



# McCormick Messenger

True to Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Country and Our God

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## In Brief

### Book Signing

Local author Allistar Banks' has written a new book, *A Colorful Balloon Ride*. It is available for purchase on Amazon and at McCaslan's Bookstore of Greenwood. Banks will be at the Chamber on Friday, Jan. 25 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. to sign her book.

### Important Meeting

The Rev. Holloway is calling an urgent meeting on Friday, Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the McCormick County Library. This meeting is for all pastors and other concerned citizens.

Rev. Holloway's personal lobbyist has given him some concerns the citizens need to prepare for in McCormick County.

### Lunch and Learn!

Plan to join the McCormick County Democratic Women Tuesday, Jan. 29 at noon at the Talmadge Center, 1319 South Main Street. Lunch conversation abounds! For more information, contact Paula Goldman at 391-2525.

### Chamber Dinner

The Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Thursday, Jan. 31, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Talmadge Fitness & Wellness Center. This is a great opportunity to meet Chamber members, consider becoming a member if you are not already, and to network with your local community. Guest speaker will be Mike Ellis from the Little River Electric Company.

### Historical Tour

Award winning historian Jenny Kelly will conduct a tour of historic sites to celebrate an ongoing renovation of historical markers beginning at 3 p.m. on Feb. 3. The guided tour will start at Long Cane Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, established 1771. The tour will continue to historical sites: the Long Cane Massacre, the Revolutionary Battle of Long Cane, and Colonial Era Fort Boone.

For more information contact Jenny Hagen Kelly at 864-379-2753.

### Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

Feb. 5, 8:30 - 10 a.m. at the Chamber office on Main Street. This month's breakfast is hosted by Larnell Leverette of Vision and Dreams Special Events. The speaker is Terrence Townsend, the Red Cross senior recruitment specialist for volunteer services.

### Time Management Workshop

Feb. 6, at the Chamber, Main Street, 10 a.m. - noon. Time management is an essential skill for the small business owner who wears many hats. This workshop will teach how to better manage your time to perform your daily tasks more efficiently. This is the fourth in a series of five workshops sponsored by The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Freshwater Coast Community Foundation, South Carolina Small Business Development Center and the McCormick County Chamber of Commerce. For more information email info@mccormickchamber.org or call 864-852-2835

Guest Speaker: Wilder Ferreira, Lecturer, Clemson University.

The event is free, however they do ask that you sign up in advance.

### CWP Class

Police Chief Bo Willis will be conducting a concealed weapon permit class on Saturday, Feb. 9 beginning at 8 a.m. at the McCormick Sheriff's office on Augusta St. Ext. Cost is \$50. Call 852-2985 to register.

### Building Bridges

The McCormick Community Relations Council Annual Banquet will be held Feb. 9 at the McCormick Middle School Gym. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Chris Singleton will speak on Building Bridges of Hope & Healing.

### Prayer Line

What are your needs? Let us pray. Call in prayer line every Wednesday 5:30 a.m. 218-632-0999. Pin#622939. Fountain of Life Out Reach Ministry.



McCormick County Sheriff Clarke Stearns (left) and retired McCormick County Deputy Bobby Rushton (right) were present to congratulate Robert "Ty" Rushton for graduating from the S.C. Criminal Justice Training Academy with Class One Law Enforcement credentials. The two Rushtons are the latest of three generations of Rushton family law enforcement officers.

## Deputy Ty Rushton graduates from criminal justice academy

By Bob Stockton

McCormick County Sheriff Deputy Robert "Ty" Rushton graduated from the S.C. Criminal Justice Training Academy (SCCJTA) last week to further enhance the Rushton Family's three generations of McCormick County law enforcement.

"We are extremely proud of Deputy Rushton," said McCormick County Sheriff Clarke Stearns. "Ty is extremely dedicated and committed to the law enforcement profession, and I'm confident he will be an asset to the McCormick County Sheriff's Office. We welcome him into our law enforcement family."

Rushton graduated with Class One Law Enforcement credentials. The SCCJTA is a vigorous and difficult curriculum to complete.

