UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina UNION

USC Union Laurens Location is moving to 600 Peachtree Street, Clinton SC!
Classes start August 24 • 864-681-1456 • uscunion.sc.edu



The Clinton Chronicle

Vol. 124, No. 5 - 12 pages | Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024 | www.MyClintonNews.com | Clinton, S.C. - 75 Cents

PMPA lawsuit is settled

By PMPA

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA) announces that the litigation among its participants, including the City of Clinton, concerning cost allocation has been settled.

The litigation dates to 2019 and stemmed from a disagreement about the allocation of cost among the participants of PMPA's ownership and operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station Unit 2 located in York County.

Defendants in the case, Greer Commission of Public Works and the City of Rock Hill, asserted they were paying more of the cost of Catawba than they were contractually required. PMPA and the other participants disagreed.

After several mediation attempts and a Summary Judgement hearing that provided no resolution, the participants agreed that settling this disagreement and moving on to address larger issues of electric power supply was more important than waiting for a trial.

The settlement consists of Greer CPW and City of Rock Hill receiving a combined cash payment of $55 million, with all disputes and cost allocation claims being dismissed, and the current All Requirements wholesale power rate structure remaining in place through 2028. The $55 million will be paid using a combination of PMPA working capital and debt financing.

Debt service on the settlement financing will be paid by all other participants of PMPA, including Climton and the Laurens CPW, but excluding Greer CPW and the City of Rock Hill.

PMPA Board Chairman Blake Stone, who represents the City of Abbeville, offered the following statement: "This settlement allows PMPA to move forward in its mission of providing wholesale power supply and

Settlement, 9

LCWSC lost money because of truck crash

By Vic MacDonald
Editor

When a tractor-trailer truck hauling jet fuel crashed near Clinton in November, officials of the rural water and sewer agency learned something they probably already knew.

Jet fuel and PCV pipe don't mix.

In addition to serious damage to the highway, the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission suffered water pipe damage so severe it had to reroute the water is sends to customers in Joanna. That water comes from the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Plant, but the important line along Hwy 56 South was damaged.

So, technicians re-routed the water and used an "old" connection to bring water from the City of Clinton. They pumped so much water, during repairs, that the purchase from Clinton shows up on the monthly water-purchased chart which normally shows just Greenville Water System and the Lake Greenwood treatment plant, owned the operated by LCWSC.

A report on the matter was presented last Tuesday to the commission's board at its monthly meeting. A claim with the trucking company's insurance has been filed, the board was told.

PCV pipe was replaced with stronger iron pipe.

"Insurance should cover the expense," Jeff Field, LCWSC executive director, told the board.

Usually, LCWSC pumps 60% of the water it sells in rural Laurens County from the lake plant, and 40% that it sells in Northern Laurens County from the Green-

LCWSC, 12



Up

where they walk, up where they run
Up where they stay all day in the sun*

Come to an adventure "under the sea" for a second weekend run, Feb. 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 3, 3 p.m. in the Clinton High School auditorium. Disney's The Little Mermaid is produced by the Laurens County Community Theater. See more of the undersea world in photos, Page 3 in today's issue.

* "Part of your world," The Little Mermaid soundtrack released Oct. 19, 1989, label Walt Disney, producer Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Robert Kraft



Threats, low pay causing high turnover in SC election offices. Legislators asked to up stipends.

By Abraham Kenmore
SC Daily Gazette

PREP for the POLLS

COLUMBIA — With election workers across South Carolina leaving in droves and harder to recruit, the state Election Commission is asking legislators for $5 million to raise pay and stipends in a historic election year.

The commission's director, Howard Knapp, said turnover in election offices across South Carolina is worse than he's ever seen over his 12 years in state government.

"The threats I've personally received — it's bad, and it's not getting any better," he told a House budget-writing panel Wednesday. Election workers "can make more money at Chick-fil-A. They say, 'Why the hell am I putting up with this?' and they leave."

He's seeking $326,200 to raise salaries within the state office.

But the bulk of his pay request —$4 million — would give poll workers who run the precincts their first raise since 2017. However, at an hourly rate, they'd still collect less than minimum wage.

Election day workers at the precincts would make an additional $25, bringing their pay to $100 for a day that can extend beyond 14 hours. (On Election Day, polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but poll workers must be there by 6 a.m. to get ready for voters and must stay as long as it takes for people still in line at 7 p.m. to vote, then process ballots.)

That daily rate would also apply if counties needed to hire additional workers for early voting. They would also see a $15 bump for their mandatory training ahead of each election, increasing that pay to $75.

County election offices are responsible for hiring poll workers. Some counties pay more than the state-funded minimums, though it's unclear which and by how much. The agency is compiling that information for legislators.

Asked about requiring counties to supplement state stipends for poll workers, Knapp said many county election offices couldn't afford it. Even some large counties pay their election directors as little as $30,000 this year, he said.

"It's just terrible," he said. "So, asking those kinds of governments to kick in a little more

Poll Workers, 8

Lander University announces plans for 2024 Homecoming and the Reunion Weekend

By Lander University

GREENWOOD — Lander University's 2024 Homecoming Week and Alumni Reunion Weekend, scheduled Feb. 5 – 10, will send students, alumni and friends traveling back in time with the theme, "Celebrating the Spirit of the New Millenium."

The year 2000 ushered in an era of exciting pop culture, technology innovations, bold fashion statements and chart-topping music from well-known country, rap and rock stars. Lander's Homecoming will feature retro-themed activities and competitions designed to bring the past into the present.

"The Lander Alumni Association encourages alumni and friends to return to campus and join students in activities and attend their own alumni-centered events," said Suzann Couts, Lander's executive director of Alumni Engagement. "Our Homecoming activities and Reunion Weekend give us the opportunity to celebrate during a week that coincides with the commemoration of the University's founding in February 1872."

On Friday, Feb. 9, alumni are invited to a Welcome Back Alumni Social for all classes that will be held from 7 – 10 p.m. at Sports Break. The Alumni Awards Celebration and 50th Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday in the Johnston Commons of the Abney Cultural Center. The 2023 Distinguished Alumna is Lisa Britt '90. Revis Butler '13 is the recipient of the 2023 Young Alumni Achievement Award.

For Lander students, Homecoming festivities begin Monday, Feb. 5, with a Banner Reveal at 5 p.m. at the Grier Student Center when students unveil their Homecoming banners. The event will be followed by the Strongest Bearcat competitions at 6 p.m. in the Abney Cultural Center Auditorium.

The week includes a full agenda of sports, a talent showcase, trivia night and more as the excitement leads to the Homecoming Tailgating Party on Saturday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on the front lawn, where a Tailgate Kids Fun Zone runs until 1:30 p.m.

The day also includes back-to-back basketball games. At 1:30 p.m., the women's basketball team battles Clayton State University. The Homecoming King will be crowned at halftime. The women's game will be followed at 3:30 p.m, by the men's basketball team competing against Clayton State. Halftime activities will include the crowning of the University's Homecoming Queen.

Visit www.lander.edu/homecoming for a detailed list of all events and registration information for alumni and friends.

CHE grant establishes Center of Excellence at Lander University

GREENWOOD — An award from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education has established Lander University's College of Education Center of Excellence for the Advancement of Reading and Literacy Instruction.

The three-year grant, totaling $450,000, will be shared with Presbyterian College in Clinton. In the first collaborative model in the state to address the Science of Reading, Lander will receive just over $307,000 of the funding, said Dr. Sarah Hunt-Barron, dean of Lander's College of Education.

The center's focus will be on preparing pre-service teachers to implement reading and literacy instruction in preschool through third-grade classrooms. Students from Lander and Presbyterian will work in classrooms in primary and elementary schools in Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry counties, she said.

"We are proud that our college is the first CHE Center of Excellence at Lander," Hunt-Barron said, "and we are looking forward to the collaboration with Presbyterian College."

According to the CHE, research has shown that the single greatest factor influencing student achievement is teacher quality. For South Carolina to attain its education goals, all students must have access to highly qualified teachers and educational programs. The Centers of Excellence Program is focused on helping schools and districts provide high-quality education for young people.

The award will enable pre-service teachers at Lander University and Presbyterian College to learn from the best practices of reading and literacy as they tutor students and gain experience in foundational reading classes. Education majors friom both institutions will be paired with classroom teachers in this initiative.

The grant allows for a pilot group of 25 pre-service teachers in early childhood, elementary and special education to begin their training this semester, with the number expanding to 75 in Fall 2024, Hunt-Barron said, noting the grant will continue through Spring 2026.

Pre-service teachers who participate in the grant program will receive a stipend for their work.

The need for the program stems from reports by the National Assessment of Education Progress, which showed a significant drop in reading scores after the pandemic, Hunt-Barron said.

"In spring 2020, schools throughout the United States moved to online instruction with the outbreak of COVID-19. Later, hybrid instruction was adopted in many schools so that students would learn online and in school. We found that there were different levels of access to technology in homes, and instruction varied among households," she said.

"Learning to read is a complicated process. This program will strengthen our efforts to prepare pre-service teachers with the skills they need to teach the fundamentals of teaching reading and writing."

The grant also will enable Lander and Presbyterian faculty to collaborate on research and collect data on the success of the program. Their findings will be reported to the CHE and also shared at education conferences.

"What we learn through this endeavor could become a model for other colleges and universities," Hunt-Barron said.

END

The Clinton Chronicle (USPS 118-440)

Published weekly by Laurens County Newspapers at 513 N. Broad St., Clinton, South Carolina 29325.

Periodical postage paid at Clinton, SC

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Clinton Chronicle, PO Box 180, Clinton, SC 29325

Subscription rates - Payable in advance: Laurens County - 1 yr. $35; out of county - 1 yr. $50; student subscription - $30.

PRINTERS associates INCORPORATED
For All Your Printing Needs
Full Color Process - Booklets - Brochures
Presentation Folders - Catalogs - Magazines
Flyers - Programs - Letterheads - Envelopes
Business Cards - Invoices - Carbonless Forms
Labels - Tickets - Menus - Wedding Invitations
Silkscreening • Embroidery
Digital Printing • Quality Color Copies
100 Hampton Avenue, Clinton
833-3136
www.printersassociates.com

SHERFIELD ROOFING
Serving Laurens & Surrounding Counties for Over 25 Years!
Now Offering Financing
INSTALL ALL TYPES OF ROOFING
SHINGLES
ARCHITECT & 3TAB
METAL
Many Different Colors
RUBBER (epdm)
Flat & Low Slope Roofs
Top Quality & Dependable Work! Why Settle for Anything Less!
FREE ESTIMATES!
NO MONEY UP FRONT • INSURANCE CLAIMS ACCEPTED
Mountville, SC 29370
994-4909 923-2123

Martha Franks
EDUCATOR - MISSIONARY - HUMANITARIAN

As we approach the 40 year anniversary of Martha Franks Retirement Community next year, **The Laurens County Museum will display a special exhibit featuring the life and ministry of Miss Martha Franks.** Please join us in celebrating the many aspects of her ministry.

GRAND OPENING
Sunday, February 4th, 3:00 PM

To register for this exhibit opening and other upcoming events, visit **Marthafranks.com** or contact us at (864) 681-8235 | marketingassistant@scbma.com

Martha Franks RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
A COMMUNITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST SCBMA MINISTRIES OF AGING
LAURENS COUNTY MUSEUM



Under the Sea









Prince Eric, overboard!







