

## Stockton's View

### Gift to MACK is major leap forward for entire community

By Bob Stockton

The recent announcement of the \$1.1 million gift to the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK) is stop-the-presses news for the community, possibly the best news McCormick has had since the creation of Savannah Lakes Village.

The gift will fund not just a bricks and mortar rehabilitation of a more-than-a-century old historic building, but also priceless programming of the arts for residents young and old and tourists.

Two years of COVID recess have reduced programming in the old hotel, and the MACK Artisans Guild & Gift Shop moved across and down the street to 218 S. Main St. A visiting pedestrian might think that the Hotel Keturah was another of McCormick's abandoned buildings.

That impression, however, would be far from the truth. The MACK's small but hard-working staff has been administering programs and been active behind the scenes meeting with members, donors and possible donors, government officials and more to secure funding for the future ... and they are getting it.

Further, this major project is perfectly suited to the county's existing assets. McCormick has taken its hits in recent years with the losses of the Georgia Pacific and Miliken plants, but there is nearly endless county potential in real estate, recreation and education.

The Village will continue to lead residential real estate growth. Lake Thurmond and its shoreline will continue to attract boaters and fishermen for its bait and tackle shops, cabins, fishing guides, marinas, boat dealerships and yacht clubs to lead recreation.

Institutions like McCormick Public Schools, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe (itself a relatively recent rebirth) and now the MACK will lead education. All three of these organizations are important, and the resurrection of the MACK and its programs and activities cannot be overstated.

A renewed MACK can bring renewed vibrancy to the entire community, and that will become apparent in the coming years. We encourage everyone's support for the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah.

## Kitty's Korner

By Kitty Craig - Jackson

It is true that we pay very close attention to the immediate problems, those things that cause pain to our nerves, and not so close attention to those things that aren't nearly as obvious. Why does it take alcoholics and drug addicts so long to fight behaviors that are damaging them terribly? If they had a thorn in their foot, they'd remove it immediately, but the addiction, which does far more damage than any thorn ever could, is left to fester and cause further harm.

I know that part of the reason has to do with the fact that we're not taught to recognize such problems or the harm they do. Another part of the problem is that even if we do recognize them, we have a tendency to minimize their effects on us, and even deny that they have any effect at all. "I can quit any time I want," we say, or "I'll quit cheating on my taxes next year, when I have more money," or "I need this more than he does."

What happens when we do hurt our souls? We can see a cut or a sore, but the damage to our spirits in not to be seen, only felt. And if we devote ourselves to constant entertainment - constant distractions to keep ourselves from thinking about the condition of our souls - then we develop plausible deniability about whether there's even any damage at all. But the damage is there, whether we admit it or not, and eventually it will catch up with us and bring us down for a time.

Our souls are very important, but we tend to live as soulless creatures, simply making our ways through each day without thinking about how we'll nourish and care for our spiritual sides. We can damage our souls with our behaviors, so it's very important that we make sure that the behaviors are appropriate not just for the people we are, but also for the people we want to be

### McCormick County voters, stop and smell the smoke

As a result of the last McCormick County Council meeting, there was a great fire and we need to stop and smell the smoke. If you are not a registered voter, you do not have the water to put out the flame and you have no voice. Look for the future of McCormick County. We must grout our future structures. Let us consider the future of our youth in McCormick.

- Dr. R.C. Holloway

### Dilemma from page 4

water treatment plant in town for processing and return to county users. CPW is also dependent on the efficiency and effectiveness of the county's W&S Department to properly maintain and operate both the fresh water mains and lines within the county, along with the 40+ lift stations that are necessary for sending county sewage to them for processing. When the county extends its water or sewer lines to new customers - both within and outside the county - it relies on CPW's capacity to provide those services.

Despite this increasing co-dependency, CPW and the county's W&S Department are operated independently, with different management, oversight, operations, technologies, funding mechanisms and administration. This inevitably results in conflicts in priorities, technologies, and operating procedures that magnify the potential risks of system failures and unnecessary duplication that leads to higher costs for consumers. The assessment that was proposed at the March 15 county council meeting by CPW's chief engineering partner, Turnipseed Engineers of Augusta, would be a good first step. The parameters of such an assessment will need to be worked out between the parties and stakeholders involved, but it is long overdue and should be considered an essential prerequisite for assuring cost effective and high-quality public water and sewer services on a county-wide basis.



Helen Nazzaro (left) of Mt. Ariel DAR Chapter in Hodges was the guest speaker for the March Long Cane Chapter DAR meeting. Nazzaro is pictured with Paula Palaima, Regent.

### Long Cane DAR holds monthly meeting at library

By Barbara Burleson

The Long Cane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met on March 17 at the McCormick County Library. Helen Nazzaro, from Mt. Ariel DAR Chapter in Hodges was the guest speaker. She became a member of DAR in 2019 and she currently serves as her chapter regent and the SC State Chair for the National Defense Committee.

She came to our meeting to share with us about their chapter's experience with Wreaths Across America last year. Some of our members had attended their Dec. 18 ceremony at Oakbrook Cemetery in Greenwood and that is why Long Cane Chapter decided to bring the Wreaths Across America experience to McCormick this year.

