

## Clinton fire district to conduct smoke alarm blitz

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, Clinton Fire, the City of Clinton, South Carolina State Fire, and the Palmetto South Carolina Region of the American Red Cross are teaming together to conduct a smoke alarm blitz to ensure every home in the Clinton Fire District has working smoke alarms.

In order to make certain enough requested smoke alarms are on hand, citizens who would like to obtain free smoke alarms should sign up to receive them on the City's website, [www.city-of-clinton.com](http://www.city-of-clinton.com) or the City of Clinton Facebook page. Citizens will also be able to sign up during a visit to the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center or the Clinton Fire Department. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Feb. 13.

"Pre-registering allows our staff time to preplan the installation process," Clinton Fire Department Chief Phillip Russell said. "This method also lets residents be prepared for about a 15-minute home visit by

one of our installation crews."

For safety and reassurance, installation crews will be wearing official uniforms with proper identification. Crews will also share important exit drill information and other life safety tips. Assigned staff members will install the alarms, which have a 10 year life span, and work until the last alarm is installed.

Chief Russell has one request, "Please help us spread the word," he said. "We want every home to have the minimum number of necessary smoke alarms as they serve as the first notification of an emergency and provide valuable seconds one needs to exit the home."

State research reveals, during the past five years across the state, 445 citizens have lost their lives to fire. With 66 percent of these fire deaths occurring in the home.

For questions regarding the smoke alarm blitz or any other fire safety question contact Clinton Fire at 864-833-7507.

## United Way to begin collecting 'Bags of Love' for senior citizens

United Way of Laurens County (UWLC) is collecting "Bags of Love" gift bags to provide to Meals on Wheels recipients and other senior adults in Laurens County. They are looking for participation from local community members, businesses and other organizations in collecting these Bags of Love to be distributed during the week of Valentine's Day.

Small gift bags may be filled with travel-sized personal care items, such as toothpaste, pens, stationery, stamps, activity books, tissues, etc. A list of suggested bag items and more information can be found at [www.uwlc-online.org](http://www.uwlc-online.org).

All bags can be dropped off at the United Way office at 16 Peachtree Street in Clinton, or at the Piedmont Area Agency on Aging facility (Meals on Wheels headquarters), located at 512 Professional Park Road. All items should be delivered on or before the collection deadline of Monday, Feb. 11.

All bags not distributed through the Meals on Wheels



program are given out to residents of local senior residential facilities. Last year, 1,007 gift bags were collected and given to many grateful senior citizens.

For more information on the Bags of Love program, or to volunteer to help pick up and deliver bags, please contact the United Way office at 864-833-3623.



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF** — That's the Rotary Club motto and no one exemplifies this more than King Dixon. The Club was proud to recognize him as Rotarian of the Month to kick off 2019. This is voted on by the members of the club and King is certainly an inspiration to many! Pictured are King Dixon and Chris Benson-Rotary President.

## Attorney argues self defense in Langford murder trial

By John Clayton

Editor

The defense attorney for Marquis Jermaine Langford said Wednesday that Langford shot and killed another young Clinton man in June 2007 in self defense.

After being extradited back to Laurens County from Las Vegas, Nev., Langford is on trial at the Hillcrest Judicial Complex for the murder of Sylvester Brown. Langford was arrested by Clinton Police soon after the shooting at Suber Trailer Park on June 25, 2007.

Defense attorney Jeff Wilkes of Greenville said in his opening statement that Langford shot Brown because

he thought Brown had a gun.

Brown, 18, later died at Laurens County Memorial Hospital. Langford was 19 at the time of the shooting.

Witnesses testified that the altercation between the two started with name calling.

If Brown was carrying a gun at the time of the shooting, it was never found, police said.

The trial continues this week. Eighth Circuit Deputy Solicitor Warren Mowry is leading the prosecution in front of Judge Donald B. Hocker.

Hocker ruled earlier this week that Langford was competent to stand trial after the defense raised questions as to Langford's competency.

## Tiller

(Continued from page 1)

Tiller has been the principal of Clinton High since 2011. In her tenure, Tiller helped the school increase its on-time graduation rate and End of Course passage rate. Both statistics were recognized in 2017 by U.S. News and World Report magazine.



Maureen Tiller

She was also previously the principal of M.S. Bailey Elementary (2002-06) and Bell Street Middle School (2006-09). Because of that she was able to be the principal for an entire group of students within District 56 - from 4K through high school. Tiller was also the executive director of the Instruction K-12 program, which "reinforces her instructional knowledge and leadership experience station-wide, including career and technical education."

Her first experience with District 56 came in 1999, when she was hired to be the coordinator of programs for students with disabilities.

"Mrs. Tiller has touched the lives of countless students, parents and staff throughout the years she has worked for Laurens 56," said District 56 Superintendent David O'Shields. "The district and Clinton High School are all the better for her leadership. We wish her the best in her new endeavor. She will be greatly missed."

Clinton announced a search for Tiller's replacement will begin immediately.

