

What You Don't Know About Your Local Pharmacy

By Erin Rollings, PharmD, RPh — Director of Pharmacy, Sandhills Medical

Across rural South Carolina, the local pharmacy is often more than a place to fill prescriptions — it's a relationship. In the close-knit town of Lugoff, where I work, patients who come to Sandhills Medical Pharmacy know me by name. On any given day, I could fill prescriptions for three generations of the same family, all in a single shift. I not only know my patients' health histories; I know their personal stories.

I came home to this community more than a decade ago to practice pharmacy. In nearly two decades in this profession, I've watched what happens when rural communities lose access to medical resources — and what changes when they get them back. Sandhills runs six pharmacies across this part of South Carolina, and for many of our neighbors, they're the closest option for miles.

But when I work the counter, I hear the same misperceptions over and over again. Many people assume that our pharmacies are only for Sandhills Medical patients, or that we only serve people without insurance.

Neither is true.

Sandhills pharmacies are available to anyone with a valid prescription, regardless of insurance or who their doctor is. The reasons that matters for anyone choosing where to fill a prescription come down to three things: cost, time, and access.

Cost is the first. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Sandhills can purchase medications at reduced prices and pass those savings along. You may qualify for a discount regardless of your insurance coverage. In a state where chronic disease rates are higher than the national average, those savings matter. For patients managing diabetes, high blood pressure, or multiple chronic conditions, even small reductions in medication costs can add up quickly at the register. Lower costs can also mean fewer skipped doses and better long-term health outcomes.

Time is the second. The economics of large chain pharmacies push pharmacists to fill upward of 800 prescriptions a day. These fast, transactional environments leave little room for pharmacists to really get to know their patients or educate them on proper medication use. The daily volume at Sandhills pharmacies ranges is significantly less. Patients have time to ask questions, and pharmacists have time to answer them.

Access is the third. Patients who live in the rural communities we serve may not have reliable transportation to travel 10 or more miles to the next town's pharmacy. Those kinds of barriers can make it difficult for people to fill and take their prescriptions on schedule, which increases the risk of health complications. Sandhills delivers prescriptions free of charge

in the rural communities we serve — a small thing operationally, but for a patient without a car, it can be the difference between filling a prescription and skipping it.

Whether you're managing a chronic condition, caring for a family member, or simply tired of paying more than you should at the counter, the option is closer than you might think. You don't have to be a Sandhills patient to use a Sandhills pharmacy. You just have to know we're here.

Jackson Leadership Academy Brings Annual “Groom & Grind” Back to School Celebration to Camden on July 27

NBA Star GG Jackson Sponsors Free Community Event Offering Haircuts, Nail Services, School Supplies, Food, Games, and More for Kershaw County Youth CAMDEN, S.C., June 16, 2026 — The Jackson Leadership Academy is proud to announce the return of its highly anticipated “Groom & Grind” Back to School Event, taking place on Sunday, July 27, in Camden, South Carolina. Free and open to the public, this community celebration is designed to ease the back-to-school transition for local youth and families throughout the Kershaw County area. Now a beloved annual tradition, the Groom & Grind event has grown each year into one of the most impactful back-to-school initiatives in the region. Families can expect a full day of celebration featuring free haircuts, free nail services, back-to-school supplies, giveaways, food, games, and live music — all at no cost to attendees. A Camden Son Gives Back The event is proudly sponsored by Gregory “GG” Jackson II, a Camden native and proud product of the Jackson Leadership Academy who now plays professional basketball for the Memphis Grizzlies in the NBA. Jackson's commitment to his hometown community continues to be reflected in the growth and spirit of the Groom & Grind event, which has become a testament to what is possible when local talent invests back into the place they came from. What to Expect at the Event Attendees will enjoy a wide range of complimentary services and activities, including:

- Free haircuts for youth in the community
- Hair services including washes, blow dries, cuts, twist-outs, and heat presses (flat irons), designed to be quick and confidence-boosting
- Free nail services including polish and nail clean-up
- Back-to-school supply giveaways
- Food, games, and live music
- Additional giveaways and surprises throughout the day

for several months. The investigation included controlled purchases of drugs from Cedric Mandrell Wright at the property. Wright is 36 years old and lives in Kershaw. A search warrant was obtained, and the investigators along with members of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics Team and agents of the State Law Enforcement Division served the warrant on June 11. They found Wright, Staci Elizabeth Mangum, 33, of Kershaw, Joshua Arron Ray, 40, of Ruby, Derrick Seegars, 47, of Kershaw, and Christopher Dean Welch, 37, of Kershaw at the property, and all five were detained while the house and property were searched.