LCCT

The second weekend of Disney's The Little Mermaid: Feb. 1 & 2, 7:30 pm; Feb. 3, @ 3 pm @Clinton High School. Tickets: www.lcct.com

$15 Adults, $13, Students & Seniors.

These photos were taken at a dress rehearsal last Tuesday - see a Photo Gallery and some performers' profiles at: MyClintonNews.com

This show is dedicated to the late Joe Timmons, who was LCCT's executive director and a Clinton High School teacher. This is LCCT's 3rd performance bouncing back from COVID after successful runs of *Willie Wonka* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Watch for more auditions at the LCCT website and Facebook page. LCCT productions are a collaboration with School District 56. - Chronicle Photos in support of the Laurens County Community Theater by Vic MacDonald-Editor-and his wife, Pat MacDonald, an LCCT Board member

More: https://www.foxcarolina.com/video/2024/01/29/the-little-mermaid-laurens-co-community-theatre/

(the page-topper color is Aqua)









COMING SOON
FROM
The Clinton Chronicle



Showcase your business through an advertisement in the Bridal Magazine, to be published on March 6th. Call Chris or Ally today at 864-833-1900 for more info. Remember, your advertising and subscriptions support award winning community journalism right here in our town. Thank you to our advertising partners!

Your Hometown News Source Since 1900

What's Happening

Feb. 3 - Career Fair, School District 56, 8 - 11 am at D56 Conference Center, 100 Legion Dr., Clinton. Let us know you are coming: autumnroland@lcsd56g.com Support staff and Ceritication required positions are available.

Feb. 4 — Revolutionary War Lectures, Exhibit Openings, and Native American Artifacts to be Highlighted at Laurens County Museum Events

Upcoming events at the Laurens County Museum will span the range of centuries and topics with special days, lectures, and exhibit openings in February and March.

Sunday, February 4, at 3 pm, the "Martha Franks - Educator, Missionary, Humanitarian" exhibit will open and highlight the life of Laurens native Martha Franks (1901-1989). Miss Martha was a positive force for good in the world. From her thirty-years as a missionary to China during Communist and Japanese occupation, teaching blind and deaf children and missionaries in China and Taiwan, being a champion for oppressed women in China, she worked tirelessly her whole life. In the 1960's, Miss Martha returned to Laurens in retirement to work and inspire the community to establish a retirement center for retired missionaries which has become Martha Franks Retirement Center.

Tuesday, February 13, at 7 pm, the Revolutionary War Lecture Series continues with "Revolutionary War Weaponry and Its Effect on Military Tactics". Historian and battlefield preservationist Durant Ashmore will speak. Ashmore will speak again on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 pm. Topic to be announced later.

Saturday, March 2, from 10 am to 3 pm, there will be a special grand-reopening of the First Nations Exhibit Hall. The day will include Native American artifact identification, talks on recent discoveries by archeologists in South Carolina, and a celebration of the newly redesigned First Nations Exhibit Hall.

Saturday, March 16, from 10 am to 3 pm, the "Celebrating Native American Traditions Past and Present" series will continue. It will be a day of talks on ecology and the Native American way of life, storytelling, flute playing, drumming and other instruments, and the Cherokee language and songs. This program is possible because of a grant from the SC Arts Commission.

The Laurens County Museum is located at 116 South Public Square, Laurens, SC. The exhibit hall is free to visit and the open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information call the museum at (864)681-3678 or visit www.laurenscountymuseum.org or Facebook.

Sharon Harper Exhibit Now on Display in Lander Art Gallery

GREENWOOD — The Department of Art + Design at Lander University invites the community to visit the Lander Art Gallery, which will feature the artwork of Sharon Harper now through Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024. Visits to the gallery are free and open to the public, and the gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sharon Harper Exhibit

Date:

On display through Feb. 6, 2024

Time:

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location:

Lander Art Gallery

Abney Cultural Center

From Sharon Harper:

"My work is a journey," the artist said. "It has permutated over many years but the core is constant… it is about being human and the daily stories of life. I seek those things that can most deeply contain a gesture, a memory or an obsessive repetitious thought or motion captured with a pencil. These images reflect my life… fleeting and impermanent but more purposeful with the intertwining of my daily experience and response."

Please visit www.lander.edu/events for updates and to confirm event times and venues. For questions, please contact the College of Arts and Humanities at 864-388-8323.

To make a gift to the College of Arts and Humanities, please visit giving.lander.edu/give/CoAH.

Feb. 3 - 14th Annual CrossFit864 1/2 Marathon or 5K Run/Walk, 8 a.m. start time at 207 W. Pitts St., Clinton. Register: runsignup.com, details: 864-923-0554.

Feb. 3 - "Freezin' for a Reason" - Lake Greenwood Polar Plunge at lake Greenwood State Park, 302 State Park Rd., Ninety Six, 1 pm registratiuon opens, 2:30 costume contest and awards, 3 plunge time. Proceeds to Special Olympics South Caroina. Info: Matthew Womack, mwomack@greenwiidsc.gov; Mike Still, mstill@so-sc.org 803-517-8934.

Feb. 4 - Grand Opening of Martha Franks life and ministry exhibit at Laurens County Museum, 3 pm - Martha Franks Retirement Community approaches its 40th anniversary. Register: 864-681-8235 / marketingassistant@scbma.com

Feb. 6 - Craftin' in Clinton

It's a "Hearty" craft project, 11am, at the Clinton Library on Feb. 6. Sew and decorate a pocket hug heart to give to someone you love. You may not be able to be with them in person but they can carry your heart wherever they go! Each heart comes with an endearing poem. All skill levels are welcome. The Craftin' in Clinton program is designed for participants 8 and up. This program is free and open to the public.

For more information call the Clinton Library at 864-833-1853

Feb. 8 - Laurens District Genealogical Society February Meeting

Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024 Place : Laurens County Museum at 7 pm.

Program : February is Valentine month. Our program will be a time to share stories from the heart. You may bring your favorite picture or document, or your oldest picture or document, or you favorite genealogical story. You are" memory keepers" so bring one to share.Genealogy is an exciting way to meet cousins and friends and help each other with research and record history for future generations. You keep your ancestor alive as long as you tell their story.

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Laurens County Museum 7 pm.

For more information call 864-876-3712.

Feb. 10 - A GATHERING OF QUILTERS February 10th from 10 am to 2 pm at Summer Memorial Lutheran Church, 1609 Milligan St, Newberry; Admission $10. Door Prizes, Vendors, Speaker Veronica Moriarty, Donation Quilt Tickets from Guilds, Quilters of SC and Quilts of Valor Information Booths, QOV Wrappings, and Lunch. Bring your Show and Share and come join us for a Day of Learning, Friendship and Fun!! For more information contact Marilyn Cooper marcooper45@hotmail.com

Feb. 10 - Certified Barbeque Judging Class Coming to Columbia

The South Carolina Barbecue Association (SCBA) will hold a one-day seminar in Columbia to train new barbecue

Church

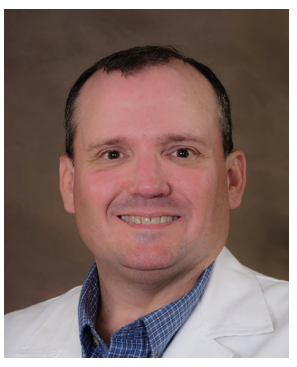
GRAY FUNERAL HOME
Established 1935
Dignified and Sympathetic
Experienced Staff
Modern Facilities • Ample Parking
Air Conditioned • Chapel 7 Organ
504 E. Carolina Ave, Clinton
(864) 833-1720

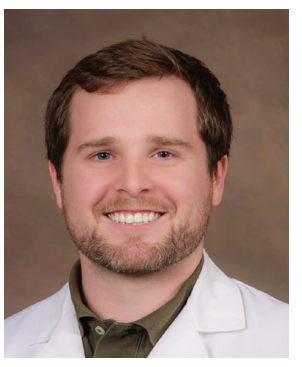
Full Gospel Assembly will be having a soup and bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 3, 11 am until 2 pm. The church is located at 1970 Charlotte's Road, Clinton.

Send free-to-run church notices to: news@clinton-chronicle.net

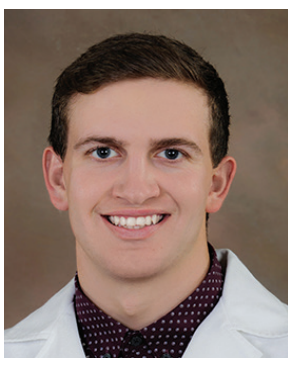


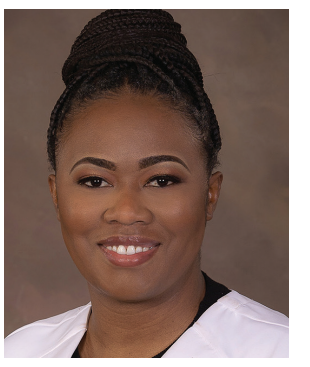
Express Medical Care Laurens
(864) 939-1070


William L. Miller, M.D.


Nick Petrus, PA


Steve Pietrusza, PA


Ross LeClair, PA


Brittany Roman, NP

Preventative Treatment and Testing
Physicals
Sports

Minor Injuries
Sprains and Strains
Cuts and Bruises
Minor broken bones

Treatment for Acute and Seasonal Illnesses
Fever
Cold & flu symptoms
Infection and allergies

New! Reserve Your Spot for in-person visits, or meet with a provider Virtually.
For more information, please scan QR code at lower right.
selfregional.org/expresscare

SELF REGIONAL HEALTHCARE
EXPRESS MEDICAL CARE LAURENS
22580 Highway 76 East, Laurens, SC 29360 • (864) 939-1070

Death & Funerals



Essie Mae Brown

CLINTON - Ms. Essie Mae Brown was born on March 25, 1957, to Mr. James W. Toland and Mrs. Annie Ruth Brooks-Toland. On January 21, 2024, Essie Mae went home to be with her Heavenly Father.

Essie Mae loved the Lord and lived a life of service to Him. Her spiritual journey started with Mother Mary Copeland in the late 1980's at Mount Calvary Temple Ministries where she received her teachings of the Apostolic faith. She was a faithful member of One Accord Ministries under the leadership of Bishop M.D. Jackson where she served as associate pastor. She was faithful in her giving; faithful in her service and faithfully dedicated and devoted.

Ms. Essie Mae Brown left a legacy of unconditional love and unwavering faith to her children: Sharla Sims of Blythewood, Syreeta Brown of Laurens, Gerald (Karen) Toland of Irmo, and Jonathan Brown of Spartanburg; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren; siblings: Richard Lee Toland, James (Sandy) Miller, Fred (Denise) Miller, Walter, Miller, Annie R. Toland, Linda (Greg) Williams, Jerline Toland, Theta Marie Toland, Christine (Oink) Tribble, Mary Carter and Tony Carter; and countless other loving family members and friends.

The Celebration of Life for Ms. Essie Mae Brown was held Saturday, January 27, 2024, in the Childs Funeral Home Chapel.

Childs Funeral Home



Betty JoAnn Sanders

CLINTON - Betty JoAnn Sanders, 88, of Clinton, widow of Talmadge Virl Sanders, passed away Monday, January 22, 2024 at Hospice of Laurens County.