PAID FOR BY SEYMOUR FOR HOUSE

### The right voice for Laurens County

**MICHAEL SEYMOUR**  
REPUBLICAN  
HOUSE DIST. 14

**VOTE FEB. 19<sup>TH</sup>**

They supported our freedom. Now we support theirs.

**Martha Franks**  
SKILLED NURSING CENTER  
LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA

VA Contract 864-681-8280 [www.MarthaFranks.com](http://www.MarthaFranks.com)

A COMMUNITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST MINISTRIES OF AGING

## Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

be used for," Cannon said of the tourism-related funds. "It can't go to salaries."

Many of the visitors at the Tuesday evening resident input session were hoping for some changes in the recreational park, primarily related to moving baseball fields closer together and enlarging or adding multi-purpose fields for soccer.

"I'm going to start taking comments and start moving away from the conceptual plan to a master plan," said Ross.

While Ross said that he wasn't aware baseball fans would want to use the fields for tournament purposes, he said they could see if the fields could be placed closer, but it might require moving more dirt which will add to the cost. Cannon said he's hoping to see as little dirt-moving as possible.

"It does make sense but if you take a half foot dirt and have to move it over two fields you're probably talking six numbers," he said of the extra cost. "That's something Glen will break down for us. If it was all level, you could do it but you can get into a situation on spending money moving dirt and I'd rather see it go into the fields and infrastructure inside the parks."

The lack of suitable soccer fields was a concern to Jeff Smith, who explained that he and Justin Brent currently have to take their travel soccer league to Mauldin and Simpsonville to practice because of the lack of field space in Clinton.

"Different ages need different size fields," Smith said, referring to the two small multi-purpose fields on the concept drawing.

Cannon said the city would concentrate on the ball field area of the sports complex as a first phase project, and later it could address the plans for an amphitheater.

"This will be a 3,000 seat amphitheater," Mayor Bob McLean said. "I think Laurens' amphitheater seats, what, 200? I think it's 200 that Laurens can seat and ours will seat 3,000."

McLean was referring to the Little River Amphitheater on Gordon Street in Laurens, which was built in 2004 and accommodated several thousand people for the free inaugural concert by Hootie and the Blowfish.

Jason Pridgen, the Laurens Parks and Rec director, said country music star Justin Moore performed for 2,500 paid guests several years ago and free concerts and fireworks shows bring in more.

Cannon said the amphitheater is planned in an area that already drops so that grading would be minimal.

"I'm going to start taking comments and start moving away from the conceptual plan to a master plan," said Ross.

He told attendees asking about off-road bike paths that he could see if that could be possible on a steep wooded section of the property.

Like the pavilion, the recreational complex would be covered by accommodation and hospitality tax funds over several years, and with about a million dollars annually in revenue from combined accommodation tax and hospitality tax funds, Cannon said, it won't be a burden on the city.

"This is the starting point," Ross said. "We want to move from concepts to a master plan and then we can determine the costs."

The total property is close to 160 acres, and Ross said the complex is larger than normal for a city the size of Clinton. McLean said, however, that it's important to bring this land into the city limits in hopes that restaurants and hotels will follow between the park and the interstate.

"More than 50 percent of our city limits is tax exempt, and we have to get out to the interstate and increase our tax base," McLean said.

Cannon said a video of the entire input session has been posted to the City of Clinton, SC Facebook page, and the conceptual drawings are in the first floor of M.S. Bailey Municipal Center.

NEW!! Silhouette AUTHENTIC EYEWEAR. SINCE 1964.

OAKLEY Ray-Ban GENUINE SINCE 1937

We also carry SUNGLASSES in these brands, and more, that are all available with your prescription lenses.

Dr. Tom MacMillan  
Dr. Bernadine Donaldson

Family Eye Care CENTER

118 Musgrove Street, Clinton • 864-833-5555  
106 S Public Square, Laurens • 864-984-2020  
[www.tommacmillan.com](http://www.tommacmillan.com)

**SOUTHLAND HOMES**  
INVENTORY CLOSE-OUT SPECIALS

**PATRIOT 1484 SQ FT**  
Finished Sheet Rock, Ceramic Shower,  
Upgraded with Energy Star Appliances.  
**NOW ONLY \$89,789**

**SCHULT HOME RUN 16x72**  
Finished Sheet Rock, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, One Piece Tubs,  
Wood Grain Flooring, Energy Star.  
**NOW ONLY \$55,468**

**LIVE OAK 16x80(76)**  
3 Bed, 2 Bath, 8' Flat Ceilings,  
Upgraded Flooring, Large Living Room.  
**NOW ONLY \$49,936**

ALL HOMES PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY, SETUP, CEMENT BOARD SKIRTING, HEAT PUMP, (2) 4x6 DECKS

IN GREENWOOD ON HIGHWAY 25  
NORTH NEXT TO QUALITY NISSAN  
MON-FRI 8 AM-5 PM • SATURDAY 9 AM-3 PM  
NO CHARGE FOR CREDIT APPLICATIONS!  
1802 MONTAGUE EXT., GREENWOOD • 864-229-5603