Also attending the meeting was Len Fouch, MAVA, McCormick Area Veterans Association. MAVA will be helping the Long Cane Chapter with Wreaths Across America.

Beth Johnson, one of our members, had an idea for a fundraiser. She hosted a party where we purchased items and she donated all her proceeds to the Long Cane Chapter. Great idea. Thanks Beth.



Beth Johnson (left) presented a check for \$400 from Pampered Chef to Paula Palaima, Regent, during the Long Cane DAR meeting last week.

### National Medal of Honor Day to be observed March 25

By Sheila Wolf  
DAR member

The greatest commendation our nation can confer is the Medal of Honor. The Medal is authorized for any military service member who "distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty".

The first Medals of Honor were presented on March 25, 1863. To commemorate this date and all Medal of Honor recipients, Congress declared March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day in 1990.

There are three versions of the decoration of Honor; one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force. Personnel of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard receive the Navy medal.

The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,511 individuals; almost half of those (1,523) were awarded for service in the Civil War. The only female recipient of the MOH is Mary E. Walker, an abolitionist, prohibitionist, prisoner of war and surgeon. The first African-American recipient was William H. Carney and the youngest recipient was William 'Willie' Johnston, also an African-American. Willie was thirteen when he received his award for gallantry in the Seven Day Battle and Peninsula Campaign. The first Native-American honoree was Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish (Mad Bear), a U.S. Army Sergeant in the Indian Campaigns.

There are currently 66 living Medal of Honor recipients and 19 recipients have received two medals. Present-day Medal of Honor recipients mark March 25 with a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. They remember those who gave everything and those who are still serving in the military.

If you would like to learn more about the Medal of Honor and its recipients, please visit Congressional Medal of Honor Society | Official Website (cmohs.org)

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. Our motto is God, Home, Country. Contact Sheila Wolf, Registrar, at shewolf@wctel.net for membership information.

## Vote Tamala White for Council District 5

I am Tamala White, Democrat Candidate for McCormick County Council, District 5. For the last year, I have been waiting to see if there would be any change in the direction that the county is heading and I see nothing but the status quo. The situation in the county is desperate, despite what your council representative may tell you.



We are a dying county, our population is decreasing and our school enrollment has decreased, at what I consider an alarming rate. We can stick our heads in the sand and just ignore it, as our current council is doing or we can do something about it.

We have lost every single industry McCormick County has had with none on the horizon to come in their place. We are being fed the idea that we are evolving as a "tourist county" and that may be the case but that alone will not sustain this county. We must have industry and business, to produce jobs that will keep our high school graduates here, encourage our college graduates to come back and inspire people to come here to work and live. If you haven't thought about it lately, if you don't work for some form of government or Savannah Lakes Village, there is a good chance you don't work in McCormick.

Our current council has deferred adequate maintenance and upgrades to make our infrastructure sufficient to sustain any large scale industrial development. It has been widely known for many years that we need natural gas to compete for stable industry. There are many trickle down issues that need to be addressed as well. In order to have a productive economy, we must have working wage housing to accommodate the work force and to recruit the greatly needed, qualified school teachers. Property owners have no incentive to rehab or purchase derelict unproductive properties and turn them into working wage rental housing.

Our county may be dying, but it certainly isn't dead. If you will elect me, I promise to do everything I can, to give our young people the opportunities needed to stay in McCormick County. I want the school district to be able to recruit top notch teachers to get our kids ready to be successful in the world, whether it be here in McCormick or away. I want us to be able to recruit and retain emergency services and law enforcement staff that don't leave us because we can't compete with other counties salaries and benefits.

I want to encourage developers to come to McCormick County. I want McCormick County to be a desirable place to live and work. We have been seen as a disadvantaged county for way too long. I want people and companies to want to come here. I also want to preserve the beauty and simplicity of living in McCormick County. I believe there is a place in our county for all of that.

I have been on the county's planning commission for more than 15 years, protecting the county's property owner's rights. I believe that the people should be aware of exactly what government is doing. I have always made sure the people know what is going on and would continue to do that on County Council. No more smoke and mirrors. I believe we should be able to look into the future and see the McCormick County, not as we are, but as we could be. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone or any group regarding my campaign's goals and my plan to make them happen. Please feel free to contact me at tamala915@gmail.com

### Vote Kent Kelly for commissioner of public works

I'm Kent Kelly, and I'm running for CPW commissioner of public works.

For years, I haven't liked some of their policies, and I feel that the way CPW has been run hasn't always been the best for its customers. I want to change that.

I have experience serving on a board, including serving as chairman, so I know how things work.

A vote for me is a vote for change. The only way we can improve things is to work together.

So please help me move the McCormick CPW forward for all of us. Please vote for Kent Kelly in the Town of McCormick General Election on Tuesday, April 5 at the McCormick One Stop Center, 109 West Augusta Street. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

I look forward to serving you.

### Reply to letter in Monday's Index-Journal

McCormick County is not divided ... but it can be divided on any given day. -Alonzo Harrison



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