Ellis, Cali Nicole Gill, and Russell Blake Chappell.

Serving as emcees for the program, which was held at Erskine, were

AHS guidance counselor Philip Bannister and AHS English Department Chair Elizabeth Henderson.

Offering closing comments was Dr. Adam Lanford, AHS principal, who has taken a job at Powdersville High School, and who is closing out a year of service at AHS.

Lanford offered an emotional tribute to the school to which he is saying good-bye. Abbeville High School "is an incredibly special place," he told the audience.

It is a place where education takes place despite the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

"The last two years the world has been turned upside down," he said.

Despite all this, AHS is providing a most excellent foundation for its students.

"Go be great!" he told the students.

The program closed with a rendition of the AHS alma mater by AHS band members Mike Cheri, Lauren Driggers and Ke'Shunna Morton.

There was also a video presented by art teacher Jennifer Hall, as well as a presentation of colors by FFA representatives Amber Davis and Savannah Winn.

The invocation was provided by FCA representative Ambria Gilliard, and the program opened with a welcome by District Teacher of the Year Sara Wojtkowski.



During the AHS academic banquet of May 11, Abbeville High School senior Lauren Driggers (right) was named AHS Star Student for 2020-2021, and the Star Teacher she chose was Daniel Huggins (left), who teaches history at AHS. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



This year at the AHS academic banquet, AHS graduation honor speakers were recognized, including (from right) valedictorian Matthew Blake Hughes, salutatorian Anna Elizabeth Smith, and third honor student Caroline Alena Scott. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

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Calhoun Falls Charter FFA chapter holds its annual banquet

By Henry E. Green
More than 125 people were in attendance Thursday night for the Calhoun Falls Charter FFA chapter's annual banquet, held Thursday night at the Northside Baptist Church in Calhoun Falls. FFA, originally called Future Farmers of America, helps instill leadership skills in young people in an agricultural format. Thursday night's banquet featured an opportunity for FFA members to reminisce about their experiences in an organization which seems to combine learning and fun. A number of senior FFA members recalled good times they had in the chapter, and to close out their

recollections they took off their distinctive dark blue FFA jackets and put them on a coat rack. Khloe Cade, for example, credited chapter advisor Nancy McCannon for helping her get involved in FFA. Three individuals were named honorary members of the chapter. They included Steve McCannon, Jessica Maddox, and Benji Greeson. Among the other honors, James Parton was named the Star Greenhand, and Bailey Pickens the Star Chapter Farmer. "We had 67 members for this year," said McCannon following the meeting. Maddox is the cafeteria supervisor at Calhoun

Falls Charter, and Frank McCannon is the FFA advisor at the Pickens County Career Center, said Nancy McCannon. "Both of them have helped us with a lot of our projects," said Nancy Monday. "Ms. Maddox has baked for us." The Calhoun Falls FFA advisor noted that Maddox had baked a cake in the configuration of an FFA jacket. Not only was it pretty to look at, but it was delicious as well, said Nancy McCannon Monday. Greeson is a well-known Abbeville radio personality, and on his "Southern Fried Morning Show" he has featured Calhoun Falls FFA activities.



At the recent Calhoun Falls Charter FFA banquet, three individuals were named honorary members of the chapter. They included Steve McCannon (right), and Jessica Maddox (left), and Benji Greeson. Greeson was unable to attend. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



James Parton was named the Star Greenhand during the Calhoun Falls Charter FFA banquet held recently at the Northside Baptist Church in Calhoun Falls. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Five-year-old Hazel Maddox of Abbeville was one of those enjoying the Calhoun Falls Charter FFA banquet recently held at Northside Baptist Church in Calhoun Falls. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)



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Jim Gettys wins Erskine alumni award

