

Methodist men energize MHS varsity ladies and men

By Bob Stockton

The McCormick Methodist Church men's group decided to support the McCormick High School Chiefs varsity basketball teams with a recent pre-game meal.

"We wanted to show our support and give the varsity gals and guys some pre-game nourishment," said Bob Rennie.

The men, along with Pastor Nels Ludwell, served 40 six-inch submarine sandwiches, eight pizzas, chips and drinks to the athletes and their coaches.

"The kids were very nice, kind and appreciative and must have liked the food, because they won their game," Rennie said.



The Methodist Men recently invited the McCormick Chiefs basketball players in for a pregame dinner and took photos. The foursome sitting in the bleachers (bottom right) are (l-r) Bob Rennie, Pastor Nels Ludwell and Byron and Mary Thompson. Byron posed for a photo with Jaylen Salliewhite (bottom left). The dinner did its job; the Chiefs won.



From Town Hall

Keeping You Informed

From the Mayor's Desk

Black History Month

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas ... Those are just a few people who have made significant contributions to our nation. There are many others who you will probably hear about during the month of February, which is Black History Month.

The observance came in the form of Black History Week and was later expanded and recognized as Black History Month by the US Government as part of the Bicentennial of 1976.

Black History Month is time to reflect and celebrate African-American history and culture. The Town of McCormick invited community residents to join the town in recognizing Black History Month by honoring individuals in our community who have made a difference in our quality of life and prosperity. These key influencers are business owners, pastors, teachers, professionals, elected officials and residents who have made a positive impact in the lives of others.

SC Legislative Action Day

February is a time when municipal officials across the state travel to Columbia to meet our legislators to convey the importance of working with local governments with regard to the economic success of our state. Prosperity does not happen in a vacuum, and neither does municipal government. Our range of services impacts our community and the businesses it attracts; those businesses provide jobs and opportunities for our residents and their families.

Members of the General Assembly, businesses and local governments must work together to ensure the economic wellbeing of our community, state and the success of our citizens.

Our community is our future. Local, elected officials have a responsibility to make sure municipalities operate responsibly, efficiently and effectively. By participating in municipal government training and attending the Hometown Legislative Action Day meeting, knowledge is gained to fulfill this responsibility. Traveling to Columbia to attend this meeting will help further partnerships for the good of our community.

"Working Together Works"
-Mayor Roy Smith, Jr.

From the Police Chief's Desk

Everyone knows that the weather in South Carolina can change drastically in a day, so when the weather gets cold and wet, that makes driving a little more difficult and dangerous.

SCDOT workers do a wonderful job in McCormick keeping the roads clear, but during this time of year, we need to take extra care driving on wet roads; sometimes ice may look like standing water.

So here are a few tips for driving in this weather: Give yourself a few extra minutes to get where you are going and slow down, give yourself extra room between other vehicles and, if you do start to slide, turn into the slide (keep the vehicle heading forward) and let off the gas but do not put on the brakes (this will transfer weight to the front and give you better steering, but brakes will stop the front tires from turning).

I hope everyone enjoys this winter weather, and remember, summer heat is only a few months away. Stay safe.

-Chief WD Bo Willis

From the Fire Chief's Desk

Hello, neighbors,

It's that time of the year, freezing at night, with warm, windy days. Let's all take a moment to check our home heating equipment. Go ahead and replace the air filter and check the gas supply lines for any damage or leaks for the installed system.

For those who use kerosene, clean around the heater and ensure that no objects are within four feet. Make sure all refilling is done outside in a safe location and allow time for your heater to cool down before refilling.

Now, with the extremely cold nights, citizens tend to plug in an additional electric space heater to help supply comfort. Plug the appliance directly into the wall outlet. No extension cords allowed. Ensure the device is not within four feet of any object. Also, place in a location not accessible to children or pets.

This time of year is when we have the potential for large house fires. Generally, heating systems are pushed to the limit, and trouble begins. Now is the time to check to ensure you can safely make it through the winter. Go ahead and check your smoke detectors as well. Smoke alarms are essential in our fight to save lives and reduce overall damage created by a fire.

If you know of anyone who needs assistance for home safety and fire prevention, I can be reached at my email: mccormickfire@wctel.net.

