



McCormick Messenger

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

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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In Brief

Health Screening Event

Self Regional Healthcare's Full Circle Care Clinic and Community Prevention and Wellness will host a community preventative health screening event on the following date: Sunday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Shiloh AME Church, 405 SC Highway 10, McCormick.

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

Democratic Women

Tuesday, Feb. 22, the McCormick County Democratic Women will be meeting at noon at the McCormick Library.

Please join them as they prepare for the March Precinct reorganization and County Convention. For further information, contact Paula Goldman 864-378-6129.

Wreaths Across America on Feb. 26

The Mobile Education Exhibit promoting Wreaths Across America can answer all your questions about their program to honor veterans. Plan to visit this exhibit on Feb. 26 in the Food Lion parking lot from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Recreation News

The McCormick Recreation Department is now accepting registration for youth baseball/softball. This is for boys and girls ages 4 to 12. You may register at the McCormick County Administration Center (next to Food Lion) Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Mims Civic Center. The last day to register is Feb. 25.

Open Enrollment

McCormick County School District will begin open enrollment for CERDEP/PRE-K and Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Pam Turman with any questions at 864-852-0620.

Cursive Workbooks

The Literacy Association now has cursive handwriting workbooks for adults, "Learning Cursive with Positive Affirmation & Inspirational Quotes." Call 864-852-3172 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to obtain one.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library board members will meet on March 1 to discuss potential changes to their existing by-laws. The gathering will be held at the McCormick Public Library at 1:30 p.m. in their meeting room on site. All current FOL members are encouraged to attend and provide comments.

Authors Night March 3

Maris Lawyer, the winner of the 2020 South Carolina Novel Prize will speak at the McCormick Library on Thursday, March 3 at 6 p.m. She will discuss her debut novel *Blue Line Down*, a breakneck tale of betrayal, loyalty, and unexpected homecoming that spans from West Virginia to South Carolina during the 1920s. The presentation will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome!

Free Books

McCormick County First Steps and Dolly Parton extend the invitation for you and your preschool aged child to enroll in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to receive free books. To be eligible the child must be preschool age (birth to age 5) and must be a resident of McCormick County. Contact NaToya Cartledge at McCormick County First Steps at 864-443-5382.



South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe

We are proud of our Aggies! At the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, learning occurs inside and outside the classroom. What an incredible way for our students to get a hands-on learning experience and at the same time renovating an old barn on the property! -Submitted by Bob Edmonds

Mayor Smith, McKinney speak on Town's Streetscape Project

McCormick Town Council met Feb. 8. Mayor Roy Smith and Clerk Treasurer Sandra McKinney gave an update on the Town's Streetscape Project. Mayor Smith spoke on the McCormick Veterans Memorial Park, while McKinney spoke on the Town's Municipal parking lot. While presenting council a power point presentation, Smith stated, "The Community Development Block Grant that the Town received would cover the cost of preparation and foundation of the park. However it would not pay for the items such as a flag pole, monuments, and metal benches that will be going in the park. We will be seeking sponsorship, donations, as well as offering a Buy a Brick Program." Smith also mentioned that he had sent letters to our delegative members requesting sponsorship as well.

In McKinney's presentation, she stated "That the streetscape design was complete,

but changes would be made to the parking lot area beside the fire station and the entrance to South Main St. The area would be graveled instead of paved, but was hopeful that when the bids would come in and the funds would be available to have the area paved." She further said, "That the DOT and CSX permits had been obtained and the architect was hoping to bid the project in April or May."