By Henry E. Green
A retired Erskine educator has been awarded the 2020 Alumni Distinguished Service Award from the Erskine alumni association.
Dr. James Wylie Gettys, Jr., served as Vice President and Dean of the College for 11 years and taught history at Erskine for more than 40 years, according to Erskine Communications.
He is regarded as an expert in the history of Abbeville County and of Erskine, and has been a leader in the Due West ARP Church and the ARP denomination, and in Due West and Abbeville communications.
Gettys graduated from Erskine in 1962, and returned to teach in 1965. He taught

for 42 years at Erskine.
“For nine of them, I was the academic dean,” he said.
“I was the McDonald-Boswell Professor of History at Erskine,” he added.
The Second Century: A History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians, 1852-1952, he co-authored with the late Dr. Lowry Ware.
“He wrote the first 50 years, and I wrote the second 50 years,” he said.
Gettys has been a member of the Abbeville Rotary Club for many years, and has served as president of that organization.
He is currently a member of the Due West Lions Club, and has been a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, an elder, Vice Moderator

of the Session, and Clerk of the Session for the ARP Church.
Dr. Gettys received his doctorate in history from the University of South Carolina in 1974, and he was, for a number of years, the municipal judge in Due West.
He was married to the former Sandra Lockaby in 1962, and they have two children--James, III, who works in information technology at Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, and Katherine Gettys, an attorney in Lexington.
He enjoys working in the yard. “I love plants, and I love birds, so I feed the birds, and I plant the plants.”

Retired Erskine educator Dr. James Wylie Gettys, Jr., has been awarded the 2020 Alumni Distinguished Service Award from the Erskine alumni association. (Contributed photo)



Paddle Fest coming up at Blue Hole in CF

By Henry E. Green
The Lake Russell Recreation and Tourism Coalition will present Paddle Fest on Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Blue Hole recreation area in Calhoun Falls.
Paddle Fest will highlight the joys of kayaking and paddle boarding on Lake Russell.
“The event is free,” said Ken Tinsley, a Coalition member. “There will be a lot of activities in addition to kayaking.”
There will also be food--barbecue plates by the Calhoun Falls Pentecostal Holiness youth group, according to

Bebe Wesson, Coalition president.
Hank Hatchell will be providing music, she said.
There will be kayak races, for example. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to bring their kayaks, and kayaks will be provided for those who do not have them.
Those wishing to attend are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as well, Wesson continued.
The Coalition seeks to shine the spotlight on the recreational opportunities of Lake Russell, and it does this through a number of activities.
Those activities include

the Lake Russell Hustle, a 5K event typically held in March, as well as Freedom Blast, a gathering typically held right before the Fourth of July.
(Last year’s Freedom Blast was canceled due to COVID.)
Freedom Blast typically features live music, food, and fireworks, with those in attendance listening to musicians performing at the pavilion on the shores of the lake.
In the fall, the Coalition presents an autumn jubilee, celebrating the season with family-friendly activities.

Stone provides water line project update

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone gave during last week’s Abbeville City Council meeting an update on the McGowan Avenue water line project.
The preliminary engineering report has been completed for the McGowan waterline project.
The project will encompass the entirety of McGowan from Haigler to Taylor Town

Road.
The current preferred option is placing the line under the sidewalk, which will encompass 4,010 linear feet of six inch ductile iron water mains, eight fire hydrants, six isolation valves, 41 service connections and four connections to existing water mains.
The project cost for the sidewalk option will be \$768,500, with \$575,000 to be

paid through the State Revolving Fund, and \$200,000 to be paid through the City’s Enterprise Fund.
The project is expected to begin in August or September of this calendar year.
In other matters Wednesday night, following an executive session, Council voted to extend Stone’s contract by three years.



Rides for the kids attracted many people to the Abbeville Spring Festival, held April 29-May 1. This year’s festival featured excellent attendance. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Guild needs volunteers

By Henry E. Green
The Abbeville Artist Guild is looking for volunteers to assist with some activities this summer.
“We are sponsoring a summer art camp for kids who are rising 4th through 8th graders at the Abbeville Youth Center the week of June 7th from 9 until noon,” according to a Guild email.
“Cecily Ferguson will be the instructor. The cost is \$50 per child and includes all materials and a daily snack. We will need volunteers to help with the

children, art projects and daily snacks.
“The Artist Guild has agreed to provide a craft for children on June 19th at 11:00 & again at 12:00 for the Juneteenth Celebration in downtown Abbeville.
“We will use the courtyard beside Crate and Quill on Washington Street. If you would like to help with the children’s crafts, let us know.”
In addition, the Guild is presenting its monthly art exhibit at the Welcome Center, with Guild member

Barbara Littell presenting some of her quilts and wall hangings.
This will be the first year the Guild has presented a kids camp, said Jane Agan, the organization’s treasurer.
The camp had originally been slated for last year, but was cancelled due to COVID.
The Guild, which Agan said has about 30 members, is a nonprofit organization which promotes the arts in Abbeville County.

