



McCormick Messenger

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

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Military Monument to be unveiled by Mims Foundation

By Dr. James A. Franklin Sr.

The Mims Foundation will unveil the Mims Military Monument on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. The monument is located at the corner of Mims Drive and Kelly Street in McCormick.

The monument was scheduled to be unveiled in May of 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. Rather than to wait until May again, the foundation decided to hold the unveiling in concert with the unveiling of the Dr. W. S. Mims Media Center by the McCormick County Board of Education which is scheduled for Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.

The design of the Mims Military Monument is to honor all McCormick County citizens who served our country during peace time and during military conflicts and wars. A portion of the site is dedicated to those McCormick County patriots who died in battle, and is represented by red bricks.

Highlighted in the monument are the words: Valor, Sacrifice, and Service. The colors of red, white, and blue are used in the design of the monument with the Star of Valor on top of the structure.

The three sons of Dr. Mims served their country. William J. Mims was in the United States Marines. Thales Mims was an officer in the United States Navy. Talmadge Mims was a United States Foreign Service Officer. Five of my six brothers were proud to serve as members of the United States Navy. Two served in combat in World War II and one served in the Korean War.

Hundreds of Mims students served their country in all branches of the Armed Services, to include the United States Air Force, the United States Navy, the United States Army, the United States Marines, the United States Coast Guard, and the United States National Guard.

Patriotism was at the forefront of Mims schools' instruction. In the Mims schools, United States History was a requirement for all of his students. The students of the Mims schools sang patriotic songs at every Friday assembly and said the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom every day.

At the Mims Military Monument site, a number of family members chose to have a brick placed there to honor their loved ones. Those bricks are in place at the site.

Several former Mims students who served in the military will be on program at the unveiling. Rev. Felton Price Jr., a 1961 graduate of Mims High School, and a former member of the United States Army will bring the dedication message.

The public is invited to attend, however CDC protocols must be followed, to include the wearing of a mask and maintaining social distancing. Conditions permitting, a Mims Military Parade, which was postponed from last year, is planned for May, 2021.

In Brief

Power Outage

McCormick CPW will have a planned power outage on Thursday, Feb. 18 from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. (weather permitting). This is necessary for required routine maintenance at the substation. They apologize for any inconvenience to the customers.

Inclement weather date will be Feb. 25 at the same times.

Super Sale

Mask up and come on over to the Humane Society's super sale at "The Garage" this Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and score some great deals! Wander thru two buildings chock full of new and previously loved items all at hard to beat prices. And if that wasn't enough to get you to slather on the hand sanitizer, all proceeds go to saving lives and finding homes for McCormick's cats and dogs. The Garage is located on Highway 28 next door to Huddle House and across the street from Burger King.

Private socially distanced appointments may also be scheduled as available for Tuesdays and Thursdays during the hours noon - 3 p.m. Appointments must be made in advance please. To schedule a showing or to donate an item, please phone or text Rosemarie at 864-391-1909 or Al at 706-831-5697.

Blood Drive

The McCormick County Chamber of Commerce will host a blood drive on Thursday, March 4 from 2 - 6 p.m.

The Blood Connection Mobile from Greenwood will be located in the McCormick United Methodist Church parking lot, 210 E. Gold Street, McCormick.

To make an appointment, go to donate.bloodconnection.org/m/donor/schedules/sponsor_code



The new Piedmont Technical College President Dr. Hope Rivers (center) meets with McCormick County Council Chair Charles Jennings (right) and County Administrator Columbus Stephens. Rivers also met McCormick business community members at a chamber of commerce breakfast. -StocktonPhoto

New PTC President Rivers visits McCormick, meets local leaders

By Bob Stockton

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) has a new president, and she spent a day in McCormick County last week.

"I came to McCormick to meet and greet local officials and business community members to talk about local issues," said Dr. Hope Rivers.

"I have no particular theme or agenda, but just to better understand community needs and understand the culture," she said.

Rivers became PTC president early last month after serving as executive vice president of the S.C. technical college system. PTC has campuses in seven South Carolina counties, with two campuses in Laurens and Greenwood counties.

"I think it's important for me to get out to all our satellite campuses so they get to know me and recognize that they are important to me," said Rivers.

