

In Brief

Planning Commission

The monthly meeting of the McCormick County Planning Commission will be held Thursday, Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parksville Town Hall. A public meeting will follow at 7 p.m. to discuss the new proposed Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. The public is encouraged to attend.

Children's Cooking Class

The McCormick County Library in cooperation with the Clemson Youth Learning Institute SNAP-Ed will offer a hands-on Children's Cooking Class on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the library. This unique class will include preparation of a recipe and will cover: learning how to measure liquid and dry ingredients, kitchen safety, nutritional values, My Plate healthy portions, and a black light demonstration of the importance of handwashing/cleanliness. Every child participating will receive a cookbook. This free program is designed for children ages 8-13. Please call or email the library to register. 864-852-2821 mccormicklibrary@hotmail.com

Library Hosts Author

Dr. James A. Franklin Sr. will discuss his memoir, *Golden Nuggets: Experiences in the Old South*, on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the McCormick Library. Born and raised in McCormick, and the youngest of twelve children, Dr. Franklin grew up in Dorn's Alley, in one of nine shanty houses located where the library stands today. He earned three degrees from S.C. State University and became a lifelong educator, serving as a teacher, principal, professor and superintendent. His presentation will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments.

Health Screening Events

Self Regional Healthcare's Full Circle Care Clinic and Community Prevention and Wellness will host community preventative health screening events on the following dates: Date: Sunday, Jan. 16. Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: New Hope Baptist Church, 1680 New Hope Rd., Plum Branch.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 20 Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: Shiloh AME Church, 405 SC Highway 10, McCormick.

Events are open to the public. Health education, preventative screenings, assistance with MyChart Activation and Telehealth appointments will be offered.

Pancake Breakfast

The Good Shepherd Men's Club is having a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will have your choice of regular, blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes with regular or spicy sausage, peaches and cream, orange juice and regular or decaf coffee. All you can eat for just \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Good Shepherd Catholic Church is located on highway 221 going toward Greenwood. To comply with COVID-19 requirements, the Men's Club will be serving customers at their tables for this breakfast.

CTC Meeting

The McCormick County Transportation Committee will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 9 a.m. in the McCormick County Administration Building.

Annual Meeting

The McCormick County Housing Authority on Aging will hold its annual public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the McCormick County Library.



The Atwell's were awakened at 3:30 a.m. last Monday morning. Don went out to be greeted by this scene and their 36-year-old Appaloosa mare was trapped inside one of the buildings. He called 911, grabbed his chainsaw, and McCormick volunteers responded. -Don Atwell photo

Don, Teresa & Cherry Atwell thank First Responders for swift rescue

By Bob Stockton

Last week's wind and rain resulted in many downed trees and other associated damage, and one of the more dramatic incidents happened at Don and Teresa Atwell's complex.

"About 3:30 a.m. on the morning of Monday, Jan. 3, the wind woke us and shortly thereafter we lost power," said Don. "The wind was brutal. Teresa ventured out for a look and saw the breezeway on the stall and tack room building was under a tree."

The Atwell's concern went far beyond the breezeway. That stall and tack room was the home of Cherry, their 36-year-old Appaloosa mare, who had been member of the family for 25 years.

"Upon further investigation, a large pine had fallen on Cherry's stall," Don said. "Naturally I sprung into action, as best I could at that hour, grabbed my chainsaw and went to assess the damage."

"It was massive. The stall and tack room were destroyed and most important, Cherry was pinned between a section of collapsed roof and the last standing wall."

"I called 911 and explained the situation. Within minutes Town of McCormick policeman Tim Price arrived and started helping move debris. A short time later, the fire department's Chief Mike Barron, firefighter Jay Gray and local Animal Control Officer Tabi Bentley arrived. Also, Firemen George Lewis, Zariya Lagroon and Eddie White were on the scene to assist as necessary."

"With the help of Mike, Jay and Tim we were able to get the roofing moved. While that was under way, Tabi crawled through a hole and assessed and calmed Cherry. After more rubble was removed, Tabi and I were able to guide Cherry out to safety."