Austin McCurry of #1 Painting recently cleaned off the awning gracing the entrance to The Press and Banner. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)





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This month, Barbara Littell has at the Abbeville Welcome Center in Abbeville an exhibit of her quilting work. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Performing Arts Board planning workshops

By Henry E. Green
Abbeville City Manager Blake Stone provided an Abbeville Community Performing Arts Board update at last week's Abbeville City Council meeting. The ACPA has switched to meeting twice a month to accelerate the process to begin shows at the Abbeville Opera House, Stone said. The current objectives of the board are to complete Articles of Incorporation and 501 (c) (3) designation, establish summer and fall workshops, and to bring theatre back in the fall or

the winter of this year. "The ACPA is currently in the preliminary stages of planning child, young adult and adult workshops to help establish techniques for acting, technical know-how and more advanced acting for participants," Stone said. "The ACPA has also reached out to the City about utilizing the Civic Center and Livery Stable for workshops in the future as well." The ACPA is working to plan the return of live theater to the Opera House as part of the new diversified lineup

of entertainment, according to the City. Board members include Audrey Adams, Maria Brotherton, Jordan Clinkscales, Joanna Fleming, Jodi Miller, Mark Meyers, and Shelley Reid, according to the City. Ex officio members include City Council member Jason Edwards, City Manager Blake Stone, Erskine representative Brad Christie, and Darren Gray, representative of the Abbeville County School District, the City reported.



This year's Abbeville Spring Festival drew a big crowd to downtown Abbeville, including Abbeville's Court Square, as can be seen here. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Lander Students honored during Academic Awards Ceremony

Submitted by Jeff Lagrone
Ninety-seven awards were conferred upon outstanding students during Lander University's 2020-2021 academic awards ceremony. "Our student award-winners, as well as those in our Honors College, represent the best of what we seek to accomplish with our students: to prepare them for meaningful lives of inquiry, service and exploration, both in their communities and in their professional capacities," said Lander President Richard Cosentino. Dr. Scott Jones, provost and executive vice presi-

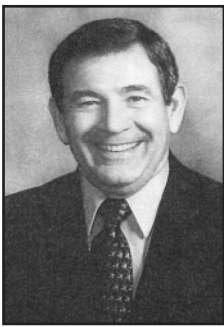
dent for Academic Affairs, called the honorees "some of Lander's brightest stars — students with ambition, drive and ability, who strive for excellence in the classroom and beyond." The awards were presented virtually on May 3. To see the ceremony and awardees, visit <https://youtu.be/2RnJ5L7UJ1M>. Award winners are listed below by college. College of Arts and Humanities

Fiction: Amber Ballenger, of Abbeville. College of Behavioral and Social Sciences · Philosophy Discipline Award and Psychology Discipline Award: Abigail Mudd, of Abbeville. College of Business · Health Care Management Discipline Award: Sommer Burton, of Iva. · Management Marketing Discipline Award: Whitney Poore, of Honea Path. College of Science and Mathematics · Chemistry-Forensic Science Discipline Award: Andrew Maly, of Honea Path. Honors College · Abigail Mudd, of Abbeville

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Hebrews 13:5 “...For He Himself has said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee (vs. 6) So we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

We are told that when the Golden Gate Bridge was first built there were no safety devices to protect the workers and 23 men fell to their deaths. Later, a huge safety net was installed at the cost of \$100,000. At least 10 men fell into the new net in the weeks that followed but were not injured. An impressive side benefit of the net was that work on the bridge progressed 15 to 20% faster because the workers no longer were afraid. Hebrews 13:5-6 is a huge safety net of assurance for believers. These verses give us confidence. The confidence comes from God Himself. God Himself made this promise to us—there is no greater authority or power than God Himself. This promise from God Himself gives us the maximum assurance. We can take this passage quite literally. No matter what the situation is, God will never forsake us. Think what that means! Never is a long time; in fact, it

