

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY OF KERSHAW
 Road/Route Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement
 Project ID No. P038251
 Tract 62
 South Carolina Department of Transportation
 Condemnor,
 VS. PUBLICATION TO THE NEWS-ERA
 Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991,
 Landowner(s),
 and
 Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., and Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, as interest may appear,
 Other Condemnee(s),
 and
 John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased,
 Unknown Claimant(s).

Summons Notice of Filing Condemnation TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., the within Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, has been filed with the Clerk of Court for Kershaw County. The purpose of this lawsuit is to enable the Condemnor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, to acquire certain real property for its public purposes, as is more fully stated in the attached Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment. Responsive pleadings to the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment are not necessary.

Notice & Tender of Payment TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, you are hereby notified as follows:

1. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is the Condemnor herein and seeks to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes.

2. The Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, is named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of their claim(s) of title (or other interests) as shown by that certain deed from Donald R. Wheeler and Aurora A. Wheeler, dated March 17, 2017, and recorded March 24, 2017, in the Office of Register of Deeds for Kershaw County in Deed Book 3668, Page 187.

3. The Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991 is named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of their claim(s) of title (or other interests) as beneficiary of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., who died testate on August 15, 2024, as shown by that certain Will dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

4. Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr. is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

5. Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696, as interest may appear. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.

6. All persons collectively designated John Doe and Mary Roe are made parties to this action as "Unknown Claimant(s)", representing unknown heirs and devisees and all other persons claiming born or unborn by, through or under the Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and all other persons having an interest in or claim upon the property herein condemned.

7. The following is a description of the real property subject to this action and a description of the interest sought to be acquired in and to the property by the Condemnor: All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73. Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

8. The SCDOT is vested with the power of eminent domain pursuant to Section 57-5-320 and Section 28-2-60, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

9. The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement.

10. This action is brought pursuant to Section 28-2-240, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

11. The SCDOT has complied with the requirements set forth in Section 28-2-70(a), Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, by having the subject property appraised and making the appraisal available to the Landowner(s) where required by law, and certifies to the Court that a negotiated resolution has been attempted prior to the commencement of this action, or pursuant to Section 12-28-2940, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, an appraisal of this property was not required.

12. Project plans may be inspected at the office of South Carolina Department of Transportation Kershaw County Maintenance Office, 512 Fair Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020, under Project ID P038251, Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement, Tract 62.

13. THE CONDEMNOR HAS DETERMINED JUST COMPENSATION FOR THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS TO BE ACQUIRED HEREUNDER, INCLUDING ALL DAMAGES (IF ANY), TO BE THE SUM OF THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$30,872.00) AND HEREBY TENDERS PAYMENT THEREOF TO THE LANDOWNER(S).

14. Payment of this amount will be made to the Landowner(s) if within thirty (30) days of service of this Condemnation Notice, the Landowner(s) in writing requests payment, and agrees to execute any instruments necessary to convey to the Condemnor the property interests and rights described hereinabove. The Agreement and Request for Payment must be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested or delivered in person to Director, Rights of Way, South Carolina Department of Transportation, 955 Park Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29202. If no Agreement and Request for Payment is received by the Condemnor within the thirty (30) day period, the tender is considered rejected.

15. If the tender is rejected, the Condemnor has the right to file this Condemnation Notice with the Clerk of Court of the County where the property is situated and deposit the tender amount with the Clerk. The Condemnor shall give the Landowner(s) and Other Condemnee(s) notice that it has done so and may then proceed to take possession of the property interests and exercise the rights described in this Condemnation Notice.

16. AN ACTION CHALLENGING THE CONDEMNOR'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS DESCRIBED HEREIN MUST BE COMMENCED IN A SEPARATE PROCEEDING IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THIS CONDEMNATION NOTICE, OR THE LANDOWNER(S) WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE WAIVED THE CHALLENGE.

17. THE CONDEMNOR HAS ELECTED NOT TO UTILIZE THE APPRAISAL PANEL PROCEDURE. Therefore, if the tender herein is rejected, the Condemnor shall notify the Clerk of Court and shall demand a trial to determine the amount of just compensation to be paid. A copy of that notice must be served on the Landowner(s). That notice shall state whether the Condemnor demands a trial by jury or by the Court without a jury. The Landowner(s) has the right to demand a trial by jury. The case may not be called for trial before sixty (60) days after the service of that notice, but it may thereafter be given priority for trial over other civil cases. The Clerk of Court shall give the Landowner(s) written notice by mail of the call of the case for trial.