She met McCormick business leaders at a McCormick County Chamber of Commerce breakfast, then met with PTC Commissioner Cherry Brown and staff, then McCormick County Council members.

"We talked about PTC and its role in adult education so adults can prepare themselves for higher education and job growth," said Council Chair Charles Jennings.

"I have a passion to make young people aware of and recognize all the opportunities they have to prepare for growth," Rivers said. "We have more growth potential for the McCormick campus and want to get people more excited about what's happening at PTC."

"I've learned that McCormick has a lot of pride and that the school superintendent, director of curriculum and high school principal are top notch. I want to figure out ways for us to partner even better," she said.

PTC and McCormick High already have a dual enrollment program that gives high school students college credits while in high school.

"We also have excellent apprentice programs at companies like BMW and ZF transmissions," Rivers said. "They offer a pathway for success, a trajectory for a career."

Rivers has also met John de la Howe Superintendent Tim McKeown via the Western Piedmont Education Consortium.

Pallet maker looking for plant in McCormick

By Bob Stockton

S.C. State Senator Billy Garrett participated in a McCormick Chamber of Commerce breakfast last Monday and mentioned a possibility of a new business in the county.

"Anthony Hayes is working with the county and chamber to find a location for a wood factory," Garrett said.

Hayes currently owns plants in Greenwood and Florence that make pallets, and he's looking for a third plant to create wood stock for pallet making.

His wife, Leslie, would own and manage the plant, to employ five or 10 people to start. It would represent an initial investment of approximately \$500,000 and \$2 million in annual business.

"It might grow into a sawmill," Garrett said. "I've talked with him generally, but need to know more details."

Garrett has scheduled a virtual meeting of Little River Electric Cooperative's solar panel users and customers, according to McCormick County Councilman Chuck Cook.

The meeting is to begin at 2 p.m., Friday, March 5, to discuss a reduction in subsidies of the rates customers receive for generating electricity to the power grid and other related issues.

Garrett plans to invite members of the McCormick and Abbeville County legislative delegations to participate along with Little River representatives. Other participants may include the state Central cooperative, which has been providing the subsidies, representatives of Little River solar panel users, customers and technical experts.

Presentations are to be followed by a question and answer session. Questions are to be submitted via email by those viewing the presentations online.

Little River representatives have agreed to consider the positions of participants and issues raised during the meeting by users and customers in making future decisions on this matter.

866 COVID cases in McCormick

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announced 866 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in McCormick County and 23 confirmed deaths on Feb. 14.

DHEC reported a total of 490,453 cases of COVID-19 in the state and 8,055 confirmed deaths.

Vaccine Appointments

If you are 65 or older, you can now make an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

You can make an appointment by visiting [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxlocator) to see the locations accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccine. Pick a location and contact the provider to make an appointment. You may also call DHEC's COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-866-365-8110 for help finding contact information to make an appointment.

Random Acts of Kindness Week Feb. 15 - 21 Wednesday, Feb. 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day

By Linda Kidd

The week of Feb. 15-21 is Random Acts of Kindness Week. When you check the RAK website, you find that the belief behind this initiative is that everyone can use more kindness in their lives. Scientific evidence shows us the positive effects of doing kind acts for others as well as receiving or even witnessing kindness. Even the smallest act of kindness can change a life.

We hear of seemingly insignificant moments where a stranger helps another stranger and impacts the rest of their life with a small gesture. When we tune into kindness happening around us, the day seems a little brighter. The week seems a little more manageable.

In February last year, the Church Council of McCormick United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Toni Graham, Council Chair, adopted a Kindness Project, inviting the church's congregation to participate. The students at McCormick High School were invited and did participate by performing and reporting acts of kindness. The project was publicized in the *McCormick Messenger* and the community was invited to participate as well.

Through the efforts of Barb Shelley and Rick Lindley, Communications Coordinators at McCormick UMC, a link was set up on the church website where entries of

Kindness Week, see page 3



As a part of their kindness observance, McCormick UMC asked that Mayor Roy Smith issue a proclamation declaring Wednesday, Feb. 17 as 2021 Random Acts of Kindness Day for the Town of McCormick. Mayor Smith (center) is shown presenting the proclamation to Barb Shelley and Rick Lindley, Communications Coordinators at McCormick UMC.