is an eternity. Knowing that God will always be with me gives me great confidence. It also gives me great courage. I can face an unknown future because I know that whatever the future holds, God will still be with me. Even if all my friends forsake me, God will be right there with me. I can face an uncertain future with courage because I know that God is with me. Believing this promise gives me great freedom—it frees me from anxiety, it frees me from worry, it allows me to rest even in adverse circumstances. This passage also gives me great cause for praise. I can boldly proclaim that God is with me, sustaining me, helping me, undergirding me. I can praise God even when the skies are dark and the situation is desperate because God promised never to leave me or forsake me. Verse 6 gives us the results of believing this wonderful promise—“we may

boldly say, the Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” We can boldly, with confidence, with great courage proclaim that since God is our helper we do not fear what man does to us. This type of boldness characterized Peter and John in Acts 4 when the Sanhedrin Court forbade them to even speak or teach in the name of Jesus. In verses 19-20 listen to their bold reply: “But Peter and John answered and said to them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Remember this is the same court that only a few days before had condemned Jesus to death. This bold response of the part of Peter and John came from the awareness that the Lord was with them. The presence of the Lord gives boldness, peace, and assurance.

How has COVID-19 impacted you personally?

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Broadway came to The Historic Belmont Inn

Submitted by
Susan Botts

In his introduction, Stan Colbert said, “Broadway is 769 miles from Abbeville.”

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The Inn hosted a sold-out Broadway Dinner Theater “From Broadway with Love” featuring the talent of Stan on piano and the duo of Cali and Chistian Beamguard, Stan and Deborah Colbert’s daughter and son-in-law from Raleigh, NC.

Cali and Christian took the audience on a musical journey through love songs that

made Broadway famous!

The duo enchanted the listeners with songs from West Side Story, Cinderella, The Phantom of the Opera and many more. The highlight of the two-act performance may have been “Do You Love Me” from Fiddler on the Roof. They told the story of a couple falling in love with a fabulously written skit by the duo.

The owners of The Belmont Inn, Susan Botts and Jim Petty, strive to bring quality shows and excitement to the historic Inn like the one enjoyed on Friday night.

The kitchen and wait staff, as always, delivered a won-

derful dining experience with excellent service and hospitality. A delicious meal was served before the show, with coffee and dessert served during intermission.

Everyone anticipates additional cultural events at The Belmont Inn and across Abbeville.

Susan and Jim would like to thank “Colbert & Company” for giving them the opportunity to host this wonderful event. And they appreciated the support of all the guests who attended the first of many events like this at The Inn.



The Dead String Band of Elbert County, Georgia, performed recently during the Springtime in the Falls festival in Calhoun Falls. (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Community calendar

GLEAMNS to hold public meeting

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, at the Abbeville GLEAMNS Head Start Center at 706 Carolina Circle in Abbeville.

The purpose will be to elect a representative from Abbeville County to serve on the GLEAMNS Board of Commissioners.

The person elected should be from the low-income population of Abbeville County or a representative of the same.

Measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus will be required during the election process.

These measures include hand sanitizing, temperature checks, face coverings while inside the facility and physical distancing of six feet or more.

For more information one may call Shunna V. Jeter of GLEAMNS at 864-229-8801.

Zoom workshop planned

A Zoom workshop, How to Write a Business Plan, will be presented at noon on May 19 by Clemson Extension, Freshwater Coast Community Foundation, Calhoun

Falls Chamber of Commerce, WCTEL and SBDC.

For more information, one may call Wilder Ferreira at 642-8758.

Watkins Community Center planning event

The Watkins Community Center in Honea Path is planning to sponsor its summer theatre camp this year using Covid guidelines. There will be no dinner theatre production. Instead, each camper will receive a free, professionally recorded CD of the final performance.

The production will be “Alice in Wonderland.” The camp will be held July 12-15 for children ages 6-17. The registration fee is \$45.00. Registration will be done with Kelly at the Honea Path Town Hall during regular business hours. The Watkins Community Center and the Honea Path Town Hall are located at 204 South Main Street.

Call 864-940-5460 if you have questions.

Volunteers needed

The Vets Helping Vets of the Lakelands will be cleaning up the Latimer Cemetery in Calhoun Falls on May 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

“If you would like to help in this worthwhile effort, please feel free to attend!” a spokesman for the event said.

