

KCSD Principals Benson and Cameron announce retirements

Two Kershaw County School District principals announce plans to retire. Jackson School Principal Estelle Benson and Lugoff-Elgin Middle Principal Gene Cameron plan to retire at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Estelle Benson joined Kershaw County School District as an educator in 1995. She served as a teacher for 13 years, teaching grades 2-6 at Wateree Elementary and Jackson School.

She then transitioned into administrative roles, serving as an assistant principal for four years at Doby's Mill Elementary and three years at Blaney Elementary.

Benson has served for the past nine years as principal, previously at Mt. Pisgah Elementary and Bethune Elementary, before going to Jackson School.

She was named Wateree Elementary Teacher of the Year (1998-1999), Jackson School Teacher of the Year (2005-2006), Kershaw County School District Honor Roll Teacher (2006-2007), and Kershaw County Reading Council Administrator of the Year (2017-2018). Benson earned her National Board Certification in Middle Childhood Generalist from 2003-2013.

"Being a product of this remarkable district myself, the journey has been particularly meaningful. The chance to give back to the very community that nurtured me has been nothing short of a blessing. Now, as I prepare to embark on the new adventure called retirement, I do so with a heart filled with appreciation for the memories created, the challenges overcome, and the growth experienced. While bidding farewell to my role within the Kershaw County School District, I remain excited for the chapters yet to unfold, knowing that the impact of my dedication will resonate long after my departure," says Benson.

Benson has been married for 27 years to LeRicko Benson. They have two children, Devonte' and Amariya.

Gene Cameron began his educational career in KCSD as the band director at North Central High School in 1994, where he served for nine years.

In 2003, he joined the Richland County School District One staff as the band director at Dreher High. He returned to KCSD in 2008 as the theatre teacher at Stover Middle and Lugoff-Elgin Middle School. In 2010, he served as the band director at LEMS.

He joined the Lugoff-Elgin High staff as an assistant principal in 2011, where he spent 7 years until becoming the principal at LEMS in 2018, where he has served for six years.



Gene Cameron



Estelle Benson

Shots Fired in the City of Lancaster

Lancaster, S.C. (3/25/2024) – On Sunday, March 24, 2024, around 10:30pm, Officers were dispatched to the 500 Block of Harris Street for dozens of gunshots being fired by multiple subjects. During the investigation, officers found multiple



Tyree Craig,

homes struck by gunfire. No injuries have been reported at this time. At a nearby home, Officers found a family pet inside a fence suffering from a gunshot wound. Tragically, the dog succumbed to its injuries.

Officers have recovered several firearms, along with other evidence. Currently, Tyree Craig, 19, of Lancaster, SC has been arrested for Felony Breach of Peace. Quantrell Barrino, age 18, of Lancaster, SC has outstanding warrants for Felony Breach of Peace.

At this time, we are asking for the public's help in locating Mr. Quantrell Barrino (aka Kemo) and for help identifying other subjects involved in the incidents. See attached photo of Craig and wanted flyer Barrino.

Anyone with information about this incident or any

Attorney General Alan Wilson requests renewed attention to bond provisions

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) — Attorney General Alan Wilson sent a letter to South Carolina solicitors reminding them of important provisions in state bond laws and to bring them to the courts' attention when necessary. The provisions getting renewed attention are judges must consider a defendant's immigration status when determining bond and judges may now consider if the person who committed the crime was currently out on bond for another offense, such as repeated shoplifting, when determining bond.

"It's clear the Biden Administration isn't going to close the border, so it's up to the states to deal with the consequences," said Attorney General Alan Wilson. "Fortunately, South Carolina's laws are already in good shape. But laws only work if they're enforced. Every state is a border state under Biden's watch, so we all need to stay vigilant and bring renewed attention to the provisions in our state laws that protect South Carolinians."