Basic training is a 12-week program in which deputies and officers are tested in various skill sets such as legal (S.C. Code of Laws), criminal investigations, patrol techniques, domestic assault and battery cases and more. They are also taught the latest in firearm proficiency and driver training techniques.

"Deputy Rushton comes from a long line of law enforcement heritage," Stearns said. "His grandfather Buddy Rushton was once a McCormick County deputy and his father Bobby Rushton is a retired McCormick County deputy."

"Both Buddy and Bobby were in attendance at the graduation ceremony, and Ty's father Bobby presented him with his certification. With a pedigree like his, Ty is part of a legacy that we welcome, and all of us at the McCormick Sheriff's Office are extremely proud of him," said Stearns.



McCormick County Republicans Pam Shumway (left) and Marge Elmore (second from right) are pictured with Peggy McMaster and Governor Henry McMaster at the gubernatorial inauguration in Columbia on Jan. 9. (See story on page 3)

## Sheriff's need for protection equipment draws donations

By Bob Stockton

McCormick residents recently demonstrated their support for the McCormick County Sheriff's Office by donating more than \$9,000 to the department to buy protective equipment for deputies.

McCormick Lions Club member Jerry Dargis led a three-day campaign at the Savannah Lakes Village Recreation Center that attracted 251 contributors donating \$8,813 to the cause. Combined with donations from 120 contributors at a Good Shepherd Catholic Church pancake breakfast and from members of the McCormick Car Club at a holiday dinner, the goal has been reached.

"Contributions were more than generous," said Dargis. "Sitting at a table and receiving donations was really moving."

"I thought I knew a lot of people in the Village, but I met so many more and hope we can meet again. Thanks to the volunteers who helped over the three days. This community is amazing. Thank you," Dargis said.

Deputies were busy last week with a dog bite, a stolen car and firearm and drug possession.

A toddler in the Lost Wilderness area was bitten by a dog and brought to the medical center. Deputies called the dog owner, directed him to quarantine the dog, isolate it from people and other dogs and informed the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) of the incident. The case remains under DHEC investigation.

A car was reported stolen from in front of Sam's convenience store in Clarks Hill, Sunday, Jan. 13. The owner said he was in the store for a few minutes, then realized his truck was missing. The truck contained two handguns and a cell phone.

Five days later, Friday, Jan. 18, the vehicle was involved in a police pursuit in Richmond County, Ga. The driver crashed the vehicle and ran into nearby woods. Richmond County deputies impounded the vehicle, processed it for fingerprints and are continuing to work the case with McCormick.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, deputies made a traffic stop for speeding, wrote a citation, then smelled an odor of marijuana. Deputies conducted a probable cause search, found both marijuana and a handgun, and arrested the driver for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of marijuana. They transported him to the detention center for booking and to await a bond hearing.

## Police dept. makes arrest in car break-ins

The Town of McCormick had several reports over the last few weeks of unlocked vehicles being broken into and items being taken out. The investigation leads to a possible suspect who was identified as Jakenzie D. Moore, a black male 21 years of age. After enough evidence was collected, an arrest warrant was issued and the subject was taken into custody. Moore has been charged with one count of attempted motor break in and one count of breaking into a motor vehicle.

The McCormick Police Department encourages residents to keep their vehicles locked at all times. Do not leave valuables inside the car.

## Energy and rental/mortgage assistance funds are now available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and General Emergency Assistance Program (GEAP) are federally-funded programs designed to assist eligible low-income households meet home heating, cooling, and housing needs. Home energy is defined as residential heating and cooling, and to increase energy self-sufficiency; thereby reducing the vulnerability resulting from energy needs. The LIHEAP program is also designed to intervene in energy-related crisis situations and to conduct outreach. The GEAP program provides rental/mortgage assistance for individuals facing immediate eviction. The GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) LIHEAP and GEAP programs are making appointments for energy and rental assistance. Some of the goals of the LIHEAP and GEAP programs for the 2019 program year are to expand outreach to previously un-served households, reduce and/or prevent poverty, increase efficiency of energy usage, and target energy and rental assistance to eligible households with the highest needs and lowest incomes. For additional information, contact the local GLEAMNS Community Services Grant (CSBG) Case Manager, Torsha Harrison in the McCormick office at 864-852-2662.