Elbert Theatre plans show

Encore Productions will be having performances for the second show in the 2021 season Til Beth Do Us Part June 4-6 and 11-13 in the Elbert Theatre in Elberton, GA.

All seating for Encore performances is reserved. One may call the Elbert Theatre Office at 706-283-1049 or e-mail tking@cityofelberton.net for more information.

Church in Lowndesville to have plate sale

A “Pulled Pork BBQ Plate Sale” will be held Saturday, May 22, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Lowndesville.

Plates will also have potato salad, green beans, slaw, dessert & drink. \$10 each. The church is located at 215 Depot St. Call 348-2598 for more info.

Club to meet

The Seaboard Airline Retirement Club will meet Tuesday, June 1, at 11 a.m. at the Belmont Inn in Abbeville.



Cali and Christian Beamguard starred in a dinner theater production of “From Broadway with Love” at the Belmont Inn in Abbeville recently. (Photo courtesy of Susan Botts)

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Sports & Recreation



Thomas Beauford (right) was named Male Athlete of the Year at Monday night's Abbeville High School athletic banquet. He was presented with the award by AHS principal Dr. Adam Lanford (left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Upper State championship game

Dixie loses to Southside Christian

By Henry E. Green

Dixie lost to Southside Christian in the game for the Upper State title in 1-A soccer 1-0, on the evening of Tuesday, May 11, at Southside Christian, said Dixie High School head soccer coach Brian Gamble Thursday.

"We conceded a goal in the 20th minute of the first half, off a set piece," said Gamble. "Southside controlled most of the first half, but we came out strong with several good opportunities in the second half.

"Our backs were really put against the wall in the second half, when the ref made a very bad call and issued one of our play makers his second yellow card, which

not only eliminated him from the game, but also made us play a man down for the rest of the game.

"A yellow card in soccer is very similar to a personal foul in football," he said.

"Even playing a man down the Hornets showed the resiliency of this team.

"We finished the season 12-10, and will be graduating six seniors."

Southside Christian hosted the game because the Sabres were the higher seed. Gamble emphasized that this year's team was, on the whole, very young.

"Throughout the season we continuously got better, and we anticipate being stronger next year with the addition of much experi-

ence from everyone on the team, and we will also be expecting some players to step up off this year's very successful JV team, which finished the season with a 9-2 record.

Dixie won the state championship in boys soccer in 2019.

Gamble said that he will be an assistant coach in a game called the Clash of the Carolinas, which is similar to the Shrine Bowl in football, where South Carolina will face North Carolina in soccer, and that will be June 26 in Raleigh, N.C.

The game will feature the best high school soccer players from both states.

Beauford named AHS Male Athlete of Year

By Henry E. Green

Thomas Beauford was named Male Athlete of the Year at Monday night's Abbeville high School athletic banquet, and AHS football coach Jamie Nickles was recognized as the AHS Coach of the Year.

Beauford, presented with the award by the AHS principal Dr. Adam Lanford, has excelled in football and baseball. He has been a quarterback for the AHS Panther football team.

Nickles commanded the AHS Panther football team, which won the state championship in December.

The athletic banquet is an Abbeville High School tradition, honoring the best efforts of AHS student-athletes each year.

The Male and Female Athletes of the Year are voted on by the AHS coaches.

This year's athletic banquet is being divided into three mini-banquets this week, and the female athlete of the year was slated to be announced at a banquet last night. All of the three were being held at Erskine College.

Presenting many awards Monday night was Benji Greeson of WZLA Radio.

Awards reflecting outstanding performances in varsity football, junior varsity football, varsity football cheerleading, junior varsity cheerleading, basketball cheerleading, varsity basketball, junior varsity basketball, were presented.

Among the honors:

Varsity football:

Team Above Self--Demetrious Harris

Defensive Player of the Year Cruz Temple

Offensive Player of the Year--Tyrell Haddon

Varsity football cheer:

Team Above Self:-Nyla Nickles

Next Level Cheerleader--Gracee Thomasson

All Around Cheerleader--Abby Light

Varsity boys basketball:

Team Above Self--Michael Tinch

Offensive Player of the Year--Rasheed Davis

Defensive Player of the Year--Javario Tinch

Special awards and scholarships were also presented. Demetrious Harris, who won the Team Above Self award in varsity football, was presented with the D'Juan Sanders Scholarship, in memory of an AHS athlete who passed away

some years ago.