The letter states, "Importantly, South Carolina requires lawful immigration status as a consideration for the court when determining to deny bond. A new provision in this section arose from H.3532 last year. Now, another consideration for the court to make is if the person who committed the crime was currently out on bond for another offense, such as repeated shoplifting."

The letter continues, "Fortunately, we have laws that should prevent catch and release of repeat criminals and hold illegal immigrants charged with a crime. It's up to us to ensure they're properly enforced. If Ibarra were held and denied bond in Georgia, Laken Riley would still be alive."

Laken Riley's alleged murderer, Jose Ibarra, was arrested and released in New York for child endangerment and subsequently arrested and released in Georgia for multiple shoplifting offenses.

The Attorney General's Office was heavily involved in getting the bond reform bill passed at the end of last year.

"My career in Kershaw County School District has been rewarding beyond measure. I have been blessed to work with the finest in the education world right here at home in Kershaw County. Leading Lugoff-Elgin Middle School has been the pinnacle of my career and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity," says Cameron.

Cameron was named the KCSD Principal of the Year in 2022.

He has been married to Kerri Cameron since 1997, and they have two children, both products of KCSD schools and graduates of Lugoff-Elgin High School, Eryn and William. They are also the proud grandparents to their first granddaughter, Blaire.

Advertise in the Kershaw News-Era, Call 803-475-6096

Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce To Lead 2024 Ag + Art Tour Program

LANCASTER, SC — March 18, 2024 — The Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce its inaugural partnership with the Clemson Cooperative Extension to host the highly anticipated 2024 Ag + Art Tour of Lancaster County. This groundbreaking collaboration marks a significant milestone in promoting the rich agricultural heritage and artistic talents of our community.

The Ag + Art Tour, an annual event that celebrates the intersection of agriculture and art, provides an immersive experience for residents and visitors alike. Showcasing the vibrant culture and diverse offerings of Lancaster County, the tour will feature a wide array of farm experiences and artisan demonstrations. By partnering with the Clemson Cooperative Extension, the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce aims to enhance the tour's impact and reach within the community. Leveraging the Extension's expertise and resources in agriculture, horticulture, and sustainable practices, this collaboration promises to elevate the educational aspect of the event while fostering greater engagement among participants.

"We are delighted to collaborate with the Clemson Cooperative Extension for the first time to host the 2024 Ag + Art Tour of Lancaster County," said John McCain, President, and CEO of the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce. "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to promoting local agriculture, supporting our artisans, and showcasing the unique cultural heritage of Lancaster County. Together, we look forward to delivering an unforgettable experience for all who attend."

As part of the tour, visitors will have the opportunity to explore a variety of participating farms, art galleries, and cultural venues across Lancaster County. From hands-on activities to artistic displays, and a farm-to-table kick-off event, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

"We are excited to partner with the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce to bring the Ag + Art Tour to our community," said Brian Beer, Clemson Cooperative Extension Lancaster County Coordinator. "This collaboration underscores our shared mission of promoting agriculture, supporting local artisans, and fostering connections between farmers and consumers. Together, we can showcase the best of what Lancaster County has to offer."

The 2024 Ag + Art Tour of Lancaster County will kick-off on May 10th at 5:30pm, then the tour will take place May 11th-12th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Additional details about participating venues and activities will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information about the Ag + Art Tour and to stay updated on the latest news and announcements, please visit www.agandartour.com

Blackmon continued from page 1

file as a Republican candidate for the State Senate District 27 which includes portions of Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster Counties. Quotables:

"I am running to serve Senate District 27 because I believe the people of Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster Counties ought to have a voice in Columbia that will represent our values without compromising on core principles – a leader who can get things done," Allen Blackmon said. "As your next State Senator, I am committed to honoring the promises I make, to always put service above self, and work with others to get big things accomplished. We are blessed to live among some of our country's foremost beauty, but our people, our principles, and our patriotism is what defines us most. We are not without our challenges, but the best is yet to come. I invite you to join me in this journey and to join our cam-

paign at www.AllenBlackmon.com.

Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile said, "Allen Blackmon is not just a great leader; he is a man who has dedicated his life to making a positive impact on the lives of those around him. As a true conservative, Allen stands firm in his values and beliefs, always fighting for what's right, just and fair. His dedication to the people is unwavering, and his commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and freedom is unparalleled. It is with great pride that I fully endorse and ask you to join me in supporting Allen Blackmon."

Lancaster County Republican Chairman Sandy McGarry said, "Allen has never not been part of this community, he's always been a volunteer, being involved with the

schools and coaching soccer. He's a wonderful advocate and will make a great Senator for District 27."

Born on Langley Air Force Base as the son of an Air Force veteran, Allen's view on service was formed at an early age. Allen married Jane Bridges of Heath Springs shortly after graduating from Clemson University. Allen and Jane have been happily married for 45 years, and are blessed to have two children and five grandchildren. They are active members of Salem United Methodist Church in Heath Springs. Blackmon has served as a substitute teacher for Lancaster County School District and as a member of the Heath Springs School Improvement Council, the Lancaster County School District watch program, and currently serves as a volunteer soccer coach with the Lancaster County Recreation Department. Allen Blackmon is a current elected member of the Lancaster County Council, representing District 6. His professional career has included a background in both business and finance.

Lancaster Police Department

Public Service Advisory

WANTED PERSON

Considered Armed & Dangerous

Name: Quantrel Jaheim Barrino
(AKA Kemo)

DOB: 3/12/2006

Race: African American

Sex: Male

Height: 5'11

Weight: 116

Quantrel Jaheim Barrino (Kemo), 18, is currently being sought by Lancaster Police Department on charges of Breach of Peace of a High and Aggravated Nature for his involvement in recent shootings in the City of Lancaster.

He should be considered Armed and Dangerous.
Do not approach him. If you see him, Call 911.

Anyone with information about Barrino's whereabouts is urged to contact the Lancaster Police Department at 803-283-3313 or Lancaster County Sheriff's Office at 803-283-3388 and select Option 4 or submit a tip in one of the following ways: use the link www.p3tips.com/983 or download the P3Tips mobile app available for both Apple and Android devices. Crime tips may be made anonymously.

other investigation should contact the Lancaster Police Department at (803) 283-3313, the Special Operations Unit at (803) 283-1174 or the Anonymous Tip Line (803) 289-6040. submit a tip in one

of the following ways: use the link www.p3tips.com/983 or download the P3Tips mobile app available for both Apple and Android devices. Crime tips may be made anonymously.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in in the Kershaw Town Hall, 113 South Hampton Street, Kershaw, SC, the Town of Kershaw will hold a public hearing concerning an application to be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Business Incentives and Community Development, on or before April 22, 2024, for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The Town of Kershaw, jointly with Lancaster County, is requesting \$ 997,519 in CDBG funds to carry out the following activities: replace or repair all electrical components in the Single Batch Reactor (SBR) control room, replace the influent bar screen, clean out the influent holding pit and install bypass line, replace influent pump panel and Motor Control Center switch gear, and install safety rails around the SBR basins. The total project cost is \$2,037,519 which includes \$1,732,019 for construction; \$215,500 for engineering, and \$90,000 for administration and an environmental review. It is anticipated that \$997,519 of the total project cost will be covered with CDBG grant funds, \$1,000,000 with RIA grant funds, and \$40,000 with local funds.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Town of Kershaw's Citizens Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of the Town of Kershaw in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds.

The Citizens Participation Plan is available for review in the office of the Town of Kershaw's Administrator, from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or the Citizens Participation Plan may contact John Douglas, Town Administrator, PO Box 145 / 113 Hampton Street, Kershaw, SC 29067, 803-475-6065

The Town of Kershaw does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. John Douglas, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 145 / 113 Hampton Street, Kershaw, SC 29067, 803-475-6065, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations. Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of disabled persons, upon request.