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AMERICAN



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New Community Church Offers First Conference

Friends of the Bridegroom Church, 1180 Garnette Road in Lancaster (a short drive from Kershaw), will celebrate its "Great Awakening Conference" led by Pastor Chris Reed and special guest speaker, Chuck Pierce. Both are well-known national Christian leaders in the apostolic-prophetic and charismatic movements. The conference will focus on upcoming and anticipated events likely to have a major affect on Christianity in America. The three-day event will occur Friday, July 24 at 7 pm, Saturday, July 25 at 10 AM, and Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 AM. The conference is open to the public and there is no charge to attend.

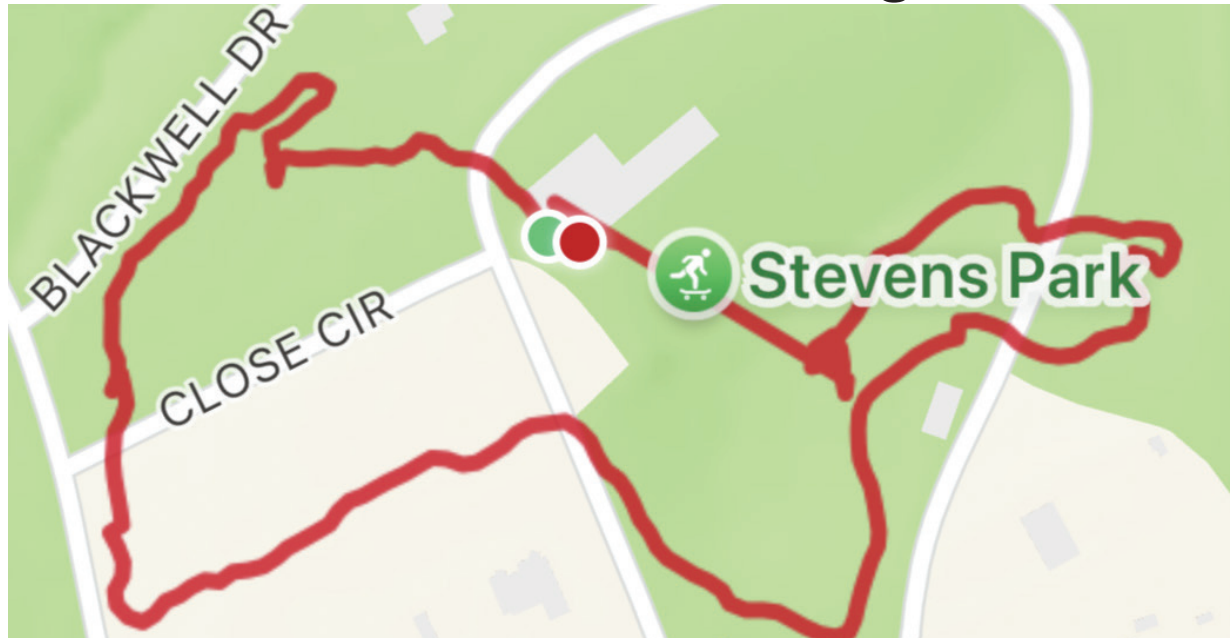
Guardian ad Litem Training Begins August 18, 2026

Lancaster, SC – July 8, 2026 — The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program invites community members to become volunteer advocates for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. The next FREE online training begins Tuesday, August 18, 2026, with additional trainings offered every four weeks. Volunteer GALs are trained to advocate for a child's best interests in Family Court, helping ensure safety, stability, and permanency. Training Details:
□ Begins: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 (virtual)
□ Format: Virtual with Morning and evening sessions available
□ Application deadline: August 4, 2026
□ Requirements: Age 21+, clean background, no prior DSS history
For additional information, contact Richard Fowler, Regional Recruiter and Trainer for the Guardian ad Litem Program, at (803) 645-9956 or Richard.Fowler@childadvocate.sc.gov.

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Grand Opening of Stevens Park TRACK Trail Set for August 15



July 13, 2026 – Children and their families are invited to join the Town of Kershaw, Kershaw Community Park Council, and other organizations in celebrating the grand opening of the Kids in Parks TRACK Trail in Stevens Park on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The municipal park is located at 200 Close Circle in Kershaw. Activities will be based at the Garden Plaza outside the Community Center building.

