

The State Capitol Report

By Rep. Anne Parks
SC House District 12

House Floor Review

The House sent H. 5150, the General Appropriation Bill, and H. 5151, the joint resolution making appropriations from the Capital Reserve Fund, for special order on Monday, March 14, to begin its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 State Government Budget on the House Floor.

Approved by the House, and sent to the Senate, was H. 4601, County Minimum Ambulance Service Standards. County councils would need to have at least one licensed ambulance service operating within its county under this proposal. They will not have to fund them if the private sector provides the service. Cities could set up, or contract for, these services as well. Mutual agreements are permitted to ensure these minimum service levels are met.

The House amended, approved, and sent the Senate H. 4837, a bill establishing requirements and authorization that allows a not-for-profit program to operate optometry mobile units to visit Title I public schools and provide services onsite to their students.

The House recommitted H. 4946, legislation which states beginning July 1, 2022, the Department of Agriculture will establish the South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption (SCATE) Card Program as the sole method for obtaining farm and agricultural sales tax exemptions.

The House received message from the Senate that the Conference Report for H. 3308 was adopted and enrolled for ratification. The bill increases the watercraft idle speed wake distance on certain lakes.

The House returned S. 1090 to the Senate with amendments. The bill explicitly reaffirms the Department of Employment and Workforce's authority to set a weekly maximum amount of unemployment benefits that an individual may receive in a week for the legitimate legislative purpose of ensuring the solvency of the unemployment insurance trust fund and that there are adequate funds to pay unemployment insurance benefits to individuals unemployed through no fault of their own. The maximum weekly benefit amount set each year by DEW within the range established in statute must be published on the Department's website. The legislation identifies the statutory procedure for reconsideration of benefit determinations as the sole and exclusive procedure and remedy for disputing the De-

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Birthdays/Wedding Anniversaries

March 25 - Clarence Brown, Lenora Brown, George McKee III, Marvin Palmer Sr., Tory Smith, J. T. Daniels IV, Bessie and Eddie Gilchrist, Derrick and Bettye Polly, Gene McKinney, Teresa and Ed Goff, Tim Austin, Kim Lampkins, Ethel Cannady.

March 26 - Johnny Broome, Donnie White, Alf White III, Ronnie Deal, Joe Hamp Parks, Mary Bell, Dianne Dodgen, Synclaire Thornton, David Miller.

March 27 - David Bowick, Carolyn Brice, Tawanda Nicole White, Lashondray Wideman, Recardo and Teresa Bryant, Kendra Jennings, Scott Wilkins, Henry Young, Kay Schneider, John and Faye Cotty.

March 28 - Brenda M. Edge, Natisha Nicole Mims, Dalphne L. New, Mae F. Patterson, Pauline Rinehart, Sunny Sears, Patricia White, Jonathan Goff, Davy Fuller, Brandy Young, Debra Smith, Ashley Drennon, Becky Leigh Trantham, Barbara McMillan, Travis Parks, Mary Searles, Tommy Dawkins, Roger Durham, Brandon Smith, Sgt. Johnnie Jackson, Gene Yarger, Jim Dick, Don Webb, Amos Johnson Sr., Pauline and Willie Wade Lomax.

March 29 - Willie Mae Dawson, Damon Freeman, Renae Harling, C. W. Miller, Patrick Storey, Calvin J. White, Daphne Wells, Mark Wayne Evans, Willimaye Payton, Sara Johnson, Recardo Bryant, Sandra Lindley, Gladys Harrison, Mary Alice Caldwell, Robert Galloway, Alex and Tracie Watts.

March 30 - Katrina Cunningham, Megan White, Leslie F. Williams, Rich Baumeister, Jasmine Brown, Suzanne Blake Quattlebaum, Eddie and Barbara Talbert, Danielle Holliday, Marcus Harter, Cindy Sprague, James Price, Dennis and Nancy Vereb, Henrettia Austin, Tim and Cindee White.

March 31 - Brenda P. Davis, Trey Long, Nakisha Shanta Moton, Willie Earl Tute, Carl Williams, Karen Williams, Leslie J. Doyle, Elizabeth Jennings, Tommy Heyward Jr., Karen Lynn Luchey, Priscella Irwin, Greg and Jennifer Murray, George Spague, Carol Mavity, Thomas McKinney IV, Evelyn and Andrew Brown.



Students at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe work in the greenhouse on the school campus in McCormick County, preparing for the 2022 Spring Plant Sale. The public invited to shop for flowering plants and vegetable plants March 25-26.

Governor's School prepares for Spring Plant Sale

Springtime has arrived, and local gardeners are invited to plant a little history in their backyards and flower beds this season.

Students at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe in McCormick County are preparing for their 2022 Spring Plant Sale. The two-day event is scheduled for Friday, March 25 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Saturday, March 26 from 8 a.m. until noon on the school campus.

The historic John de la Howe campus is located at 192 Gettys Road in McCormick County, approximately 11 miles northwest of McCormick, just off Highway 28. The current 1,301-acre campus is part of a plot of land along the banks of J. Strom Thurmond Lake that has welcomed students since 1797, when the property was handed down by the French physician whose legacy is still celebrated in the school's name.

The 2022 Spring Plant Sale features flowers and vegetable plants grown by South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture students as part of their agricultural studies. Students from across South Carolina and neighboring states currently study at the school, the nation's only residential high school devoted to agriculture and agribusiness.