Born April 6, 1935 in Clinton, she was a daughter of the late Willie Hicks and Georgia Marie Bledsoe King. Betty loved scouring yard sales and attending any kind of sale that came her way.

She is survived by her son, Brian Keith Sanders; her son-in-law, Earl McWatters; her grandchildren, Austin McWatters, and LeeAnn Campbell (Jeremy); her great grandchildren, Talan Austin Campbell, and Kamryn Elizabeth Campbell; and her brother, Larry King.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her children, Terry Lee Sanders and Elizabeth "Libby" McWatters; one grandson, Brian Adam Sanders; her brothers, Robert King, Ray King, Shealy King, Carlton King, Heyward King, and Kenneth King; and her sisters, Nancy Coker and Connie King May.

A Graveside Memorial Service was held 3 p.m. Sunday, January 28th at the Rosemont Cemetery with Rev. Phil Bryson officiating.

The family will be at the home of her son-in-law, 100 Washington Street, Clinton, SC 29325.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Laurens County, PO Box 178, Clinton, SC 29325.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online by visiting www.grayfuneralhome.com.

Gray Funeral Home of Clinton is assisting the Sanders family with services.

DEADLINE:

For obituary notices is 4 pm Monday. Funeral Homes, send notices to: news@clintonchronicle.net

Lander's Martin to Discuss Relationship of Reading Literature and Compassion

GREENWOOD —The community is invited to join Lander University and the Arts Center of Greenwood for the fourth installment of the 2023-24 Community Lecture Series on Tuesday, February 6, at the Arts Center. Assistant Professor of English Laura Martin will give a talk titled "Does Literature Make Us Better People?" The lecture begins at 6 p.m., with refreshments starting at 5:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Laura Martin: Does Literature Make Us Better People?
Date:
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024
Time:
Lecture - 6 p.m.
Refreshments and cash bar - 5:30 p.m.
Location:
The Arts Center of Greenwood
120 Main St., Uptown Greenwood, SC

About the Event:

It's a commonly held belief that reading and writing are good for us, not just academically, but personally. This belief is so strongly held that prestigious universities like Georgetown and Rice incorporate literature into the studies of doctors-in-training for the explicitly stated purpose of teaching them empathy. But is the relationship between literature and compassion a direct correlation, or is it more complicated? In this lecture, Martin will explore the surprising relationship between literature and compassion and discuss how reading and writing can both help and hinder our understanding of others.

Laura M. Martin is originally from Woodstock, Illinois and currently resides in Greenville. She has a BA in Humanities with emphases in English and creative writing from New York University, and an MFA in Creative Writing with a creative nonfiction emphasis from Georgia College. This is her seventh year at Lander University where she teaches a variety of writing courses. Her essays appear in HuffPost, Chicken Soup for the Soul, New South, Blue Earth Review, SHIFT, The Smart Set and Luna Luna, among other publications. Her essay, "Dead Horse Bay," was a semifinalist for the 2019 Brooklyn Nonfiction Prize; the same year she was shortlisted for the Submerging Writers Fellowship.

Please visit www.lander.edu/events for updates and to confirm event times and venues. For questions, please contact Interim Assistant Provost Dr. Mark Rollins at 864-388-8563 or mrollins@lander.edu.

What's Happening -- from Page 4

judges. The seminar is February 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the recreation hall at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 1715 Bull St. Registration for the seminar is open to SCBA members and costs $45 per person, which includes a catered barbecue lunch. Non-members may join SCBA prior to or while registering for the seminar to be eligible to attend. SCBA annual membership dues are $55 for an individual or $70 for a family.

The seminar is the first step in becoming a SCBA Certified Barbecue Judge. After completing the class, potential judges will continue their training with hands-on experience as novice judges at three SCBA-sanctioned barbecue competitions. Competitions are held around the state at festivals and fairs, as well as other community events or stand-alone BBQ contests.

Those interested in becoming SCBA certified judges and attending the February 26th seminar should visit www.scbarbeque.com to register for the seminar and/or join the SCBA.

Feb. 12 - The Board of Directors of the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board will meet in the Training Room of Laurens County Disabilities & Special Needs Board Evergreen Campus on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30pm. The public is invited to attend.

March 9 - The Lake Greenwood Cleanup, sponsored by Keep Greenwood County Beautiful.

March 23 - The Piedmont Technical College Foundation presents the 3rd Annual Spring Forward for Student Success, in front of the O'Dell Center, Lex Walters Campus-Greenwood. Cost: Run, $25, $15 for PTC students; Walk: $20, $15 for PTC students - info: ptc.edu/5K

June 7 - American Legion Post 25 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, 8 am at Lakeside Country Club, Laurens. $300 per team, sponsor a hole $100 - hole in one prize, a 2023 F-150 STX. All proceeds benefit Laurens County charitable programs.

Save the Date: June 29-30, Ag + Art Tour coming to Laurens County - Saturday and Sunday. 9 am - 4 pm, a program of the Clemson Cooperative Extension.

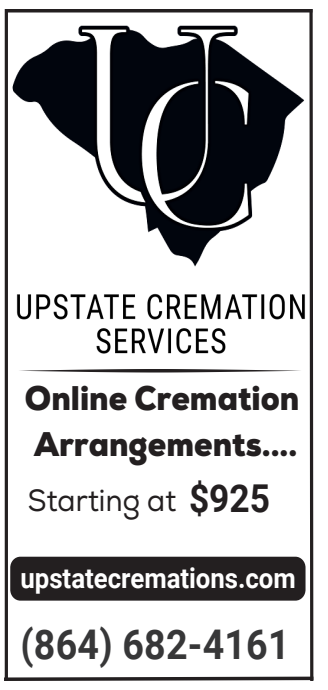
TRAINING

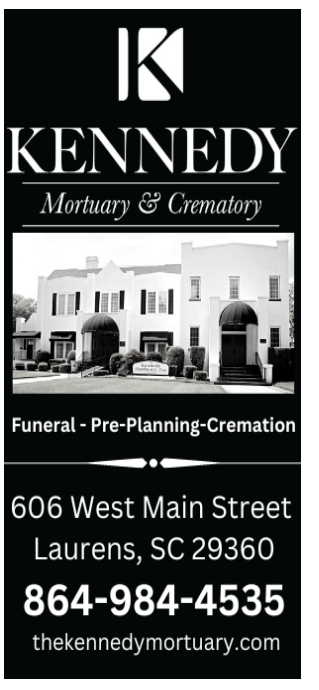
The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program, a division of the South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, is offering free online training to those interested in becoming a volunteer Guardian ad Litem (GAL) in Laurens County. GALs advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in family court legal proceedings through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The next training will begin on February 6, 2024. If your New Years resolution was to volunteer in your local community, there is no better time to get started than right now. The vulnerable children of South Carolina need volunteers like you to advocate for them. Both morning and evening virtual sessions are available to help accommodate volunteers' busy schedules. Volunteers should be at least 21 years old, have a clean criminal record, no previous DSS case history, and be able to contribute four to five hours a month of your time for a child.

Currently, the Laurens County GAL Program is serving 219 children, but there are only 25 volunteer GALs to assist. While GAL staff fill in the gaps, the need for more volunteers is urgent. "We're always looking for dedicated individuals who are passionate about advocating for children," says LaDara Depugh, Director of the South Carolina GAL program. Visit gal.sc.gov for more information and to download an application. Follow @Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program on Facebook or contact communications@childadvocate.sc.gov to be added to the newsletter for updates and local events in your area.

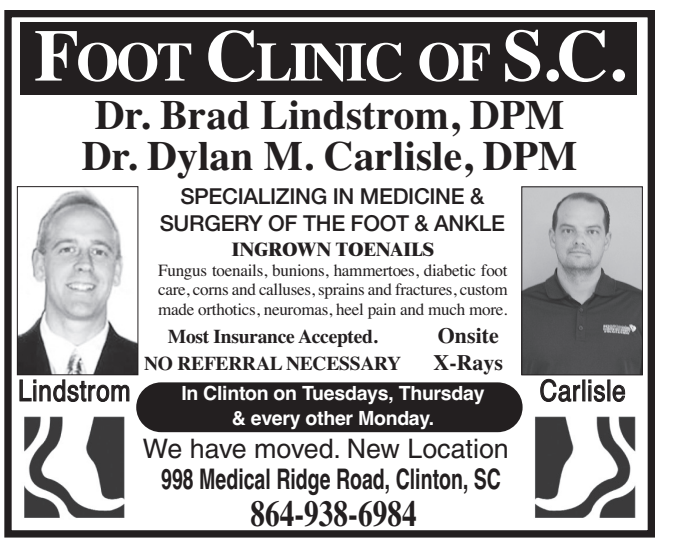
Contact Erin Petrella, regional recruiter and trainer for the GAL program, at (864)381-3725 or Erin.Petrella@childadvocate.sc.gov for more information.

Feb. 16 & 17 - CALLING ALL LOCAL BANDS! On February 16 & 17, 2024, the City of Laurens will introduce an all-new event entitled "Home Grown." This event will be a showcase of curated Upstate musicians selected by video submission. Being held at the historic Capitol Theatre, musicians will entertain those in attendance with original songs and crowd favorites. The winning band will be selected by a combination of social media engagement, the crowd's favorite, and a judges' panel. All performances will be done acoustically.

