Michael Tinch was presented with the Panther Pride scholarship, in memory of "Red Dog" Sutherland.

Business of the Year honors went to Abbeville First Bank, and accepting on behalf of the bank was CEO Andy Timmerman.

Student athletes who had achieved All Region and All State status were also recognized.

Receiving All State recognition were Tyrell Haddon, Navi Marshall, Luke Evans, Cruz Temple, Davis Sutherland, Jeremiah Lomax, and Thomas Beauford.

AHS senior athletes were also recognized, in a recognition sponsored by the Abbeville Lions Club.

(More athletic banquet coverage will be announced in next week's Press and Banner.)

Providing closing remarks Monday night was AHS principal Dr. Adam Lanford, who advised the student-athletes to strive to win the "game of life" as well as endeavors on the field or on the court.

"Winning in the game of life is much more important," he said.

Where are they now?

A former Lady Panther athlete talks about life after high school

By Henry E. Green

Amber Griffin Hall currently teaches kindergarten at Long Cane Primary School in Abbeville, but 10 years ago she was a member of the Abbeville High School varsity softball team that won the state championship.

The members of that team were recognized before a recent Lady Panther softball team, which led us to ask a question which could apply to any one.

How does your life change after high school?

Through email correspondence, Amber provided one answer, talking about life, love, education and friendship.

"What did you do after

graduating from AHS?" she was asked.

"Following my high school graduation, I attended College of Charleston and studied biochemistry," she replied.

"After my freshman year, I felt like I was being led in a different direction. I was being called to teach, and decided to fulfill this by enrolling closer to 'home' at Lander University.

"At Lander, I continued my athletic career as a college cheerleader and held multiple executive positions in my sorority. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, and began my journey of leading little ones to a better future.

Married with kids?

"I married my high school sweetheart, Jordan Hall, this past October at Trinity Episcopal Church," she said. "No kids, yet!"

Thus, the Amber Dawn Griffin of high school is now Amber Griffin Hall.

The girl who played outfield for the Lady Panthers still sees some of her old team mates.

"I currently teach with two of my old teammates from the championship team - Meri (Pullin) Stewart, and Megan (Sumner) Gilmer! I see them every day, and the bond we made in school and on the softball team has grown even stronger over the years of us teaching together."



AHS football coach Jamie Nickles (center) was recognized as the AHS Coach of the Year during Monday night's AHS athletic banquet, held at Erskine. Nickles was presented with the award by AHS athletic director Maggie Jameson (right) and assistant athletic director Doug Belcher (left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

Softball playoffs

AHS Lady Panthers fall to Chesnee

By Henry E. Green

The Abbeville High School softball team lost to Chesnee High School 10-0 Monday evening at Chesnee in a playoff game, according to an AHS softball source.

The Lady Panthers will now play Wednesday evening at Crescent at 6 p.m. in an elimination game, the source said.

Abbeville defeated Cres-

cent Friday 7-3 to stay alive in the playoff hunt.

The Lady Panthers were set to play at Chesnee Monday night in the second round of the playoffs.

Because AHS finished third in the Region, the Lady Panthers had to play in, playing Batesburg-Leesville and Blacksburg to qualify for the playoffs.

The Lady Panthers de-

feated both Blacksburg and Batesburg-Leesville on Monday, May 10, and Tuesday, May 11, before defeating Crescent the Number One seed on Friday.

Reghan Stieffle went seven innings, striking out two, walking none, and allowing three runs on seven hits against Crescent, the source said.

Hornets lose to Lewisville in playoffs

By Henry E. Green

The Dixie High School baseball team lost to Lewisville Saturday at Lewisville 7-3 in the first round of the playoffs, Dixie head baseball coach Jimmy Prince said Monday.

Senior Hunter Cogburn pitched for the Hornets, allowing eight hits, and striking out five, and walk-

ing two and hitting two, the coach continued.

The Hornets, meanwhile, had seven hits. Senior Landon Ricketts was three for four, and scored two runs.

Dixie was scheduled to play at Williston Elko Monday, May 17, at 5 p.m. in an elimination game.