The search produced 10.75 grams of suspected Fentanyl, 51.04 grams of suspected Methamphetamine, 25.28 grams of suspected Cocaine, 3.40 grams of suspected Marijuana, and digital scales. Two semiautomatic pistols were also seized, and \$3,905.00 in

Students Named to Dean’s List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, MD (06/16/2026)-- More than 20,000 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGCC.

Tyler Bergman of Elgin (29045)

Aszah Green of Elgin (29045)

Eva Hagins of Lugoff (29078)

Joseph Hand of Elgin (29045)

Marilynn Harris of Elgin (29045)

Marc Kelly of Elgin (29045)

Preston Melton of Lugoff (29078)

Brandon Olson of Elgin (29045)

Nelson Smith of Elgin (29045)

Charles Steele of Elgin (29045)

Arlene Williams of Elgin (29045)

All hair and nail services are designed to provide a positive, welcoming experience — keeping the focus on community celebration rather than full-service salon appointments. Words from Leadership “We believe in creating a space where teens feel at home. Events like these strengthen our mission to provide an environment that promotes

cash was found on Wright's person and in his belongings. All five were arrested and transported to the Lancaster County Detention Center.

Wright is charged with Distribution of Fentanyl (two counts), Distribution of Methamphetamine, Trafficking Fentanyl 4-14 Grams, Trafficking Methamphetamine 10-28-100 Grams, Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams, five counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Violent Crime (three counts), and Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Convicted of Certain Crimes. Wright was denied bond and is still in jail.

Mangum is charged with Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams, Possession with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl, and two counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park. Bonds were set totaling \$50,000.00, but Mangum has not made bond and is still in jail.

Lancaster County Fire Commission Meeting - 6/25/2026

The Lancaster County Fire Commission will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lancaster County EOC located at 111 Covenant Place, 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://lancastercosc.portal.civicclerk.com/event/937/files/agenda/2679>

For your convenience, I have attached a copy of the meeting agenda to this email.

FEMA Makes \$50 Million Available for Mitigation Projects in Southeastern States

ATLANTA –FEMA announced that more than \$50 million in federal funding for 25 hazard mitigation projects is available to seven Southeastern states. Congress authorized these named projects through the Fiscal Year 2026 Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act and funding has been made available through FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. Nationwide, 40 states and one tribal nation are expected to receive funding for 125 projects totaling more than \$189 million. These projects will empower communities and states to

self-confidence and belonging. Join us for a day of celebration, inspiration, and preparation as we support our local youth and honor one of Camden's own. Going back to school can be a struggle both mentally and financially for students, and our goal is to help ease some of that stress — not only for the kids, but the parents also.” — Brian Mayes, Director,

Ray is charged with Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park. Ray remains in the detention center on bonds totaling \$40,000.00.

Seegars is charged with Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park and also has not been able to post bonds totaling \$40,000.00.

Welch is charged with Trafficking Cocaine 10-28 Grams, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, two counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Violent Crime, and Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Convicted of Certain Crimes. Welch is still in jail without bond.

The arrestees' photographs and a

photograph of the items seized are attached.

“This spot down on Three Cs Road has been a problem for quite a while,” said Sheriff Barry Faile. “The Task Force investigators worked hard to build a good case, and the timing of the search warrant couldn't have been better. We caught five people and a bunch of drugs, guns, and money in the house, and all five are still in jail. This was a good operation for the folks down in Kershaw, and I hope we've shut this location down for good.”

(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.

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applications and disburse funding only after confirming that eligibility criteria have been met.

Applications must be submitted through FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO), the agency's grants management system. For more information, review the Notice of Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov.

lives of Kershaw County youth and their families. Event Details Date: Monday, July 27 Location: Camden, South Carolina Cost: FREE — Open to All Youth and Families in the Kershaw County Community Featuring: Free Haircuts • Hair Services • Free Nail Services • School Supplies • Food • Games • Music • Giveaways Sponsor: GG Jackson II, Memphis Grizzlies (NBA)

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