DIRECTORY

CHURCH

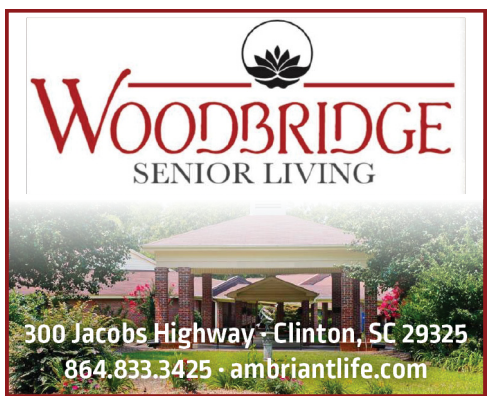
GREATER FAITH APOSTOLIC
543 Coleman Rd., Clinton
864-833-1903
MT. CALVARY APOSTOLIC
149 Paul St., Laurens
864-984-7224
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
440 N. Main St., Joanna
864-697-6541
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
100 Conway Ave., Laurens
864-984-2803
BEAVERDAM BAPTIST
1555 Beaverdam Church Rd., Mountville
864-682-2511
BEAVERDAM BAPTIST
1252 Beaverdam Church Rd., Enoree
864-969-2774
BELLVIEW BAPTIST
757 Bellview Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-2786
BETHANY BAPTIST
134 Bethany Circ, Fountain Inn
864-409-2083
BETHEL BAPTIST
885 Bethel Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-3081
BETHEL HALL BAPTIST
130 Garrett Dr., Laurens
864-575-2571
BETHEL MISS BAPTIST
293 S. Church St., Cross Hill
864-998-3781
BETHLEHEM GROVE BAPTIST
1952 Bethlehem Church Rd., Clinton
864-697-4120
BEULAH BAPTIST
1762 Greenpond Rd., Fountain Inn
864-862-2544
CALVARY BAPTIST
702 N. Sloan St., Clinton
864-833-2118
CAMPBELL CHAPEL BAPTIST
318 Campbell Chapel Rd., Gray Court
864-876-5963
CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST
930 Cedar Grove Church Rd., Laurens
864-677-2432
CENTER RABUN BAPTIST
14155 Hwy. 101 S., Gray Court
864-575-2512
CHESTNUT RIDGE BAPTIST
499 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Laurens
864-682-2548
CHRISTIAN HOPE BAPTIST
13284 Indian Mound Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-3193
CLINTON FIRST BAPTIST
301 S. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-2578
COMMUNITY BAPTIST
704 N. Adair St., Clinton
864-833-9500
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST
1797 Hwy. 72 W., Clinton
864-833-1777
CROSS HILL FIRST BAPTIST
761 N. Main St., Cross Hill
864-998-3157
DAVIDSON STREET BAPTIST
400 Davidson St., Clinton
864-83-1058
DUNCAN CREEK BAPTIST
672 Duncan Creek Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-3589
EASTSIDE BAPTIST
355 Conway Ave., Laurens
864-984-7545
FAIRVIEW BAPTIST
814 Fairview Church Rd., Kinards
864-697-6217
FAITH BAPTIST
1607 Greenwood Rd., Laurens
864-984-4277
FIRST BAPTIST
300 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-7500
FLAT RUFF BAPTIST
147 Ezra Dr., Gray Court
864-682-2291
FORKSVILLE BAPTIST
17 Cemetary Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-9599
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
3436 Friendship Church Rd., Gray Court
864-876-2397
GOLDEN VIEW BAPTIST
400 Boyd St., Fountain Inn
864-862-7138
GOOD HOPE BAPTIST
16766 Hwy. 72 W., Cross Hill
864-998-3553
GRAY COURT FIRST BAPTIST
8442 Hwy. 14, Gray Court
864-876-9775
HARRIS GROVE BATPIST
2478 Harris Grove Church Rd., Gray Court
864-876-4058
HEBRON BAPTIST
700 N. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-3638
HERITAGE BAPTIST
511 S. Main St., Fountain Inn
864-862-5348
HILLCREST BAPTIST
5101 Hwy. 14, Laurens
864-984-0272
HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST
92 Holly Grove Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-2492
HOPEWELL BAPTIST
6403 Neely Ferry Rd., Laurens
864-861-2650
JOANNA FIRST BAPTIST
301 Magnolia St., Joanna
864-697-6410
LANFORD BAPTIST
104 Patterson Plant Rd., Enoree
864-969-2621
LAUREL HILL BAPTIST
101 Riverfork Rd., Waterloo
864-677-3390
LAURENS SECOND BAPTIST
416 Fleming St., Laurens
864-984-3070
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST
702 E. Main St., Laurens
864-682-9182
LITTLE RIVER ZION BAPTIST
9012 Highway 56 S., Kinards
864-697-6902
LUCAS AVENUE BAPTIST
101 Lucas Ave., Laurens
864-984-7275
LYDIA BAPTIST
99 Palmetto St., Clinton
864-833-2884
MILL ROCK BAPTIST
799 Millrock Church Rd., Gray Court
864-682-3313
MT. COWELL BAPTIST
212 Morgan St., Joanna
864-697-5916
MT. GALLAGHER BAPTIST
11570 Indian Mound Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-3597
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST
149 Mount Oliver Church Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-3325
MT. MORIAH BAPTIST
400 Mount Moriah Church Rd., Clinton
864-833-7902
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST
149 Mount Olive Church Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-3325
MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST
2536 Indian Mound Rd., Laurens
864-682-3489
MT. ZION BAPTIST
1448 Cain Rd., Laurens
864-682-3886
NEW BEGINNING BAPTIST
286 Serene Dr., Waterloo
864-684-5212
NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST
229 New Bethlehem Church Rd., Honea Path
864-369-1017
NEW GROVE BAPTIST
334 E. Jerry Rd., Laurens
864-984-2251
NEW LIBERTY BAPTIST
2216 Liberty Church Rd., Fountain Inn
864-862-5335
NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST
4996 Hwy. 221 S., Laurens
864-682-3949
NORTHSIDE BAPTIST
818 Northside Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-2620
PINE GROVE BAPTIST
810 Gulliver St., Fountain Inn
864-862-6612
PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST
1279 S. Frontage Rd., Fountain Inn
864-862-2165
PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST
470 W. Mill St., Gray Court
864-876-3716
POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST
6000 Poplar Springs Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-2190
PRINCETON BAPTIST
18832 Hwy. 76 W., Honea Path
864-369-7798
RABUN CREEK BAPTIST
17045 Hwy. 101 S., Gray Court
864-575-2316
ROCKY SPRINGS BAPTIST
5097 Hwy. 221 S., Laurens
864-682-2881
ROSEMONT BAPTIST
2267 Dillard Rd., Waterloo
864-677-2484
SPRING BAPTIST
62 Bridgeway Dr., Laurens
864-682-3698
SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST
503 Jersey St., Laurens
864-984-3443
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST
4040 Harris Springs Rd., Cross Hill
864-998-3314
ST. PAUL FIRST BAPTIST
216 E. Hampton St., Laurens
864-984-5597
TEMPLE BAPTIST
21215 Hwy. 76 E., Laurens
864-682-2174
TUMBLING SHOALS BAPTIST
402 Sunset Park, Laurens
864-984-3262
UNION BAPTIST
536 Old Quaker Church Rd., Laurens
864-861-2411
WARRIOR CREEK BAPTIST
139 Cumlaude Way, Gray Court
864-682-2676
WAYSIDE BAPTIST
1517 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-5386
WELCOME BAPTIST
1825 Hwy. 14, Laurens
864-682-2575
WHITE PLAIN BAPTIST
1672 Lisbon Rd., Mountville
864-682-3302
ZION HILL BAPTIST
10922 Hwy. 39, Cross Hill
864-998-3163
ST. BONIFACE
401 N. Main St., Joanna
864-697-6745
OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN
209 E. Main St., Clinton
864-833-0402
CHURCH OF CHRIST
603 N. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-2919
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 76 W., Laurens
864-682-5188
ENOREE CHURCH OF GOD
1367 U.S. Hwy. 221, Laurens
864-969-2442
EVENING LIGHT CHURCH OF GOD
308 W. Harper St. Ext., Laurens
864-984-7943
FOUNTAIN INN CHURCH OF GOD
3597 Abercrombie Rd., Fountain Inn
864-408-9978
GRAY COURT CHURCH OF GOD
8492 Hwy. 14, Gray Court
864-876-3223
HICKORY TAVERN CHURCH OF GOD
18069 Hwy. 101 S., Gray Court
864-575-3569
JOANNA CHURCH OF GOD
124 S. Main St., Joanna
864-697-1973
LAURENS CHURCH OF GOD
908 N. Harper St., Laurens
864-684-6402
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL
505 Calvert Ave., Clinton
864-833-1388
GOSPEL TABERNACLE
743 E. Main St., Laurens
864-984-2217
BELIEVERS ASSEMBLY HOLINESS
236 Little Acres Rd., Clinton
864-833-6763
FIRST PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS
403 Academy St., Clinton
864-833-3336
LAURENS PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS
26 Wallace St., Laurens
864-984-6466
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES-KINGDOM HALL
663 Whelon Rd., Laurens
864-682-2279
KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
100 Old Colony Rd., Clinton
864-833-4421
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN
413 W. Farley Ave., Laurens
864-984-7200
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
1009 S. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-0172
ANTIOCH AME
6197 Philson Rd., Clinton
864-833-2195
BETHEL GROVE AME
1802 Bethel Grove Church Rd., Gray Court
864-876-3200
BRAMLETT UNITED METHODIST
2160 Bramlett Church Rd., Gray Court
864-876-9691
BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST
310 N. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-0177
DIALS UNITED METHODIST
11828 Hwy. 101 S., Gray Court
864-876-3313
FAIRVIEW AME
1553 Jefferson Davis Rd., Clinton
864-697-6111
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
244 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-0200
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
244 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-7696
FRIENDSHIP AME
1118 S. Bell St., Clinton
864-833-0130
GREEN POND UNITED METHODIST
168 Stoddard Mill Rd., Gray Court
864-862-2668
MT. BETHEL METHODIST
242 Mount Bethel Rd., Ware Shoals
864-861-3827
MT. CARMEL AME
209 Mount Carmel Church Rd., Gray Court
864-862-2036
MT. VERNON AME
347 Mount Vernon Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-8362
NEW BETHEL AME
318 New Bethel Church Rd., Clinton
864-833-6352
NEW HOPE AME
102 New Hope Church Rd., Mountville
864-994-3015
POPLAR SPRINGS AME
21578 Hwy. 221 N., Laurens
864-682-2847
SMYRNA AME
4665 Todd Quarter Rd., Waterloo
864-677-3769
SOULE CHAPEL
State Hwy. 39, Cross Hill
864-677-3551
ST. JAMES UMC
301 Watts Ave., Laurens
864-984-0155
CORNERSTONEONE NAZARENE
120 McGowan St., Laurens
864-409-6001
BREAKTHROUGH TABERNACLE
122 Whitmire Hwy., Joanna
864-697-6198
REEDY GROVE PENTECOSTAL
6608 Riverfork Rd., Waterloo
864-861-2347
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
410 E. Carolina Ave., Clinton
864-833-1062
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
400 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-6561
FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN
2094 Neely Ferry Rd., Laurens
864-575-2257
HARTNESS THORNWELL PRESBYTERIAN
302 S. Broad St., Clinton
864-938-2110
LIBERTY SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN
200 W. Liberty Springs St., Cross Hill
864-256-1310
ROCKY SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN
993 Rocky Springs Church Rd., Laurens
864-682-3627
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
1387 Hwy. 56 S., Clinton
864-833-1275
CLINTON LAURENS COUNTY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
22250 Hwy. 76 E., Laurens
864-682-8989
CENTERPOINT WESLEYAN
5595 Hwy. 49, Laurens
864-683-5500
KNIGHTON CHAPEL WESLEYAN
2122 Knighton Chapel Rd., Fountain Inn
864-876-4240
AIN'T GOD GOOD CHRSTIAN
310 W. Main St., Clinton
803-944-1342
BAR NONE COWBOY
367 Speedway Dr. #367, Gray Court
864-430-6911
BETHLEHEM UNION
4628 Riverfork Rd., Waterloo
864-861-2527
BREAD FROM HEAVEN FAMILY
4729 N. Old Laurens Rd., Gray Court
864-876-4080
CEDARWOOD COMMUNITY
17166 Hwy. 72 W., Waterloo
864-819-1911
CHOSEN GENERATION MINISTRIES
21282 Hwy. 76 W., Laurens
864-682-2467
CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
225 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-7000
CROSS HILL MENNONITE
12146 Hwy. 39, Cross Hill
864-998-3081
EVIDENCE FAITH WORLDWIDE
112 Bolt Dr., Laurens
864-681-3798
GATEWAY COMMUNITY
1800 Wilson Dr., Laurens
864-683-1458
HOLY SPIRIT MISSION
1040 W. Main St., Laurens
864-984-2880
HOPEWAY
603 S. Main St., Fountain Inn
864-414-5476
NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP
24083 Highway 76 E., Clinton
864-938-0333
ORA ARP
23420 Hwy. 221 N., Gray Court
864-682-3622
PROVIDENCE ARP
701 S. Broad St., Clinton
864-833-3683
STODDARD
3042 Georgia Rd., Gray Court
864-682-2068
VICTORY WORSHIP CENTER
28010 Hwy. 76 E., Clinton
864-547-2300
Friendship AME Church
1118 S Bell Street, Clinton, SC 29325
(864) 833-0130
Lydia Pentecostal Holiness Church
661 Poplar Street, Clinton, SC 29325
Lydia Mill Church of God
685 Peachtree Street. Clinton, SC 29325
Lydia Presbyterian Church
Peachtree Street, Clinton, SC 29325
864-833-5763
Refuge of Worship
99 Palmetto Street, Clinton, SC 29325
·864-415-6627































Sports & Recreation

Coaching Milestones



Laurens County School District 56 posted, "Coach John Gardner cinched his 100th win as a head coach last night! Way to go, Coach Gardner!"