18. THEREFORE, IF THE TENDER HEREIN IS REJECTED, THE LANDOWNER(S) IS ADVISED TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL AT ONCE, IF NOT ALREADY OBTAINED.

19. In the event the Landowner(s) accepts the amount tendered in this Notice, the attached Agreement and Request for Payment form should be signed and returned to the Condemnor within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Notice.

Lis Pendens NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Condemnor above named pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, has brought an action against the Condemnee(s) above named to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes, to-wit:

All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73. Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of a section of Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement.

Notice of Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem Nisi TO: THE CONDEMNEE(S) OR CLAIMANT(S) HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS OR UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the order appointing Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, Condemnee(s) herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors or under other legal disability, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for KERSHAW County.

Homicide

continued from page 1

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of this victim,” said Sheriff Barry Faile. “There are many unanswered questions about this homicide on the front end of the investigation, but much information has already been gathered which we believe will lead us to a resolution. More information will be released when it is available and when it is appropriate for release.”

Update January 9, 2026

Calvin Lamarr Allen, age 44, of Charlotte has been charged in the shooting death of 74-year-old Gary Herendeen behind The Designers Marketplace on Yarborough Road. Allen was developed as a suspect in the homicide early in the investigation. After the discovery of Mr. Herendeen’s body mid-day this past Monday, investigators with the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office Violent Crime Task Force, the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department have been gathering background information on Mr. Herendeen and Allen and have documented the movements of the two from the middle of last week through now.

Mr. Herendeen and Allen were acquaintances and have ties to the Charlotte area. They lived in the same boarding house in Charlotte for a time. They apparently fell out with each other some time ago. Investigators believe Mr. Herendeen, who worked part-time at The Designers Marketplace, sometimes slept in his Chevrolet van behind the business and was doing so the night of January 1 into the morning of January 2. Investigators believe Allen drove to that location from Charlotte early the morning of January 2 and shot Mr. Herendeen to death at the van. Mr. Herendeen suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was found lying partially in the van and partially on the parking lot surface.

Investigators got an address in Charlotte for Allen, and Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office investigators coordinated with SLED, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, its Homicide unit, and its Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) to locate Allen. Allen was taken into custody early this morning at his home in Charlotte without incident. Searches are being conducted of the home and Allen’s automobile, and evidence is being gathered and will be

processed. The nature of that evidence will not be disclosed at this time. Allen is in custody in Charlotte. Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office investigators obtained arrest warrants for Allen charging him with Murder and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Violent Crime. Allen will appear before a judge in Charlotte, at which time he will have to decide whether to waive extradition and return to Lancaster County. If he does not, extradition proceedings will be initiated.

“Allen’s arrest is the result of lots of skilled, unremitting investigative work by our investigators, SLED, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg PD,” said Sheriff Barry Faile. “When events like this happen, time is of the essence. The relationships we have with surrounding agencies allow us to multiply our resources with a phone call or two and get things done quickly and safely, as we did in this case. Many thanks to our investigators and all those folks with SLED and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg PD who made this happen.”

(All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.)

Anyone with information about this or any other case should call the 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.

Lancaster County Historical Commission Meeting - 1/13/2026

The Lancaster County Historical Commission will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lancaster County Historic Courthouse located at 100 N. Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

The agenda is posted in the lobby of the County Administration building and on our website. To view the meeting agenda, please copy and paste the link below:

<https://lancastercsc.portal.civicclerk.com/event/718/files/agenda/1298>

ADVERTISE
Kershaw News-Era
 kershawnews-era@gmail.com

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone on their behalf or on behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or any of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the Condemnor will apply for an order making the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi absolute.