If the Hornets won, they

were slated to play today the winner of the Lewisville/Whitmire game slated for this past Monday.

The Hornets finished third in their Region this year.

"We were six and four in the Region," Prince said.

Caleb Simpson made All State honors for the Hornets, the coach continued.

Lady Hornets move on

By Henry E. Green

The Dixie High School softball team is moving on--and up--in the playoffs, thanks to a playoff win Monday night.

"We won last night against Wagener Salley. 9-1," said

Dixie softball coach Ben Snipes Tuesday. "Gillian Hughes was the winning pitcher - we were led at the plate by Wes Bensel, Ashton Crocker, Mati Cox and Addie Smith. We are

at home Friday against the winner of Wednesday's game between Lewisville and Wagener Salley."

The time of Friday's game is to be announced, a Dixie source said.



The National Beta Club at Dixie High School has proudly been named a 2021 *National Beta Grand Slam Service* award winner. Pictured is the Junior Beta Club members. (Photo contributed)



The National Beta Club at Dixie High School has proudly been named a 2021 *National Beta Grand Slam Service* award winner. Pictured is the Senior Beta Club members. (Photo contributed)

Dixie High School National Beta Club Wins National Service Award

Submitted by
Kimberly Ware

Due West, South Carolina - The National Beta club at Dixie High School has proudly been named a 2021 *National Beta Grand Slam Service* award winner. The club earned this award by spending service hours per member serving their school, community, and state this year. The senior Beta Club is under the leadership of Sherry Duncan and the Junior Beta Club is under the leadership of Samantha Cann. As one of the four pil-

lars of National Beta, service is encouraged to help students learn to demonstrate the motto: *Let Us Lead by Serving Others*. By showing dedication to service, Dixie High School Betas helped contribute to over 472,037 hours served by clubs across the nation this year. Collectively, Betas also raised \$420,271 for various organizations and charities. The club at Dixie High School joins a group of only 21 other schools to earn the award this year. Mr. Paul Prescott, prin-

cipal of Dixie High, commented, "I am proud of the work that Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Cann, and our Senior and Junior BETA Club members have done to serve our community. Our hope is that early exposure to service opportunities will encourage young people to stay engaged in our local community." Members will each receive a commemorative pin and the club will receive a custom Louisville Slugger mini-baseball bat to proudly display in their school.

Legislative summary

Senator Mike
Gambrell
Legislative Summary
May 14, 2021

The South Carolina Senate met for the last week of the regular Session, although we will reconvene in a matter of weeks to hear the report of the Conference Committee on the State Budget. Several other pieces of legislation have been assigned to conference committees as well, and these reports will be presented when the General Assembly returns in early June. As so many important pieces of legislation had been fully debated in the last few weeks, this week went smoothly, with conference committees named to legislation ranging from natural resource issues to ensuring fair employment for those with disabilities. If a piece of legislation did not reach the point of being ratified or being assigned to a conference committee, it will rollover in its current

status to the 2nd year of our two-year Session beginning in January, 2022. While it may sometimes seem that a lot of the laws we pass in the General Assembly are full of formulas, or ratios or deal with agencies or circumstances that don't appear to apply to everyday life, we did ratify an act this week that you will notice very soon. We passed a law that on any road of four-lanes or more (two lanes in each direction) it will be unlawful to remain in the left-hand lane unless passing another car. We have all seen (or been) that driver who remains in the acceleration lane even when there is no traffic to the right. There are of course exceptions to when this is acceptable, but soon you will see signage posted alerting you to the fact that this will be enforced. Additionally, the "Open Carry with Training Act" will go into effect 90 days after Governor McMaster signs it into law. Be

aware that this legislation will not be immediately implemented. It did not add any additional places where a CWP owner may carry his weapon, and it still allows business owners to prohibit weapons, concealed or otherwise, on their premises. It did do away with the \$50 fee to obtain a CWP, as well as lowering the number of shots that can be required to qualify for that permit. We will be back in June, and again in the fall to deal with the redistricting that comes every decade after the U.S. Census. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me on any issue. I can be reached at my district address, Post Office Box 194, Honea Path, S. C. 29654, 864-844-3614; or at my legislative office in Columbia, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, S.C. 29202, 803-212-6032, or through my email address: MikeGambrell@scsenate.gov.