Clinton Red Devils & Re-alignment

One region for football, and another region for everything else

For at least the next 2 years, it looks like Clinton High will go south and west for most of its athletics.

The SC High School League last Wednesday (Jan. 24) gave a first look at regions after realignment. Clinton drops from its traditional AAA spot into AA, based on schools with similar enrollments. Charter Schools have a multiplier effect that moves them up or down in classification based on out of attendance area enrollment.

Clinton's region will be Chester, Columbia, Eau Claire, Fairfield Central and Mid-Carolina FOR ALL SPORTS BUT FOOTBALL.

In football, Clinton is in Region 1, AA, with: Blacksburg, Brashier Middle College (football only), Chesnee, Greenville Tech (football only), High Point Academy, Landrum and Liberty.

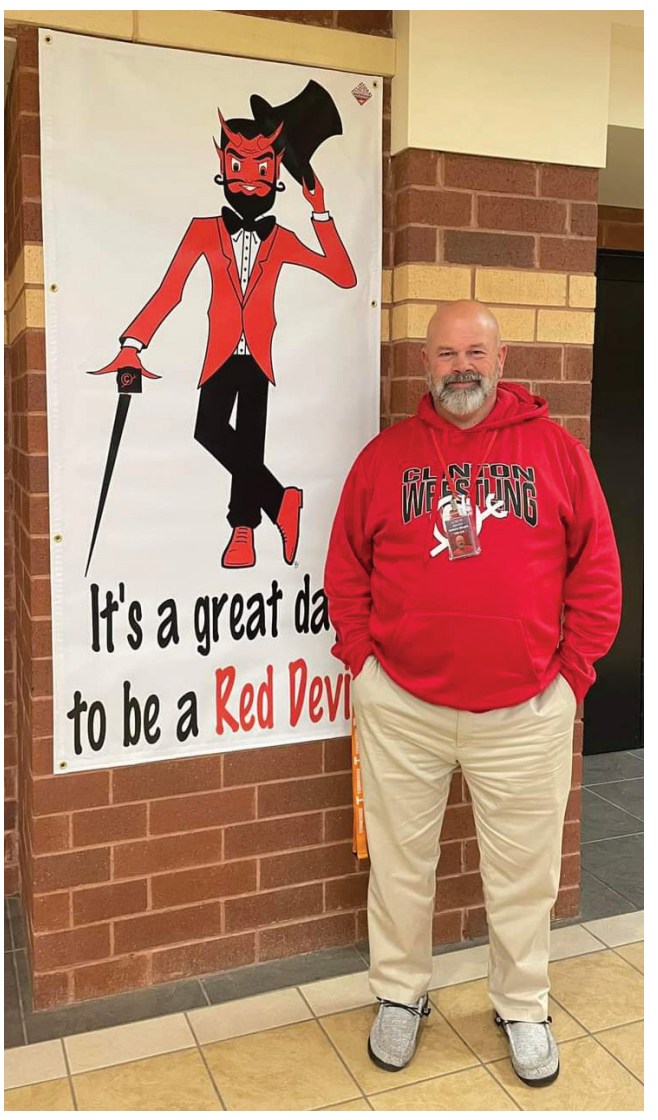
It looks like the region for Laurens will be Region 1, AAAA, with: Emerald, Fountain Inn, Southside Westside and Wren.

In Class A, Region 1, Thornwell Charter School, in Clinton, will be joined by: Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, Dixie, GREEN Upstate, McCormick, SC School for the Deaf & Blind, Ware Shoals and Whitmire.

Traditional Clinton rivals Union County and Woodruff, Region 3, and Newberry, Region 4, will remain in AAA. Traditional AAA powerhouse Daniel moves to AAAA.

Clinton will be the 4th largest school in the AA designation.

The SCHSL proposed realignment is for 2024-2026.



Laurens County School District 56 posted, "Woohoo! Another brag tag for a coach! Andy Wright, CHS wrestling coach, snatched his 250th win as a head coach last week!!! Way to go, Coach Wright!!!"

SCORES

Clinton Wrestling 44, Mid-Carolina 27.

Clinton defeats Champman and Broome Jan 24.

Basketball:

Girls: Clinton 72, Union 21. C Scorer: Mylayja Thompson, 14. C Record: 15-5.

Boys: Clinton 43, Union 35. C Scorer: Michael Henderson, 10. C Record: 11-7.

Girls: McCormick 63, Thornwell 8.

Boys: McCormick 76, Thornwell 11.

Men: Radford 73, Presbyterian 58. PC Scorer: Samage Teel, 17.

Women: Radford 65, Presbyterian 40. PC: Bryanna Brady, 12.

Laurens football

Laurens District 55 High School (LDHS) introduced Greg Porter as their new new head football coach in the gymnasium last Tuesday.

Porter, former Greenville High School head football coach, will replace Daryl Smith, who was relieved of his duties after four years at the helm of the Raiders program. Porter was approved at last Monday night's board of trustees meeting.

Porter led the Greenville High program as head coach for five years. The Red Raiders are coming off a loss in the Upper State finals after finishing the season at 10-4 in 4A. He compiled a 45-15 record at Greenville.

Porter took over as the head coach at Hillcrest in 2009, winning three regional titles and one state championship. He also spent two seasons as head coach at Southside, where he led the Tigers to a 7-5 record.

Changing the culture on and off the field at LDHS will be a focus for Porter, taking over a team that has been on an unsuccessful run for the majority of the last 20 years.

"The key is academics," said Porter. "You can take an AP or honors class. Don't be afraid to offer academic rigor because if you can do the academic rigor, what happens is when you have an opportunity to go to college, the coaches feel comfortable in offering you a scholarship. It shows that they have discipline."

—golaurens.com

StateFarm | usbank

Want better interest?
CDs are a safe bet.

7 month[1] 4.55 APY[2]
11 month[1] 4.65 APY[2]

Contact me to earn more on your savings with competitive Certificate of Deposit (CD) rates from U.S. Bank.



Matt Davis Ins and Fin Svc
Agent

906 South Broad Street, Suite B
Clinton, SC 29325-2866
Bus: 864-833-5036
Cell: 864-529-8465
matt.davis.mtwo@statefarm.com

Rates effective as of May 10, 2023. CD specials require a $1,000 minimum opening deposit up to a maximum of $250,000. Subject to certain conditions and qualifications. Deposit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

1. Offer good for the initial term only. CD is automatically renewed for the same term. The rate is determined based on the published rate for the CD, excluding CD Specials, that is closest to but not exceeding the term of the CD. Advertised rate and APY are offered at the bank's discretion and may change daily.

2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

State Farm and the State Farm logo are registered trademarks of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company.

GAS LOGS

Buck Stove Pool & Spa SINCE 1978

Large Selection!



• Vent free 99.9% efficient
• Great emergency heat source

12 Months Same As Cash Financing Available

214 Fleming St., Laurens, SC • (864) 984-4526
www.buckstovepoolandspa.com

14th Annual CrossFit864

1/2 Marathon or 5K Run/Walk

FEBRUARY 3, 2024
Start Time: 8:00a.m.
CrossFit 864
at 207 West Pitts St. Clinton, SC

CrossFit 864

Register at runsignup.com
For details contact us: 864-923-0554

ASSIST OUR CAUSE

STEP 1: SCAN QR CODE
STEP 2: PLEDGE A DONATION FOR EACH ASSIST PC GETS IN THE GAME
STEP 3: CHEER ON THE BLUE HOSE

FEBRURARY 3, 2024
2:00 PM V. HPU

All proceeds will be donated to local cancer associations

Or contact 724-854-2062 to donate another way

JOIN US!
SURVIVORS & FIGHTERS

PC Women's Basketball welcomes all Breast Cancer Survivors & Fighters to join us for a special day!

Contact assistant coach, Brooklyn Taylor, to RSVP!
724-854-2062 BTaylor@presby.edu

FEBRURARY 3RD, 2024
2:00 PM TIP

Decision 2024

Poll workers - from P. 1

for poll worker pay seems a little arduous."

It's a largely thankless job, often done by civic-minded retirees, but essential for running an election.

"If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted, and it will grow increasingly more difficult to recruit, train and retain poll workers," Knapp wrote in this budget request.

He's also requesting $1 million to increase county election board members' stipends by $1,000 annually, increasing their total state stipend to $2,500 for the year, with a maximum of $22,500 per county, according to the request.

Those positions frequently go unfilled, Knapp said.

Counties are supposed to have at least five board members. Counties that haven't include Richland, home to the state capital. The county notorious for election problems lacked a full board for nearly the last four years, only recently getting to five, he said.

Turnover is bad for election jobs top to bottom, Knapp said.

Since 2021, nearly three-quarters of county election directors have left, Knapp said.

In rural Saluda County, he told legislators, the entire staff quit last week, and the office closed illegally for several days.

The state Election Commission is currently training new employees in Saluda with weeks to go before Democrats' presidential primary Feb. 3.

One member of the subcommittee, Rep. Micah Caskey, said that while residents should have confidence in South Carolina's election system, there are issues with a lack of consistency and oversight from county to county.

"We've got a messy landscape, and when we see problems, we're trying to address those," the West Columbia Republican told the SC Daily Gazette.

The South Carolina Association of Counties declined to comment on Knapp's testimony but did specify that election boards are appointed by the legislators who represent that county.

"The counties pay the election directors salaries but have no authority over them as employees," said Josh Rhodes, the association's deputy executive director. "The election directors are accountable to the elections board, who is accountable to the delegation."

The bulk of Knapp's budget request, an additional $11.5 million, is simply to cover the increased costs of running roughly 300 elections statewide. This year, when all 170 legislative seats are up for re-election, there will also be a general election potentially pitting the current and former president.

Even without early voting, which the Legislature formalized in a 2022 law, the state has reimbursed counties $2.5 million for each statewide election.

"With early voting and increasing voter turnout and participation, we're expecting those costs to double," Knapp said.

ABRAHAM KENMORE

Abraham Kenmore is a reporter covering elections, health care and more. He joins the SC Daily Gazette from The Augusta Chronicle, where he reported on Georgia legislators, military and housing issues.

Presidential Preference Primaries in SC: Democrats: Feb. 3; Republicans: Feb. 24.