-Fire Chief Mike Barron

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State Election Commission Statewide Authority and Responsibilities. It will establish the ultimate authority of the State Election Commission to ensure standardized performance, conduct, and practices by county boards of elections and voter registration and that these local commissions are complying with applicable state or federal laws, as well as all State Election Commission policies, procedures, and regulations. It will also establish election audit methodologies. In addition, all candidates will have to pay filing fees, and may have to pay certification fees, whether or not they face a primary challenge. County boards would conduct all municipal elections. In its current form, this revised legislation also clarifies a voter's domicile for voting purposes.

The House passed, as amended, and sent to the Senate H. 4766, which merges the Education and Economic Development Act Coordinating Council (EEDA CC) with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD). Currently, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, the State Superintendent of Education, the Executive Director of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, and the Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education or their designees serve on the CCWD. The bill removes reference to designees and requires the principals to serve. The State Superintendent of Education is directed to appoint a school district superintendent, a school counselor, and a career and technology education director to the merged council. The Chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee and Senate Education Committee each have one appointment to the CCWD in the same manner as their appointment to the EEDA CC. The Governor must appoint two representatives from the business community who have professional expertise in economic development and workforce issues. Language requiring the President of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce to make an appointment is removed. CCWD is given the additional requirement of facilitating and coordinating a unified statewide workforce plan. CCWD must also take on the EEDA CC role of ensuring that the EEDA is properly implemented. Language limiting CCWD's focus to persons aged twenty-one and over is removed. The bill does not specifically repeal the EEDA CC, so, to remedy this, the committee recommended an amendment repealing the EEDA CC.

The House passed, as amended, and sent to the Senate H. 4570, which relates to the issuance of special license plates to service members associated with various military components or designations, so as to provide for a military license plate clean-up. The bill allows the SCDMV to issue US Space Force license plates for private passenger motor vehicles or motorcycles to active or prior service members. The bill reinserts the provision that disabled veterans are exempt from the regular motor vehicle registration fee. This provision was erroneously struck last year. The bill adds the Meritorious Service Medal to the list of special license plates for active or prior service members. It also reinserts the Support Our Troops special license plate that was erroneously struck last year. The bill repeals the Members of Foreign Consulates special license plate since the US State Department has requested that all states repeal the plate due to misuse in other states. And finally, the bill clarifies that this act will take effect on May 6, 2022.

H. 4797 revises language regarding the issuance of the special commemorative "Public Education: A Great Investment" license plate by specifying that the funds from the plates must be used to provide classroom technology to the public schools, instead of restricting the funds solely to providing computers. This language is more encompassing and updates the statute to reflect the changes in technology that have occurred over the last several years in the classroom.

The House amended, gave third reading and sent to the Senate H. 4504, a bill stating that the purchase of a watercraft motor may not be taxed more than the maximum sales tax.

If you have a comment or opinion concerning the matters discussed in this report, or if I may be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call my legislative office in Columbia (803-734-3069); or (864-223-3193) or (864) 852-2232 in McCormick or write Post Office Box 181, Greenwood, SC 29648. If you would like any additional information on these bills, or any other legislation under consideration by the General Assembly, feel free to visit our website at www.scstatehouse.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives.

Raymond James welcomes Gray Ellenberg to new Greenwood Branch

Gray Ellenberg, CFP®, recently joined Raymond James & Associates (RJA) to open the firm's first office in Greenwood. Ellenberg will also serve clients from RJA's downtown Greenville office.

"I am pleased to welcome Gray to the Raymond James team," said Greenville Complex Manager Brian Flemmer. "His high quality insight and commitment to his clients perfectly reflect our financial management approach."

With 20 years of experience in the financial services and accounting industries, Ellenberg joins Raymond James as Senior Vice President, Investments for Ellenberg Wealth Management. His Greenwood office is located at 1319 Montague Avenue Extension. He will also maintain an office in RJA's downtown Greenville branch at 101 Falls Park Ave., Suite 600.

Ellenberg says he was attracted to RJA's Client First approach. "I'm honored to partner with a firm founded on conservatism, independence, and integrity. I wanted to be part of a firm which believes that doing what's right for clients is the most important thing."

Ellenberg can be reached by calling his office at 864.321.6400, or via his website, ellenbergwealth.com.

About Raymond James & Associates

Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, which has built a national reputation for more than 58 years as a leader in financial planning for individuals, corporations and municipalities, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Raymond James Financial, Inc. (NYSE:RJI), a leading diversified financial services company with approximately 8,400 financial advisors throughout the United States, Canada and overseas. Total client assets are \$1.18 trillion. Additional information is available at www.raymondjames.com.

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Gray Ellenberg

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