Candlelight Walk Makes Debut at Lander

Submitted by
Jeff Lagrone

With its first annual candlelight walk on Thursday, April 22, Lander University began a new tradition honoring graduating seniors. Students followed a path lined with hundreds of candles, past family, friends, faculty and staff members, with the walk beginning at the fountain on the front lawn and ending at the Lander Amphitheatre. During the ceremony that followed, students entered the stage, one by one, and rang the 225-pound bell purchased in 1876 by Williamston Female College, which relocated to Greenwood in 1904 and was renamed Lander College, after its founder,

Rev. Samuel Lander. Dr. Boyd Yarbrough, vice president for Student Affairs, who spoke at the event, said that the bell hung in the Lander Bell Tower during the college's early days in Greenwood, and played a prominent role in the life of the school. "Lander used it often and proudly for many years," he said. Student Government Association president and senior Zach Woods, of Greenwood, also addressed those present. Although they will soon be graduating, "you can always come back to Lander. Your Lander family will always be here," he said. Professor of English Dr. Lillian Craton, the keynote speaker at the event, told

the graduates that their time at Lander was not about the information they learned. "The facts that you learned at Lander will help you get started in the next stage of life, but those facts were not your education. Facts change. You'll be learning new facts throughout your career. Your education was about cultivating your curiosity, comprehension and analysis. It was about building up your courage to try the big, hard, complicated things that life demands, and building a community that can accomplish those things," she said. Following the ceremony, participants enjoyed a reception in the porch area of Lander's Science Building.

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5/19, 1tc



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Divine Wine and Craft (Kyle Fuller) intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 130 Trinity St. Abbeville, SC 29620. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than June 10th, 2021. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:
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(4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
(5) The name of the applicant and the address of the business to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110. 5/19,3tp

Classifieds & Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371PC with the Probate Court of ABBEVILLE COUNTY, the address of which is 903 WEST GREENWOOD ST., SUITE 2300 ABBEVILLE, SC 29620, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371PC) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Deborah Joyce Edwards
Date of Death: 3/26/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100117
Personal Representative: Desmond Edwards
Address: P.O. Box 172 Calhoun Falls, SC 29628 5/5,3tc

Estate: James Elvin Johnson, Jr.
Date of Death: 4/23/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100119
Personal Representative: Lisa D. Johnson
Address: 117 Turkey Creek Lane, Ware Shoals, SC 29692 5/5,3tc

Estate: Winston Douglas Sparks
Date of Death: 04/23/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100122
Personal Representative: Yvonne S. Simpson aka Yvonne S. Sparks
Address: 649 Old Calhoun Falls Rd. Abbeville, SC 29620 5/12,3tc

Estate: Clarence Lamont Deloach
Date of Death: 4/12/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100124
Personal Representative: Cheryl Deloach Kelly
Address: 3896 Wakefield Hall Square SE. Smyrna, GA 30080
Attorney, if applicable: Hannah K. Metts, Esq.
Address: P.O. Box 1547 Greenwood, SC 29648 5/12,3tc

Estate: Richard Lyons
Date of Death: 02/27/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100125
Personal Representative: Anacelta Rio Lyons
Address: 2486 Highway 72 West Abbeville, SC 29620
Attorney, if applicable: Tommy L. Stanford, ESQ
Address: 307 Main Street Greenwood, SC 29646 5/12,3tc

Estate: Martha L. Stevens
Date of Death: 04/23/2021
Case Number: 2021ES0100126
Personal Representative: Charles Stevens
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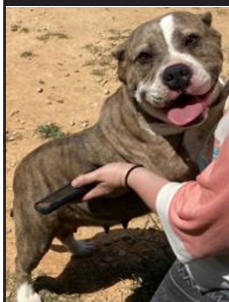
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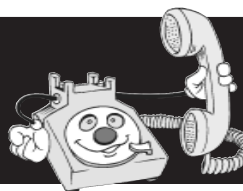
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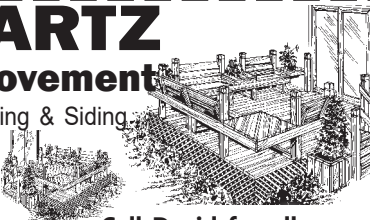
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