State and National Organizations Rally at Statehouse
for Municipal Election System Choice

Columbia - Multiple groups rallied at the South Carolina State House in support House Bill 4022, which would give municipalities the option to use Instant Runoff Voting in elections for local officials. Currently there are already three election methods municipalities can use. H.4022 was on the agenda for discussion by the House Constitutional Laws Subcommittee on Thursday, January 25th.

Instant Runoff Voting, growing in popularity, is a simple election system change—used by over 50 cities, counties, and states across the country—that saves cities money and effort while resulting in consensus majority election winners. Instant Runoff Voting does not favor any political party and has no impact on incumbents' ability to be re-elected. Polls have shown that voters like Instant Runoff Voting and find it easy to understand.

Here is how Instant Runoff Voting works.

...Voters can rank as many candidates as they want on the ballot in order of preference. All first choices are tallied and if a candidate receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins, just …

… choice votes is eliminated, and voters who picked that candidate as their top choice will have their next choice counted. This process continues until there is a candidate winning a majority of the votes.

"Ranked Choice Voting is an important tool in the electoral toolbox," said Chris Saxman, Executive Director of Virginia FREE, which advocates for free enterprise and responsible, pro-business government. "Virginia Republicans have successfully used Ranked Choice Voting for five years in a row because it works. In fact, using RCV in the 2021 nominations helped bring the Virginia GOP from the brink of extinction." Mr. Saxman previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates and was John McCain's Virginia presidential campaign co-chair.

"Better Ballot SC believes that South Carolina needs to upgrade its elections," said Nicole Sanchez, President of Better Ballot SC that organized today's rally. "Instant runoff voting would save taxpayes unnecessarily wasted time and money by eliminating the need for runoffs while still ensuring majority support."

"Ranked choice offers voters the opportunity to express their choice the way we naturally do in the rest of life. It will encourage participation and better reflect the voter's intent," said Erik Sickinger, Irmo Town Councilman.

"Whether you occupy a nonpartisan or partisan office, instant runoff voting is a no-brainer," said City of Charleston Council member Karl Brady. "It saves the taxpayers money and has the added benefit of allowing the voters to have more agency in the voting booth. It's a win-win all the way around."

"Instant Runoff Voting saves the municipalities and voters time and money. Our state legislators should empower our municipalities and citizens with a simple option to change how we vote to save time & money. Instant Runoff Voting encourages Veterans and all citizens to vote knowing that their vote will count," said Chris Himsl, Colonel US Army Ret., Director of Veterans for All Voters-South Carolina.

"I am happy to join activists at the South Carolina state house to demand a better way to vote," said Chase Oliver who is contending to be the Libertarian Party Presidential candidate. "We hear often about how democracy is at risk, but it is often ignored that it is plurality voting itself which has led to increased polarization and hyper partisanship, and only reforms in how we vote can begin to solve this problem. Ranked Choice Voting in South Carolina will improve representation at the ballot across the board."

"Instant Runoff Voting encourages candidates to focus on problem solving, not



negative campaigning," said Frank Knapp, President & CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. "The result is a better functioning government striving to serve all constituents, including small businesses."

Also speaking at the rally in support of H.4022 were:
Representative Neal Collins (R-Pickens County), co-sponsor of H.4022.
Representative Jermaine Johnson (D-Richland County), co-sponsor of H.4022.

ENDORSEMENTS:
Republican:

The Congressman who represents Clinton and is not seeking re-election has endorsed former President Donald Trump in the Republican nomination for a return to the White House.

Jeff Duncan became the final SC Congressional officials to make an endorsement as he joined the "Trump Train" last Monday, just ahead of the New Hampshire primary.

An energy subcommittee chairman in the U.S. House, Duncan said Trump's administration demonstrated "how strong our nation can be, how energy independent we can be, and how economically powerful we can be."

"Since President Trump left office, our nation has struggled - with an open border, an inflation crisis, and a disrespected position on the world stage," Duncan continued. "I know that President Trump can fix the problems our nation faces and position America for sustainable success. President Donald Trump has my full endorsement, and I look forward to helping him Make America Great Again."

Duncan made his statements on X, formerly known as Twitter. It is not on his official Congressional Facebook page.

Senator Danny Verdin, R-Laurens: President Trump was a great president. I voted for him before and I'm excited to vote for him again in a few weeks when he is on the South Carolina Presidential Preference ballot. I believe it's time for the Republican Party to come together, united in support of Donald Trump. The stakes of this election are far too great.

President Trump has my full support and endorsement. - on Facebook

Democrat:

SCDP Statement on Tim Scott Endorsing Donald Trump for President
Columbia – After pretending to be shocked about Tim Scott endorsing Donald Trump for president, South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Christale Spain released the following statement:

"No one is less surprised than me that Tim Scott would throw his full support behind Donald Trump's plans to ban abortion nationwide, destroy our democracy, rip away access to affordable health care, and give more tax breaks to the wealthy at the expense of working families – they're the same dangerous policies he's been parroting in our state for years. Scott's endorsement makes clear what we've been saying all along – Tim Scott is just as MAGA as Donald Trump, and their extreme agenda would be a disaster for this country.

"South Carolinians deserve better. That's why we're organizing to keep the one person who can stop the threat of Trump in the White House – President Joe Biden."

Nikki "Doesn't Run for Second Place" Haley Gets Second Place in New Hampshire: Columbia – After Nikki Haley's embarrassing loss in the New Hampshire primary, South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Christale Spain released the following statement:

"After spending a year running on the same extreme and deeply unpopular agenda as Trump, Nikki Haley's plans to ban abortion nationwide, cut Social Security and Medicare, and hand out tax breaks to corporations resulted in an embarrassing loss in New Hampshire. Haley's coming back to South Carolina with her tail between her legs, but the reality is, everyone across the Palmetto State knows her extreme playbook is a failure."

Don't just take it from us, read what Haley and her strongest backers had to say leading up to tonight (Jan. 23):

Nikki Haley: "I don't run for second."

Haley Campaign Co-Chair Don Bolduc: "I believe that she's going to win."

New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu: "There's no doubt Nikki Haley's going to win this thing in a landslide here in New Hampshire."

"If everyone that could vote in the primary comes out and votes, not only—she's going to win in a landslide. And that's not an exaggeration. So, you're going to see a record—"

"Nikki is going to win this state. That's going to be the, I won't say a shocker, because I think you're going to see the numbers really move in the final weeks."

Haley's Super PAC and other financial donors:

Haley and her PAC spent over $26 million in New Hampshire alone to still not win. "'She needs to win," said a lobbyist who is raising money for Haley.

"[She] has got to more or less win… she's got to really outperform… She can't come in second but very far back in the back. She's got to show that she can win," said Haley supporter, Frank Lavin.

Non-Profit:

Emma Brown, GIFFORDS Executive Director

Date: January 22, 2023 Re: Ahead of NH, Trump and Haley Are Out of Step with Americans on Gun Safety

Trump and Haley Embrace Dangerous, Unpopular Gun Extremism

New Hampshire voters head to the polls tomorrow to vote in the quickly dwindling Republican presidential primary. While Donald Trump and Nikki Haley's campaigns focus on the differences between them, the most troubling position is one that they share: gun extremism.

While we don't know who will win in the Granite State tomorrow, we do know who will lose: the overwhelming majority of Americans who support commonsense gun safety laws.

The gun safety debate among voters is over. More than three-fourths of Americans—including the majority of Republicans—support top GIFFORDS priorities, including background checks on all gun sales, "red flag" laws, corporate gun industry accountability, basic licensing to purchase weapons, and required safety training.

Decision 2024 - from Page 8

Additionally, 76% of voters in battleground states support President Biden's 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant federal gun safety law in 30 years.

By catering to the gun lobby, Trump and Haley are simply appealing to a shrinking minority within their party. Voters in November will not overlook their flawed records as our nation faces a gun violence crisis.

Donald Trump's Legacy: 34% National Increase in Gun Homicides

Despite his tough talk on the campaign trail, America became much more dangerous during Trump's presidency. Gun homicides across the country rose from 14,415 in 2016 to 19,384 in 2020—a whopping 34% increase in just four years.

Trump—who, let's remember, earlier this month told Iowa parents they'd need to "get over it" after a school shooting in Perry, Iowa—has promised to be a "loyal friend" to the NRA and made national concealed carry reciprocity a fixture of his campaign. He has committed to gutting states' ability to enforce their own permitting laws and qualifications for carrying a concealed firearm in public. Data shows that states with weak permitting laws experienced violent crime rates 13% to 15% higher than they would with stronger laws, so it's no surprise that American voters, concerned for their safety, oppose permitless carry by a 2–1 margin.

Nikki Haley's Legacy: 26% Increase in Gun Homicides, 10th Deadliest State for Guns

South Carolina grew much more dangerous under Nikki Haley's leadership. The number of gun homicides in the state increased by an eye-opening 26% from her first full year in office to her last. When she left office, South Carolina had the 10th highest gun death rate in the nation.

When a violent neo-Nazi obtained a weapon through a loophole in federal law and used it to murder nine Black parishioners at a historic Black church in Charleston, Haley infuriated victims' families by refusing to support closing the same loophole. Rev. Sharon Risher, the daughter of one of those murdered, relayed her anger with Haley to a local newspaper, "You witnessed the heartache and pain of the families. You attended my mother's funeral. Yet you won't support the bill to extend the wait time for background checks?"

As a presidential candidate, Haley continues to oppose commonsense gun safety measures that have broad bipartisan support.

Bipartisan:

Proposed Bipartisan Tax Plan Released

Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024: What does it Mean for You?

On January 16, 2024, the websites of the United States Senate Committee on Finance and the United States House Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-Mo.) jointly announced "a commonsense, bipartisan, bicameral tax framework that promotes the financial security of working families, boosts growth and American competitiveness, and strengthens communities and Main Street businesses."

The plan, introduced as The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (the Act), generally proposes to revive expired breaks for businesses and increase the child tax credit for low-income families (but also includes disaster relief provisions and other tax relief measures). Congress hopes to push the roughly $80 billion in tax breaks through Congress in the next few weeks (before the January 29, 2024 start of tax season) with parts of the bill being retroactive. The agreed-to framework proposes to pay for the tax breaks by cutting off new claims for the COVID-19 era employee retention credit program filed after January 31, 2024.

Republican:

Luke Samuel Rankin, Laurens County GOP Chairman:

The primary process serves as a platform for Americans to rally behind their chosen candidate, and it is evident that President Trump is the leader around whom we must unite to counter the left and bring sanity back to our nation. Despite various strategies employed by the left to vilify our former president, I eagerly anticipate Donald Trump's return to the White House. I am pleased to officially endorse President Donald Trump.

3rd District:

Mike Bedenbaugh, of Prosperity and president of Preservation S.C., says he will seek the Congressional sear as an independent. He will seek the Alliance Party's nomination.

Rep. Stewart Jones

Announcement, 5h ·

I'm running for Congress!

South Carolina's Third Congressional District needs an America First fighter in Congress who will stand shoulder to shoulder with strong conservatives and President Trump to stop the Democrats' disastrous agenda.

In Congress, I will fight for the people. We must rein in the Swamp that dictates too many parts of our lives. It starts with securing the border, insisting on balanced budgets, reducing wasteful spending, and unleashing Americans to live up to their God-given potential.

I have a proven record of taking on Joe Biden's administration and winning. In the South Carolina General Assembly, I worked constructively with all legislators to defeat Biden's Covid vaccine mandate. We also worked hard to rein in wasteful spending, enshrine 2nd Amendment protections, and defend every unborn life. I'll do the same in Congress.