Under public comments, Marge Elmore spoke regarding the use of ARP Funds for renovations of the Log Cabin which could possibly be used as a community center. Heather McNally spoke regarding consideration of ARP Funding to offset the renovation of the MACK. Mayor Smith stated, "that he would take both requests under advisement and thanked them for their com-

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Proclamation

Random Acts of Kindness Day

WHEREAS, Random Acts of Kindness Day encourages people to do good deeds for others without asking for anything in return except to pay it forward to someone else in need, and

WHEREAS, the aim of the Random Acts of Kindness concept is to promote community spirit through intentional random acts of kindness, and

WHEREAS, the Random Acts of Kindness Day was first created in Denver, Colorado in 1995 and nine years later it spread to New Zealand in 2004 and is now celebrated worldwide and

WHEREAS, Random Acts of Kindness Day occurs this year during Random Acts of Kindness Week which is February 13 - 19, 2022, and

WHEREAS, many individuals this year continue to be caught up in a global coronavirus pandemic with their neighbors and Random Acts of Kindness Day is a great reminder of the positive energy we radiate when we realize the need to think of and give to others, and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence shows us the positive effects of doing kind acts for others as well as receiving or even witnessing kindness; even the smallest acts of kindness can change a life, so in 2022, we encourage everyone to Explore the Good and Make Kindness the Norm, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Smith, Jr., Mayor of the Town of McCormick, do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 17, 2022 to be

"Random Acts of Kindness Day"

In the Town of McCormick to recognize the importance of doing good deeds and to urge all citizens to observe Random Acts of Kindness Day with activities and acts of kindness that demonstrate and celebrate selfless giving.

In Witness Whereof I have Hereunto Set My Hand this 8th Day of February, 2022, and Have Caused the Seal of the Town of McCormick to Be Affixed Hereto.

Roy Smith, Jr., Mayor
Town of McCormick, SC

Multi-agencies search 222 acres, but fail to locate missing woman

By Bob Stockton

The search for Alexis Ware goes on after major multi-agency effort on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The McCormick County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of McCormick County Emergency Services, Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Abbeville Police Department, SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Agents, Edgefield County Sheriff's Office, Foothills Search and Rescue K-9 Team and SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Agents, executed a grid search of 222 acres of land at or near where the vehicle of Alexis Ware was discovered Tuesday, Feb. 1.

"Thirty-five law enforcement personnel plus K-9 teams, conducted a boots-on-the-ground search covering approximately four-square miles of terrain," said Sheriff Clarke Stearns.

"Air support via helicopter was provided by SLED, but the search was completed with no evidence or traces of Alexis Ware. The McCormick Sheriff's Office wishes to thank all who participated in this mutual aid incident.

"This was truly a unified event with all having the same purpose to find Alexis Ware. Please know that while this search ended with negative results, our focus and search continue until Alexis is found and reunited with her family," Stearns said.

The McCormick Sheriff's Office played a role in another missing person case dating back several years. Richmond County, Ga., received a tip from a confidential informant alluding to a body in McCormick.

Richmond investigators contacted the McCormick investigator, and the two jointly conducted a search of a wooded area off of Hopewell Church Road in Clarks Hill.

Suspected human remains were discovered, and the McCormick investigator called the SC Law Enforcement Division in to collect the remains. All evidence was turned over or shared with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle speeding 70 miles per hour in a 55 mph speed zone on highway 28 south at William Long Road. As deputies approached the vehicle, they detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

Deputies asked the driver who was identified by his Georgia driver's license about the smell of marijuana. The driver admitted he had marijuana and a handgun in a book-bag under his seat.

Deputies had the driver step out of the vehicle to conduct a search of the vehicle. They discovered a hand-rolled cigarette containing marijuana, a grinder containing marijuana residue and a loaded Ruger handgun which was seized for safekeeping.

Deputies issued the driver citations for

Law Enforcement, see page 3

Town election set for April 5

The Town of McCormick will hold its General Election on Tuesday, April 5. The polling place for this election is at the McCormick One Stop Center, 109 West Augusta Street. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The books for filing closed at noon on Feb. 4.

Filing for Council Member District 1 was incumbent Dolly Franklin.

Council Member District 3: Incumbent Calvin Chiles.

Council Member District 5: Toni Fuller Mason and incumbent Alvin Jennings.

Commissioner of Public Works: Kent Kelly and incumbent Charles Hegler.