The grand opening event kicks off with a ribbon cutting at the TRACK Trail marker, followed by a guided trail walk, a Gaga Ball game, and refreshments and giveaways

for children and families. Kids who complete the trail walk will receive a commemorative Stevens Park TRACK Trail t-shirt as a prize. At the request of the Kershaw Community Park Council and Kershaw Town Council, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation designated the existing one-mile nature trail in Stevens Park as one of its Kids in Parks TRACK Trails, a national network of trails that connects families to the outdoors through hands-on exploration.

The TRACK Trails program features self-guided activities and smartphone e-Adventures. Families can sign up their children to earn

badges as they complete any

of the 98 TRACK Trail adventures across South Carolina and others throughout the United States.

The Stevens Park-Mini TRACK Trail was made possible by the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation and the statewide Diabetes Free SC initiative to help promote healthier lifestyles for South Carolinians.

For more information about the TRACK Trail in Stevens Park, visit <https://www.kidsinparks.com/location/stevens-park-mini>. For information about the Kids in Parks program and other TRACK Trails, visit www.kidsinparks.com.

Darline Graham Nordone, sister of Lindsey Graham, chosen to fulfill remainder of his US Senate term



Darline Graham Nordone, center, accepted the appointment by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, right, at the Statehouse Monday, July 13, 2026, to serve out the remainder of the term of her late brother, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. (Photo by Jessica Holdman/SC Daily Gazette)

By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Lindsey Graham's sister, Darline Graham Nordone, has been named as her late brother's temporary replacement in the U.S. Senate after his unexpected death over the weekend.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster announced at a news conference at the Statehouse on Monday that Nordone would serve the remaining months on Graham's current term, which expires in January. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said afterward that she will be sworn in Tuesday afternoon.

Nordone will be the first woman to represent the state in the Senate.

"It is such an honor," she said, as dozens of Graham staffers and campaign advisers stood behind her, some with eyes glassy from welling tears. "Lindsey has always been there for me. And now, I will be there for him."

Graham died on Saturday night at age 71. He never married or had a family of his own, but Nordone was often by her brother's side for the political touch points of his career, speaking at events and appearing in some of his campaign ads.

After their parents died at a young age, Graham was left to raise his sister, for whom he later became legal guardian. They were very close, and she was there as he filed reelection paperwork earlier this year, along with her children and grandchildren.

"To Lindsey, I miss you more than I can even put into words," Nordone said, emotion rising in her voice. "But I'm going to do this. I got it."

Introducing Nordone, McMaster said the two had spoken in "in the wee hours of Sunday morning" after Graham's death, and he asked her to serve.

"I had wondered what you

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would say, and I was humbled by your quickness to see the duty that you had to serve," McMaster said. He added that President Donald Trump "thought it was a great idea" when he later told him of his pick. Trump announced his support for Nordone to fill the seat earlier Monday.

Nordone has worked as an optician and at various state agencies, including the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and the Department of Employment and Workforce. She lives in Lexington, is a graduate of the College of Charleston and has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling.

How will a special primary work?

A special election will be held next month to pick a new Republican nominee in the general election for Graham's seat. He had been seeking a fifth term this year.

The rare open Senate seat has ignited a scramble among South Carolina's most ambitious conservatives, who have been eager to climb the political ladder.

Republicans just finished a sprawling and bruising contest to figure out their nominee for succeeding McMaster, who is wrapping up his second term. State Attorney General Alan Wilson won the nomination, overcoming a field that included Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, Rep. Nancy Mace and Ralph Norman — all of whom are now eyeing Graham's seat following his death over the weekend.

According to South Carolina law, a one-week filing period for a special primary election begins on the second Tuesday after the candidate's death, or July 21.

The special primary election would be held on the second Tuesday after that filing period closes, or Aug. 11. Any necessary runoff would follow two weeks after that, or Aug. 25.

From that point, the new nominee would have just over two months to campaign for

Lindsey Graham's Term
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Tennis Clinic with MCOC Campers



The tennis community has been giving tennis clinics for the Mount Calvary Outreach Center campers for the past 6 weeks, on the Ben COok Tennis Center. The students are learning the game of tennis and having fun! Funds are provided through the Town of Kershaw by the USTA Southern Diversity Division. Let's TOK Tennis!! Contact Beverly Timmons if you are interested in other clinics or lessons this summer. (803 427-4743 c)