In addition to the two-day event, a third sale day featuring plants that are still maturing in the school greenhouse will be held on Friday, April 15 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Villager Store smash & grab one of three in CSRA area

By Bob Stockton

A smash-and-grab burglary at Savannah Lakes Village's Village Store at the corner of highway 378 and highway 7 was one of probably three similar incidents and is under investigation.

McCormick County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the alarm call last Tuesday, March 15. They arrived to find a glass door had been smashed out with a cinderblock which was laying on the floor.

Deputies conducted a search of the business and contacted criminal investigators who processed the scene for fingerprints and other evidence. Cash was taken during the burglary.

The suspect, believed to be a male approximately 5 feet, 5 inches tall, was visible on video wearing a blue hoodie and pink gloves. Investigators discovered there were two additional "smash and grab" burglaries which occurred in Columbia and Lincoln counties earlier the same night.

The suspect's description matched the description of the McCormick incident, and he was wearing identical clothing in each of the incidents. The case remains open and under investigation at this time.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on Uppermill Road for speeding 67 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone. The driver was identified, and deputies noticed a pill bottle in the console of the vehicle.

The driver stated there was ecstasy inside of the pill bottle. Deputies arrested the subject and transported him to the detention center for booking and processing charged him with possession of a controlled substance.

Deputies were running stationary radar on highway 28 north and observed a vehicle traveling southbound with a headlight out. They conducted a traffic stop and determined the driver's license was suspended for failure to pay traffic tickets. Deputies arrested the driver and transported him to the detention center for booking and processing.

Deputies responded to the Bay Circle area in reference to a possible scam. They spoke with the complainant who stated she had been approached at her residence the evening before by a group offering to spread bales of pine straw.

The group stated to her they would spread pine straw for an agreed amount which seemed reasonable. Upon completion of the job, the subject informed the complainant they had spread 500 bales of pine straw, and she owed them \$2,500.

The complainant stated there was no way they could have spread that much pine straw and protested the bill. The subjects left with a partial payment. A report of the scam was completed for informational purposes.

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died Carroll's younger brothers, Lloyd, Wallace and Broadus were in grade school and would stay much of the time with them.

They eventually closed their store in the Red Hill area and started running a store in Parksville belonging to Calvin Parks.

It was there that their daughter, Carolyn, met Ferrel Spencer "Sambo" Percival. They were married and had a daughter, Lynn, and a son, Ferrel, and lived in Parksville.

Jewel and Carroll decided after several years to close the Parksville store and reopen their store next to their home. In 1971 it was closed again due to Carroll suffering a heart attack. Jewel once again went to work at the Crest Company.

In August of that same year their son-in-law was killed due to a tragic construction accident. After some time Carolyn married Clarence Brown who had a daughter, Sherry, giving Jewel and Carroll another granddaughter.

In 1976 they moved to Parksville next door to their daughter, husband and grandchildren. They moved their church membership to Parksville Baptist Church where she was pianist until recently.

She and Carroll celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1989. She laughed and said, "I remember Carroll counting all the money we had gotten as gifts."

A mother's worst horror happened in January of 1992 when she lost her precious daughter, Carolyn, after a battle with ovarian cancer. Then in 1997 her husband died after suffering another heart attack. It was then that she moved in with her grandson, Ferrel, where she still resides.

She kept busy after that continuing to play the piano for church services, funerals, weddings and choir practice. Jewel has always taken the time to check on family, friends and neighbors when they were sick and has sent many cards and made phone calls.

Hugh Goff said that when his late wife was very sick about three years ago she asked Jewel after she was gone to please call and check on him every morning to be sure he was alright. Jewel honored that wish for her friend.

A neighbor and close friend of the family, Wayne Russell, stated this about Jewel, "It is a great honor to have celebrated the 100th birthday of Mama Jewel with so many family and friends. It was inevitable that I would grow up loving her. She, Carroll and Carolyn were all close friends with my parents, Rusty and Ruth, even before I was born. We all shared so much through the 70 plus years of friendship, such as meals, Thanksgiving and Christmas visits, and of course worshipping at Parksville Baptist listening to her beautiful piano music. For most of these years someone in one household would telephone the other most every day to say hello and to see how everyone was doing. I always would hear my daddy end the call with 'Jewel, we love y'all.' It has been that type of close friendship. What a true blessing it is to be a part of her life and that of her family. I pray God will give us many more years to love her and celebrate her!"

Ferrel has such fond childhood memories of him and Lynn going to their store and eating Baby Ruth candy bars and getting Coca Colas from the old drink boxes and reaching deep in the water for a cold drink. After his grandparents closed the store at night they would take them to ride around the Red Hill and Collier Community areas and usually ended the nights with a gallon of Borden ice cream that the four of them would eat in bed while watching TV. When his mother would babysit Timmy Adams of Parksville and went to his grandparents' store they loved to play in the boxes where canned and dry goods were delivered. They also would play with the minnows, which was a "No No" because it would kill them. In the years after the store closed he and Sherry would go play in the old store and he, Lynn and Sherry would take their mini bikes and motorcycles to ride around the property.

"I loved that old store, operating or not!" Ferrell said.

Jewel concluded, "I'm so thankful for my two sisters, Doris Kemp and Delane Miller of Edgefield, and that we can still visit and talk on the telephone. I'm also thankful for my grandchildren, Lynn (Franky) and Ferrel; great grandson, Tank (Samantha) Walker; and that I lived to see my great great grandchildren, Josh and Olivia Walker. I love all my family, friends and neighbors and all they've done for me.



Jewel Quarles at 100th birthday party. -Judy Self photo

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Monday, March 28, 2022
10 a.m.