"Our vet fit us into her already packed schedule. Her exam determined no catastrophic damage, all superficial, but needing attention to prevent infection," Atwell said.

Cherry's vet added that, "I think people

will be glad to know Cherry's 'family doctor' checked her out and made her comfortable, and a lot of the credit goes to the people who got her out."

"Those first responders could probably have done some of my job, but I can't do any of theirs. Way to go, team," said the vet.

"A huge THANK YOU to Tim, Mike, Jay and Tabi for the quick, efficient and professional yet personal response. Imagine, 4:45 a.m., gale force winds, rain and cold, everyone responding quickly and eagerly to save our horse."

"The buildings will be a complete demolition and replacement, a great start to the new year, but we are extremely fortunate to live in a community with this caliber of first responders," Atwell said.



Don and Teresa Atwell are very, very thankful to one and all who responded to the rescue of Cherry, their four-legged friend of 25 years. Responders included McCormick police, McCormick Volunteer Fire Department, Animal Control Officer Tabi Bentley and veterinarian. -StocktonPhoto



This is what the Atwell's two buildings looked like once the tree was removed. The stump in the foreground is the remainder and reminder of the incident. Obviously, the buildings are a total loss, but 36-year-old Cherry, who was sheltering inside from the windstorm, survived. -StocktonPhoto

School board approves purchase of UV scrubbers

By Chuck Cook

Despite some strong objections, the McCormick County School Board of Trustees approved the superintendent's recommendations to purchase 100 ultraviolet air scrubbers for classrooms and offices at the school complex. The vote on the issue was 5 to 1 with trustee Terry Wilson raising several issues regarding the proposal and voting against the measure. All members of the board except Ben White were present for their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 10 at the McCormick High School Media Center.

Financial consultant David Loadholt presented the district's recommendations regarding acquisition of the air scrubbers and indicated that 17 vendors had submitted proposals and bids. He outlined for the board the differences in the proposals submitted, which varied from centralized ultraviolet treatments using the existing HVAC system to small, modular units capable of disinfecting approximately 850 square feet of space in individual classrooms. The proposal from FAS-TRAK of Monee, Ill., that was submitted to the board for approval included the purchase of individual standing units at a cost of \$825 per unit, or \$82,500 in total. Maintenance costs under the bid were estimated at \$215 per year per unit. Funding of the project is expected to come from allocations under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund created under the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act that was passed and implemented in December 2020.

Trustee Wilson, who had made the original suggestion to the board that the district consider a UV system to improve air quality in the school complex, said he had expected to be reviewing a proposal using the existing HVAC system. His objections to the proposal included the assigning

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Reduction in paper size

Avid newspaper readers may have noticed a difference in the size of the papers they've read over the last several years. Traditionally, newspapers have been printed in the "broadsheet" format, usually measuring 15 inches wide by 22^{3/4} inches tall, but as costs have increased, more and more newspapers have moved to smaller page sizes in an effort to save on printing.

This trend has finally caught up with the *McCormick Messenger*. After a 21 percent increase in paper costs over 2021 and an additional increase this January, our printing partners at Greater Georgia Printers have opted to begin using a narrower broadsheet format, with a page width of 11 inches.

While the size of the paper in your hands may be smaller, and things may look a little bit different, rest assured that you can count on the *McCormick Messenger* to bring you the same high quality news reporting on all of the important events affecting McCormick County.

CWP Class

Police Chief Bo Willis will conduct a concealed weapons permit class on Saturday, Jan. 22 starting at 8 a.m. at the sheriff's office on Augusta Street Extension. For more information, call 852-2985.

Widows Connection

The Widows Connection resumes at McCormick United Methodist Church on Monday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. Sometimes women feel overwhelmed with everyday frustrations, stress and worry. This is a chance to meet with others in the same situation. They will begin with a six session series, "A Woman Overwhelmed... The Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus", a video series that will open up discussion on this topic. Come join them. Questions contact Toni Graham 391-4257 or dmgraham@wctel.net