Order (Appointing Gal Nisi) Affidavit

Upon reading and filing the Petition of the Condemnor for the appointment of Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for the Unknown Condemnee(s) who are minors and Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and it appearing that the names and addresses of such minors, or other persons under legal disability, if any, whether residents or non-residents of the State of South Carolina, are unknown to the Condemnor and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained, and that the said Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interest of said Minor Landowner(s) and Others under legal disability, if any, and has no interest therein adverse to the interest of said minors or Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, and is not connected in business with the Condemnor in this action or with its counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire, be, and (s)he is hereby, designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and those Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and (s)he is hereby authorized to appear and defend said action on behalf of said Condemnee(s), unless said Minor Landowner(s), Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, or either of them shall within thirty days after the service of a copy of this Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service, as herein provided, procure to be appointed a Guardian ad Litem for said Minor Landowner(s) or other Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, for the purposes of this action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be served upon said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and Other Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, by publication of such notice of this Order in **The News-Era**, for a period of not less than once a week for three successive weeks.

WILLCOX, BUYCK & WILLIAMS, P.A.
 BY: *of Mark W. Buyck, Jr.*
 Attorney for Condemnor (SCDOT)
 MARK W. BUYCK, JR.
 PO BOX 1909
 FLORENCE, SC 29501-1909
 Telephone: 843-662-3258

Native American Studies

continued from page 1

Beginning Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m., guests can shop for pine needle baskets by Beckee Garris (Catawba Nation) and jewelry by Stephanie Peak (Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories). Participating artists will be announced on the Center’s website and social media for continuing markets on Saturday, Feb. 21, March 21, and April 18.

“We began our mini pop-up markets last fall as a way for the community to engage with local Native American artists and we have received an incredible response from the public,” said Center Assistant Curator and Program Assistant Sharon Simmers-Norton, who

coordinates the sales along with USCL Director of Campus Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers. “We’re pleased to host more markets this spring, featuring talented vendors who have never before participated in our art festivals, as well as fantastic returning artists!”

The mini markets culminate in one of the Center’s annual signature events, the Spring Art & Craft Festival, scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the Native American Studies Center and its events are free and open to the public. For more information about the Center, call (803) 313-7172 or visit www.nativeamericanstudies.org.

Lancaster SWCD Launches New Conservation Education Game for Local Youth

Lancaster County, SC — A new interactive educational website is helping Lancaster County children learn about conservation in a way that feels fun, familiar, and close to home.

Carolina Nature Adventures, recently launched by the Lancaster Soil & Water Conservation District, is a game-based learning platform designed for children ages 5 -12. What makes the project especially unique is that it was designed and built by a local high school student who serves on the district’s Youth Board.

The site teaches kids about protecting soil, water, wildlife, farms, and ecosystems through interactive games and activities rooted entirely in Lancaster County. Instead of abstract lessons, students explore local watersheds, match wildlife to nearby habitats, and learn how conservation affects the places they see every day.

“I wanted to create something that made kids genuinely excited to learn about conservation, especially here in Lancaster County,” said Grace Brusky, Lancaster Soil & Water Conservation District Youth Board member and creator of Carolina Nature Adventures. “When learning feels fun and local, it sticks. My goal was to help kids understand that protecting our land, water, and wildlife starts right where they live.”

The platform currently includes 14 interactive games designed for different elementary grade levels. As students play, they earn badges and work toward becoming certified “Nature Explorers.” After completing all activities, families or teachers are encouraged to contact the district to receive a prize, extending learning beyond the screen.

Along with the games, Carolina Nature Adventures offers educational content guided by Finn the Fox, a friendly mascot who leads students through lessons on recycling, farming, pollinators, climate, and local ecosystems. The site also includes a Teachers section where educators can schedule classroom visits from the Lancaster SWCD and access curriculum-aligned resources.

All content on the site is aligned with South Carolina elementary science standards. A standards alignment section clearly shows how each game supports specific grade-level requirements, making it easier for teachers to integrate the platform into their classrooms.

“While Grace and I were working on a project one day, I mentioned how valuable an online game would be for helping students learn about natural resources. She took that idea and surpassed every expectation I had, creating something with the potential to grow into a major educational resource for students across South Carolina. I am thrilled to see how this resource is already growing and making an impact for students across South Carolina. Since our launch on Christmas Day, the response has been incredible—211 users have already explored the game, and users from seven counties have accessed the website. This early enthusiasm shows just how powerful this tool can become for our county and state,” said Amanda Roberts, District Manager for the Lancaster SWCD.

The Lancaster Soil & Water Conservation District hopes the project will serve as a long-term resource for schools, families, and the broader community.

More information is available at carolinanatureadventures.org
 The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.