



Photo by John Clayton

OATHS OF OFFICE — From left, Laurens County Councilmen Stewart Jones, Jeff Carroll, Kemp Younts, Probate Judge Kaye Fridy, Treasurer Cynthia Burke and Treasurer Jim Coleman are sworn into office Thursday by County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks Thursday at the Hillcrest Judicial Complex.

- Office -

(Continued from page 1)

Replacing the retiring Ted Nash on council, Younts is representing the Fountain Inn area in northern Laurens County. Younts, who has been attending council meetings regularly as has Carroll, said a recent forum for newly elected officials held in Columbia was an eye opener for him.

“The whole thing was for first-time council members so I went there and learned a lot or got familiarized with a lot,” he said, noting that he believes he can fit in well with the current make up of county council.

Jones, who was unopposed in the GOP primary as well as the general election, is now running to fill the South Carolina House of Representatives seat vacated by the retired Mike Pitts. He said he is looking forward to working with new members of council.

“I think new members are great,” said Jones, who is beginning his second term on council. “We’ve got some great insight coming onto council and I think it’ll do a lot for Laurens County.”

- Babies -

(Continued from page 1)

The Women’s Life Center, which opened in December 2012, has seen a steady increase each year in the numbers of babies born here, said Ashley Albert, RNC-OB, the nurse manager of the center.

“There were 363 babies born in 2018 and that includes four sets of twins,” Albert said. “I think sometimes people assume in a smaller hospital that you can’t deliver twins here, but as long as they are at 35 weeks or greater, they’re usually about 5 pounds and they are safe to deliver.”

Albert said education about the importance of prenatal care seems to be making a difference, but The Women’s Life Center still gets some patients who waited longer to get prenatal care.

“I think everybody is pretty clued in to the importance of prenatal care, but there are still some who may not understand that it needs to be early care,” Albert said. “Early prenatal care is really one of the major keys to having a successful delivery and having a healthy baby, and we definitely see the outcomes are better.”

Albert became The Women’s Life Center nurse manager in February, having come from Bon Secours Health System. She said she has been impressed with the care of The Women’s Life Center staff, and women give very positive feedback. “I go on daily patient rounds and have been impressed by the feedback on the nursing care and physician care that is so positive.”

Patients appreciate being part of The Women’s Center, she said, which allows those women in labor to go straight up to the second floor center rather than going through the Emergency Department, which was the required system before the center opened.

“I also think the positive experience has to do with the camaraderie between the staff and patients,” Albert said, “because it’s such a memorable experience in the patients’ lives.”

That’s especially true for those nurses and doctors who have worked there many years, Albert said.

“I’m new to GHS, but I’ve been in obstetrics for 20 years, and people will recognize you as the nurse or physician that helped them when their babies were born,” Albert said. “And it’s the same way here. To be a part of that type of experience for people is such an awesome job.”

Laurens County Assessor's Office Closure

The Laurens County Assessor's Office, located in the Judicial Services Complex at 100 Hillcrest Square, will be closed to the public for approximately 4 weeks beginning January 21, 2019, while undergoing HV/AC and roof repairs. Our staff will be available to assist by telephone at (864)984-6546.

Please also visit our websites at:
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Police chase ends with accident, manhunt

By John Clayton
Editor

A car chase that began in Laurens County and ultimately involved three law enforcement agencies Tuesday ended with a vehicle crash on Highway 25 in Greenville County.

One of the suspects in the vehicle was reportedly injured and transported to Greenville Memorial Hospital, where he remained Thursday. Another man, described as about 6-foot tall, 180 pounds with medium-length hair and wearing a red shirt after the wreck evaded arrest on foot.

Neither of the suspects' names has been made public.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol initiated the chase on Highway 72 at 12:37 p.m. when the vehicle was clocked going 65 m.p.h. in a 45 m.p.h. zone, and the suspects refused to pull over for the blue light. The chase was suspended due to “deteriorating road conditions” caused by inclement weather, said SCHP Trooper Bill Rhine.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office Deputies spotted the vehicle a short time later on Highway 76 in Princeton. Again, the suspects attempted to flee, this time traveling on Highway 25 toward Greenville.

According to LCSO Capt. Robert Wilkie, the suspects were alleged to have a stolen gun in their possession, and the vehicle registration did not match its license plate. The suspect in custody also has multiple traffic offenses on his record.

A spokesman from the Greenville County Sheriff's Department said the suspect in custody will face charges in Laurens County.

The suspect who fled on foot is still at large, despite a search that involved a helicopter and police K-9s that was called off around 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Ambulance involved in wreck

An accident involving a Laurens County EMS ambulance on Sunday night, Dec. 30, is still under investigation, according to EMS Director Matt Pennington.

The ambulance apparently skidded off the road and down an embankment at Milam Road gorge. No injuries were reported.

Pennington said the ambulance sustained significant damage due to the wreck, but he does not have a damage estimate as of yet.

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Diabetes 101
Thurs., Jan. 10 • 10-11 a.m. • Laurens County Memorial Hospital, Women's Life Center
Those with diabetes can receive basic information on the condition along with tips and ideas for simple meal and lifestyle changes to help manage diabetes. Free; no registration needed. Call 864-455-4003 for more information.

Celebrate Laurens County!
Thurs., Jan. 24 • 5:45-7:30 p.m. • The Ridge at Laurens, 301 Exchange Road
Learn about the resources available in the Laurens County community to help you eat healthy and live an active lifestyle. Speakers will discuss nutrition, local trails and outdoor resources, and more. Free; no registration required.

Girls on the Run
February-May • Times and locations vary
This program combines training for a 5K with esteem-enhancing workouts for girls ages 8-15. Scholarships and payment plans available. Register at ghs.org/girlsontherun.

Welcome, Dr. Bruce Marshall!
Bruce Marshall, MD, has joined GHS General Surgery in Laurens, located at 1012 Medical Ridge Road in Clinton. He can be reached at 864-833-3852.

Unless noted otherwise, registration is required for each event. To register, learn more or see a schedule of events, visit ghs.org/events.

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