We must bring honor back to Washington. Woke Democrats, weak Republicans, and their enablers continue to make a mockery of conservative values. Enough is enough.

I will faithfully serve CD-3 and defend freedom, so help me God. I humbly ask for your support in the June 11th Republican Primary.



Business: Flame Spray North America expands operations in Laurens County

$2.5 million investment will create 40 new jobs

Flame Spray North America, a thermal spray coatings manufacturer, has announced it is expanding its operations in Laurens County. The company's $2.5 million investment will create 40 new jobs.

Part of Flame Spray S.p.A., Flame Spray North America offers a complete portfolio of thermal spray coating and heat treatment services. The company's only North American facility, located at 576 International Blvd. in Fountain Inn, primarily aims to serve the industrial gas turbine and aerospace markets.

The expansion includes the addition of advanced thermal spray coating technologies available for servicing industrial gas turbine components and technological improvements for the current facility.

Operations are already online. Individuals interested in joining the Flame Spray North America team should contact the company's Human Resources Department (hrfsna@flamespray.org).

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved job development credits related to the project.

QUOTES

"Flame Spray North America is thrilled to continue to grow in Laurens County, South Carolina. We appreciate the support of Laurens County and South Carolina and are deeply grateful for the dedication of our employees and the commitment of our customers."

-Flame Spray North America President and CEO Marco Prosperini

"It is always a great day when an existing company expands in South Carolina. We applaud Flame Spray North America's commitment to Laurens County and extend our congratulations on this latest expansion in our state."

-Gov. Henry McMaster

"South Carolina's talented workforce is something that brings tremendous pride. When companies like Flame Spray North America continue to expand and create jobs for our citizens, it is something worth celebrating."

-Secretary of Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III

"We are excited for Flame Spray North America's continued growth and commitment to Laurens County. They are a great corporate partner, and we look forward to their continued success in Laurens County."

-Laurens County Council Chairman Brown Patterson

More on business & industry opportunities: https://growlaurenscounty.com https://www.sccommerce.com

Settlement - from Page 1

other power supply related services to its participants. Electric utilities in our area are facing the challenges of providing reliable, affordable, low carbon energy to their growing customer base. With this litigation now behind us, PMPA can begin the important work of securing our energy future utilizing PMPA's Catawba Nuclear asset."

PMPA was created by its ten member utilities and provides wholesale electric services for those communities. Through its member utilities, the agency services over 100,000 electric customers in the upstate of South Carolina.

The lawsuit has cost the City of Clinton more than $300,000 in legal fees, Mayor Randy Randall told The Laurens County Advertiser, not counting what Clinton's share of the debt service on the $55 Million payment from PMPA will be. City Council met Monday to talk about "economic development energy rates."

A2 EXTERMINATORS
864-683-5535
a2exterminators.com
A2exterminators@gmail.com
239 Hillcrest Drive · Laurens
· Pest Control · Fire Ant Control
· Rodent Control · CL100's
· Moisture Control · Encapsulations
· Mosquito Management · Liquid Termite Treatment
CALL TODAY FOR ALL YOUR PEST SOLUTIONS!

AFFORDABLE CAROLINA LIMOUSINE SERVICES
2300 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC 29108
803.276.5788
affordablecarolina.com

WELCOME TO LEAKE FAMILY PHARMACY
Become part of the Leake Family Pharmacy and enjoy the benefits of a local pharmacy. Imagine the pharmacist knows you by name, and provides individualized care.
105 Hearthstone Drive · Gray Court
Call - 864.733.0128
105 Hearthstone Drive, Gray Court, SC 29645



Carolina Health Centers Inc.
WE LOVE OUR NURSES!
YOUR HARDWORK AND DEDICATION HAVE KEPT CHC GOING STRONG FOR 45 YEARS!
THANK YOU FOR BEING AMAZING!



GateWay Counseling Center
CARF ACCREDITED
Treatment Provider for Drugs & Alcohol.
We offer effective and affordable treatment services in Laurens County.
1 IN 4 PEOPLE PRESCRIBED OPIOID PAIN KILLERS STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION.
LEARN ABOUT SAFETY AND DISPOSAL
JUSTPLAINKILLERS.COM
TIPS FOR STORAGE
LOCK THEM UP
Secure prescription medicines in a safe place only you know about, preferable locked up.
NO LOOSE PILLS
Only keep opioids in the bottle provided by your pharmacy
ALWAYS SECURE AFTER USE
After taking your prescribed dose, immediately return the bottle to its safe place.
GateWay Counseling Center
219 Human Services Rd, Clinton, SC 29325
864.833.6500 | www.gatewaycounseling.org
South Carolina DAODAS
"This publication was prepared by Gateway Counseling Center under award number 1H79T1081720-01 from SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services."

Classifieds & Legals

1 week - $15 ● 2 weeks - $20 ● 3 weeks - $30 ● 4 weeks - $40

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Real Estate For Sale

Two houses for sale by owner, 705 Ferguson, Clinton - remodeled three bedrooms, new architect roof, central HT/AC, big deck, dishwasher, refinished hardwood floors, carport, shady lot, much more, $129,000. Also, two story - 401 Ferguson, Clinton. Approx. 3100 sq ft gross under one roof, new architect roof, large lot, double carport, four large bedrooms, two baths, much more, $149,000. Contact Charles Buice, 864-833-4679. J10-4p-J31

To Buy

House to be moved. 864-872-9787, call between 9 am and 4 pm. S14-tfn

To Rent

Glendale Manor Apartments: 1 & 2 BR apartments for elderly or 50+ handicapped/disabled. Rent based on income. Call 833-5742 for appointment. Equal Housing Opportunity, handicapped accessible. Ag26-tfn

Services

CLEANING CINDY. Make life a little less stressful… Let me clean your home or office weekly or bi-weekly. Call Cindy, 923-5276. S25-tfn

BUYING THE COMMEMORATIVE COKE and drink bottles made at Laurens Glass in 70s and 80s. Also any older Coca-Cola advertising items: signs, trays, toy trucks, thermometers, clocks, etc. Call 681-2202. A14-tfn

WANT TO BUY 1981 CLEMSON Championship drink cans. Call 681-2202. F15-tfn

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All person having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Laurens County, the address of which is P.O. Box 194, Laurens, SC, 29360, 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 #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Jerri Ann Clarke. Date of 0Death: June 2, 2023. Case Number: 2023ES300553. Personal Representative: Katelyn Genevieve Lindsey, 4215 Hwy 25 N., Hodges, SC 29653 J17-3p-J31

Estate: John Wayne Wirth. Date of Death: 11/09/2023. Case Number: 2024ES300011. Personal Representative: Amber Dawn Wirth, 145 Meadowlark Lane, Davidson, NC 28039. Attorney: Claude H. Howe, III, P.O. Box 921, Clinton, SC 29325 J17-3p-J31

Estate: John William Bolt. Date of Death: August 17, 2023. Case Number: 2023ES300484. Personal Representative: David William Bolt, 201 Ogle Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37920. Attorney: Claude H. Howe, III, P.O. Box 921, Clinton, SC 29325. Co-personal Representative: Mary Malnda Bolt McMillian, 304 James Mattison Road, Liberty, SC 29657. J24-3p-F7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Trucks, Motorcycles & RV's , too! Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not – 24 Hour Response – Maximum Tax Donation – Call (888) 515-3810

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games: (1366) JUMBO BUCKS

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-397-7030 www.dental50plus.com/60 #6258

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-852-0368

Is 2024 your year? We're here for it and here for you. Reach your goals this year with WeightWatchers. Get started with THREE months FREE, visit www.weightwatchersoffer.com/52

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833-638-3767

AUCTIONS

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 80 S.C. newspapers for only $375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

BOATS FOR SALE

2017 Stingray 19 Deck Boat. 90HP Yamaha Motor with very low operating hours – $22,500. Call or text me at (803) 360-3649. I live in the Lake Greenwood area.

HELP WANTED – DRIVERS

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 80 S.C. newspapers for only $375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-775-0366 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-875-2449.

Up to $15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company – 855-837-7719 or visit www.Life55plus.info/scan

TELEVISION & INTERNET SERVICES

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET – Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, $84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/ CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741

DIRECTV Sports Pack. 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

Switch to DISH and get up to a $300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-877-542-0759

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time $20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-851-8201

VACATION RENTALS

ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 1.5 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 80 S.C. newspapers for only $375. Call Randall Savely at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

Chronicle Classifieds 864-833-1900



Notice of Application

Notice is hearby given that SSS South Carolina, LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license and/or permit that will allow the sale and off premises consumption of beer and wine at 13330 Hwy 76 W, Gray Court, and 3224 Green pond Road, Gray Court. To object to the issuance of this license and/or permit, you must submit Form ABL-20, postmarked no later than 2-9-2024. Mail protests to SCDOR, ABL Section, PO Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0907 or email to ABL@dor.sc.gov.

J24-3p-F7



Director Position

New Prospect Baptist Child Development Center Seeks Director for Center. Resumes may be emailed to npbcdcouncil@npbcfamily.org or faxed to 864-683-2134. No phone calls please.

Notice of Public Hearing

The City Council of the City of Clinton (the "City Council"), the governing body of the City of Clinton, South Carolina (the "City"), will hold a public hearing in its chambers on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits) (the "Hearing"). The Hearing will occur during the City Council's regularly scheduled meeting. The City Council's chambers are located on the second floor of the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center at 211 North Broad Street, Clinton, South Carolina.

The City Council is considering the enactment of "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF CLINTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO" (the "Ordinance"). By enacting the Ordinance, the City plans to adopt a copy of that certain Capital Improvements Plan and Development Impact Fee Study, dated December 28, 2023 (the "Study"), which includes a capital improvements plan and schedules of impact fees to be paid by new developments to offset the costs of certain of the City's fire, police and recreation facilities. A copy of the Study is available upon request and made be inspected at City Hall, located at the M. S. Bailey Municipal Center at 211 North Broad Street, Clinton, South Carolina, during the City's regular business hours.

The Hearing shall be conducted publicly, and both proponents and opponents of the proposed action shall be given full opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

J31-1p







Opinion

Our View

Congratulations to the LCDC

The three-person staff of the Laurens County Development Corporation has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the benefit of all us citizens, with the recent announcement of $648.6 MILLION in new investment for the Year 2023. An outsized portion of that is attributable to the giant ZF Transmissions plant in Gray Court-Owings, which has announced yet another expansion. A celebration is on tap for next month.

It was fitting then that the guest speaker for the LCDC's Annual Meeting (and celebration!) was Tobias Brugger, Vice President and Plant Manager, ZF Transmissions Gray Court, LLC, Business Partner Operations Division E - Region North America ZF Group Electrified Powertrain Technology ZF Transmissions Gray Court, LLC (pictured below, standing left, with LCDC Executive Director Jon Coleman). ZF is a leading South Carolina industry developing Electric Vehicles, a market which helped South Carolina achieve in excess of $9 BILLION in new investments last year - Columbia and Charleston will reap most of those benefits; however, the ripple effects extend into all corners of the state, through employment and opportunities for the families now desiring to make South Carolina their home. Gov. Henry McMaster included ZF in his State of the State address last Wednesday, asking industry leaders to stand for recognition, he said, "In Laurens County, ZF Transmissions Grey Court is expanding its operation for the growing and evolving mobility industry with a $500 million investment and 400 jobs. Vice President and Plant Manager Mr. Tobias Brugger."



But don't believe for a minute that LCDC is steering us toward a "one trick pony" and dependence on a single type of industry, as the state was so dependent on textiles (before NAFTA).

These are other industies contributing to Laurens County's most recent success: MPF Products, 13 jobs, $2.5M; Milliken, $15M; Alupress, 64 jobs, $26M; Tomahawk Processing, 26 jobs, $5.1M; of course, ZF is primary with 400 jobs in a $600M investment in Northern Laurens County (currently, 2,200 employees on 127.243 acres). And, oh yes, the Flame Spray announcement is on Page 9, and Duke Energy has announced plans for a $61M solar farm in Laurens County. All this bodes well for a diversified economy better suited for weathering the financial storms, natural or man-made.

When you apply an industry-accepted multiplier, that's 679 potential jobs and $43,741,396 in earnings for which the Laurens County Workforce could be eligible from these projects. The average industrial wage in Laurens County is $21.36/hr. And, there could be more - LCDC is marketing two certified Palmetto sites sites, Clinton 26 Commerce Park and Power South.

The products that LCDC can offer industry locators, CEOs, and others include the Woodfields spec building, 320,000 sq ft; the Hunter Industrial Park spec building, 620,000 sq ft; the Clinton Commerce Park South expansion; and a Connexial Blvd expansion. In order to make these developments work, LCDC relies on partnership and, sometimes, these partners need to be nimble enough to shift immediate directions in order to capture opportunities. The Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission, for example, did not have the I-385 Connexial Center site on its immediate radar, until the South Carolina Department of Commerce recognized the chance for an industrial area south of Simpsonville. The Laurens Electric Cooperative also seized an opportunity there, and now the need exists to upgrade the interstate highway interchange in this area, because of growth and safety.

The county's industry-hunting agency, headquartered in Downtown Laurens, intends to bring Industry and Investors together at its March 28 annual golf tournament. Almost certainly there will be excited talk about "even more next year" among stakeholders at this event. We applaud their forward vision. For more information on our work-friendly county, visit: www.GrowLaurensCounty.com.

Special sections sparkle on web

By Vic MacDonald
Editor



I am absolutely thrilled by a new addition to our website.

Truth is, it's always been there, from the time that we contracted with a new designer and gave it a fresh look. This is our site:

MyClintonNews.com

It also is accessible through the South Carolina Press Association website. They have a Newspapers section, clicking on that will show you the websites of Daily and Weekly newspapers around our truly diverse, news-content state. My go-tos are Post & Courier, The State, and The Index-Journal. I click them every day, sometimes multiple times per day.

When you click on our website, you will see a bar of "top stories" - sometimes breaking news, sometimes meetings, sometimes just interesting stuff. It is one of my jobs to keep it updated and fresh. Sometimes I miss (a couple arrested in Cross Hill in connection with the Berkeley County homicide) and I try not to stray too far from home, although some cool stories actually are outside of Clinton (believe it or not).

If you keep scrolling you will see news and sports, and then crime and opinion - a link to our Facebook page - then Special Sections.

Here, for the longest time, we had some old sections, brought over when we changed website formats. Those have been updated (the next place we have to work on is Video, those posted there are old, and we have some decisions to make about their updating and placement).

What excites me is the way our newest Special Sections look - a Winter Sports section that highlights a lot of the competition of this winter and tells how there is still time after its publication date (Jan. 17) to catch some basketball and wrestling in and around Clinton. The colors on these PDFs really pop and, to me, it is easily scrollable.

The other section there is last football season's 100th Anniversary of Clinton High Football - a rich history that was highlighted through the work of many people connected to the Red Devils. I was just along for the ride - The Chronicler, if you will.

Many thanks to Buddy Bridges for the idea to publish this section AFTER, not before, the celebration. Originally, the idea was "before" to encourage attendance, but we and others encouraged that in different ways. My work, and the awesome photography of Fletcher Pruitt Jr., made that special day - and that special heritage - come to life.

This is what a Newsman lives for - to see his or her work on display, where it is easily accessible. We will never not be a newspaper, our web is content-extra. It's just so cool when that content looks so darn good.

January: we hardly knew you

By Dr. David O'Shields

Welcome to the new semester, the new calendar year, and the month nearly gone. January…we hardly knew you.

Students returned to school on January 4, 2024, only to be out of school less than a week later due to the forecast of high wind speed and torrential rains, along with the safe operation of school buses.

I'm a crusty old educator (forty-two years in and counting), and I know the whole story my dad used to tell me about "trudging uphill to AND from school in the snow for miles." I can say (and this is no exaggeration) that we went to school the day before and the day after Hurricane Hugo in September 1989 (Hugo hit the SC coast at night.).

Yet today, in 2024, we are in a different place and time. The SC Department of Education, in conjunction with the Office of Transportation, provides guidance for "High Winds and School Buses;"

Operating Buses - When wind forces of 30 MPH or greater strike the side of a school bus, the forces exerted can exceed 500 pounds. Forces of this magnitude can significantly impact steering control and tracking of school buses in motion. This is true for sustained winds of 30 MPH or greater, or wind gusts greater than 40 MPH.

No one can or should argue with safety since we are most concerned about safety even if, back in the day (insert the time when you were in school here), we may not have followed this or any other guidance.

I recognize nobody likes getting out for wind and rain (Where have all of our snow days gone?); however, the risk and liability of accidents dramatically increase in any form of inclement weather. Cars and buses are better today than when I was in school, but older cars (such as I had in high school) were heavier, even if they were not as safe as we now have.

Other than the two hiccups with the weather (see above and then again that Friday, January 12, things in the district are splendid.

Our middle and high school athletic teams are doing incredibly well (Coaches Gardner and Wright notched their 100th and 250th wins in ladies' basketball and wrestling, respectively.).

Eastside Elementary School will open the National "Leader in Me" conference in Charlotte, NC TODAY (Wednesday, January 31). The program focuses on the "Seven Habits of Highly Successful People" and will showcase their chorus, cheerleaders, and even the opening speakers for the conference.

The CMS and CHS Science Olympiad Team competed at the Penn State Invitational during the second weekend in January and earned several top-ten finishes against stiff competition.

The Laurens County Community Theatre and Clinton High School hosted "The Little Mermaid" in the auditorium on January 26 and 27 and will host February 1 - 3, 2024.

Many things are happening in our little district. Better news to come…I can't release it yet.

See you in February. Stay safe, dry, and out of the wind… and if you are the sentimental type, think snow.

Dr. David O'Shields is Superintendent of District 56.

The Clinton Chronicle

STAFF
Chris Patterson . General Manager/Sales
Vic MacDonald ..... Editor/Designer
Ally Padgett ..... Bookkeeping/Sales
Jamie Bishop, Johnny Jacks .....
Distribution

Member of South Carolina Press Association & National Newspaper Association. The editorials printed above are the opinion of the management of The Clinton Chronicle. They do not carry a byline because they represent the opinion of the newspaper. Columns are the personal opinions of the writer and may not reflect the views of The Chronicle.

Letters to the Editor are written by readers of The Chronicle. **We will not print unsigned letters.**

All advertisements are accepted and published by the Publisher upon the representation that the advertiser/agency is authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter thereof. Is is understood that the advertiser/agency will indemnify and save the Publisher harmless from or against any loss or expense arising out of publication of such advertisements, including without limitation. those resulting from claims of libel, violation of rights or privacy, plagarism and copyright infringement.

Assistance Request



Laurens County Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Motes is currently undergoing tremendous health issues, facing the challenge of kidney cancer which has metastasized to both his lungs and his brain.

On Friday, January 19th, Chris had a seizure and an MRI showed a tumor on his brain. This Thursday January 25th, Chris will undergo a radiosurgery procedure to prepare him for a very extensive surgery on Friday, January 26th to remove the brain tumor.

This procedure will render him unable to return to work for a significant amount of time. Medical bills and expenses related to follow-up appointments will still require payment. In addition, Motes' wife Tabitha works for the Laurens County Sheriff's Office Animal Control. Due to the nature of Deputy Motes' health and surgery, Tabitha will be out of work as well to care for him during his recovery.

Let's come together to rally behind one of our own, a brave deputy who selflessly serves and protects. Chris and Tabitha are both kind and giving people who need our help. LCSO will stand by them during this difficult journey.

You can donate using this FundTheFirst fundraiser link

https://fundthefirst.com/campaign/laurens-county-deputy-fighting-brain-tumor-and-lung-cancer-ibyihy. You can also donate via Venmo to @LaurensCountySheriff using Motes as the memo. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Laurens County Sheriff's Office during normal business hours, please specify the donation is for "Motes."

LCWSC - from Page 1

ville system. But the "blip" of water purchased from Clinton made that proportion more like 50-50, which did not escape the glance of observant board members. Greenville Water purchased are up also because developers are flushing lines - sometimes leaving the water running over a weekend - in subdivisions of the fast-growing area south of Simpsonville and Fountain Inn; the board was told a subdivision on Wells Road, 500 lots, behind the ZF Transmissions plant is a big water user.

The developers are billed for his water, even if it's just going into the ground.

Most of the new taps that LCWSC is installing feed off Greenville Water, because the houses are being built in the north, and not off lake water from the south. Once LCWSC improves a tank and connections on Metric Road, it will have the ability to pump more Lake Greenwood water north. These upgrades will include a 16-inch water in the area north of Laurens. To increase water sales there even more, Field said LCWSC is going to have to invest in sewer lines for the area, if there is the demand from homeowners and developers moving away from septic tanks.



Clinton Fire Department, Clinton SC November 13, 2023:

CFD was dispatched to Highway 56 South, Clinton on Sunday for an overturned vehicle. Arriving on scene, firefighters found a tanker on its side leaking jet fuel. Capt. Ryan Garrett, Lt. Will Sickles, and Firefighter Eric Caughorn jumped into action to stop and seal the leak. Other Firefighters assisting on scene were Fire Chief Jeremy Marshall, Capt. Boyd Taylor, Firefighter Engineer Scott Haney and Firefighter Nate Hall and Capt. Ashley Plaxico and Firefighter Zach Lollis from Joanna Fire Department. Just another day of teamwork from multiple departments doing what they do best!

- Facebook Photo

AT YOUR SERVICE

GIVE US A CALL
FOR FRONT DOOR SERVICE

For information about advertising here contact Chris at 864-833-1900, if you have a mobile business.



ON TIME HEAT & AIR
163 Asten Rd, Clinton
• 864-697-5050 • 864-547-2233
ontimesc.com



LCWSC
3850 Hwy 221 S., Laurens
864-682-3250 • 1-800-358-3445 •
lcwsc.com



CNNGA
1643 Springdale Dr, Clinton • 864-833-1862
668 Wilson Rd, Newberry • 803-276-1550
1-800-221-8109 • cnnga.com



Hanna Heating & Air Conditioning
307 Jacobs Hwy., Clinton
864-833-7337 • hannaheatingandac.com



BLUE SKY CHIMNEY SWEEPS
4314 Hwy 49, Laurens
864-682-5422 • blessyourhearth.com